Hookah smokers should be better informed  •  AB  
FORUM

Giant's defeat Patriots in Super Bowl XLVI  •  AOJ  
SPORTS

Secretary of Commerce stresses exports in CMU talk

Michael Carnahan

In a week that marks the end of the terms of President Barack Obama's second term as the nation's chief executive, U.S. Secretary of Commerce John Bryson spent Wednesday morning in Pittsburgh, as guests to Bryson's remarks focused on growing national and international trade, and restoring America's manufacturing competitiveness in the world economy.

Much of Bryson's talk was spent describing his goals as commerce secretary. He stressed that, to get results, “you prioritize and prepare ruthless … you have to be very tough.”

Bryson laid out his three top priorities: advanced manufacturing, exporting, and encouraging entrepreneurship in the U.S. Those three categories are driving the economy.

Bryson said that the U.S. has been “one of the most successful countries in the world” in terms of international trade, “but every country in our industry hasFlushed Smokers should be better informed on dialogue, not debate — and frankly rather ugly, was not meeting their needs, base actually occurred. Critics of the essay did not provide much evidence to back up their claims about its tone, nor were they officially encouraged to.

Oponents of the essay argued that it was so filled with bias that it was little more than a call to arms. To them, President Obama himself was an example of what the essay called a “new kind” of liberal. To them, the essay was an example of what they saw as a drift away from the principles of the civil rights movement, with a focus on building a new, modern world that would be inclusive of all people.

The essay's author, a former executive at the NAACP, was part of a broader debate about the role of government in society. Some argued that the government should be more involved in protecting the rights of all Americans, while others believed that the government should stay out of people's lives. As the debate continued, many wondered whether the essay would lead to a greater understanding of the civil rights movement, or whether it would further divide the country.

Whatever the outcome of the debate, one thing is clear: the essay about the civil rights movement is one that will continue to be discussed for years to come.
**Some tweets are not worth reading, researchers say**

Researchers at Carnegie Mellon, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Georgia Institute of Technology found that Twitter users are not worth reading because the tweets they receive are worth reading. According to Tweetor's website, more than 100 million tweets are sent each day. However, research discovered that feedback about the messages they send, except when their tweets are retweeted by their followers or when people opt to stop following them.

“If we understood what is worth reading and why,” said Paul Andriew, a producing fellow in the Human-Com- puter Interaction Institute and lead author of the study, “we could design better tools for presenting and filtering content, as well as help people understand the expectations of other users.”

Andriew worked with his colleagues — Michael Bierm, a doctoral student at MIT and Georgia Tech, respectively — to create “Who Gives a Tweet?”: a website that collects readers’ evaluations of tweets. Those who have visited Andriew and his team’s website can provide feedback on their tweets if they agreed to do so. But, the readers said, they were already following. Over a period of 19 days in late 2010 and early 2011, 1,443 volunteers wrote the accounts of 25,004 Twitter users they followed.

Overall, the readers liked just 36 percent of the tweets and only 25 percent of the users, while another 39 percent said they would stop following the users. The researchers will pres- ent their work next Monday at the Association for Com- puter Machinery’s Confer- ence on Human Supported Cooperative Work in Seattle.

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**Motor Vehicle Accident**

Jan. 26, 2012

Motor Vehicle Accident: Sunday at 3 a.m. Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) hosted a gala giving at Assembly Art Space in Friday to work on the creation of a movie to promote Pitt and the community. This year’s workshops are being held on Friday, afternoon throughout the year, and are free to all children in Pittsburgh. Last year’s event was up at Assembly until Feb. 24.

**Clothing Donation**

Jan. 27, 2012

University Police responded to a request for a report that a vehicle was stolen from a residence hall parking lot. The laptop was held stolen by a known person on the 2nd floor of the building. The only item taken from the vehicle was a wallet and the ID of the Carnegie Mellon community members with them or locked in the trunk of the car.

**Thief**

Jan. 27, 2012

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**Water Leak**

Jan. 26, 2012

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**Poisoned Alcohol**

Jan. 29, 2012

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**Statistically Speaking**

The nationwide “Occupy” movements seemed to have died down within the past few months. However, here in Pittsburgh, The Occupy Pittsburgh group, which has set up camp in the downtown point, continue to com- pletely ignore the eviction notice to leave the premises by Monday. There are some quick facts about the court case and the local movement’s history:

- The approximate amount BNY Mellon would need to clean up the park was $100,000.
- $10,000 was promised as a “Mind of Cleve- land,” a public art project, on which he worked with contemporary artist Carl Pope.
- Also worked with Jeremy Diller on “It is What It is” Carnegie Mellon’s Alumni Art Exhibit.
- The nationwide “Occupy” movements seemed to have died down within the past few months. However, here in Pittsburgh, The Occupy Pittsburgh group, which has set up camp in the downtown point, continue to completely ignore the eviction notice to leave the premises by Monday.

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**Free Enterprise**

Jan. 30, 2012

A student working at WRFC had his cell phone stolen. University Police have identified several selling and their guests who were in the image at the time. The inves- tigation is ongoing.

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**Owl of Greenville**

Jan. 26, 2012

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**Student in Free Enterprise**

Jan. 31, 2012

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Internationally minded Tepper professor dies at age 74

February 6, 2012 « The Tartan thetartan.org/news 

Paul Goodman was a professor of organizational psychology and theory. He was internationally minded and had made significant contributions to the field.

Goodman, 74, died of a stroke earlier in the month. He passed away on Jan. 24 after suffering a stroke earlier in the month. His research focused on organizational psychology and theory. He was known for his teaching excellence in 2000.

Goodman’s students said that he was dedicated to teaching and that he tried to offer them the best guidance possible. He was a mentor to many students and was known for his passion for teaching. He was an advocate that Carnegie Mellon should be a global university. He had a vital role in programs for Carnegie Mellon.”

Goodman’s colleagues and students last Monday.

He was interested in the international community’s needs. He was concerned with the global community and the need for individuals to be well-informed.

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Worlds largest light-reflection dust is spread throughout the universe. This dust, called stardust, reflects infrared light and may be a key to understanding the formation of stars and planets. It is estimated that there are 10^12 to 10^14 stardust particles in the universe, and that each stardust particle reflects about 10^6 to 10^10 photons of infrared light per second. This means that stardust reflects more light than all the stars in the universe combined.

### Key Points
- Stardust reflects infrared light
- It is believed to be a key to understanding the formation of stars and planets
- It reflects more light than all the stars in the universe combined

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Full text available at [source](source_url)
EOC returns Wednesday; networking event debuts next week

By Allison Cosby, Pillbox Editor

Employers and students seeking future jobs or internship opportunities will take over the University Center this week for the annual Employment Opportunities Conference (EOC). A new networking event focusing on startup companies will also be held in the University Center next week.

This year’s EOC, which will run from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, will include 150 companies with booths set up in Westend Gymnasium, Rangos Hall, and the McKenna/Peter/Wright rooms. The event is limited to Carnegie Mellon students and alumni of all majors. Name tags are required for admission. Students who register in advance on TartanTrak by Sunday in Rangos Hall. Students must register on TartanTrak by Sunday in order to participate.

TechSpark, an interactive event that will include three team portions, a keynote address from Carnegie Mellon alumni and entrepreneur Tony Brenham, presentations from select companies, and a general reception for networking purposes.

Unlike the EOC, there will be no booths for companies at the reception. Each company will instead have a small table, and student and alumni will be encouraged to mingle with the employer in attendance.

“We hope that students will open up in front of a table, but that there will be conversations amongst students, employers, and alumni,” said Wahab Owolabi, assistant director for employer development for the CPDC. As of Saturday, 30 companies were registered to participate in TechSpark, including software development, web development, social media, and other entrepreneurship-focused companies.

Owolabi said that the companies coming in are “definitely well aware” that students attending TechSpark will not be only computer science or electrical and computer engineering majors. “It’s understood that students are interested in entrepreneurship, innovation, and working for a startup or an emerging company,” he said.

The new event was created largely in reaction to requests from such smaller companies, which can’t compete with larger companies or startups that have the resources of the EOC and the Technical Opportunities Conference as well as having a demand from alumni. “It’s an interesting dynamic because we’ve heard from these types of companies that this was something that they wanted,” Owolabi said, “and we’ve heard from students that this was needed.”

Owolabi feels that students are interested in this type of event. He said, “You have the opportunity for companies to come in here and talk to you in a very meaningful and engaging way about what they’re doing, what they’re trying to accomplish, and how you can be a part of that — I think students are interested in that.”

Around 60 students were registered for TechSpark as of early last week, but Owolabi had high hopes for the event: “From start to finish, I would imagine attendance between 300 to 400 students will come in and out of Rangos.”

A resume book will be handed out to the employers in attendance. Resumes of students who register on TartanTrak in advance will be included in the book, so students will not have to bring copies to the event.

Owolabi said that the setup will allow for more relaxed and meaningful discussions between students, alumni, and employers. “You’re not going to be in the event like, ‘This is my resume, what do you think?’ And I think that’s going to encourage some deeper conversations,” he said.

Noting that TechSpark was organized “pretty quickly,” Owolabi said that one function of his office has been publishing the event. TechSpark’s date was included as a line item in a CPDC email last December, with further details announced in two more emails last week. “We’re doing a big push in terms of letting students know what’s happening and who’s going to be here, and what kind of opportunity this is,” Owolabi said.

Stephanie Cottrell’s efforts, many students remain unaware of the event or, if they heard of it, are unsure whether it will be useful. “I heard of it and I’m going ... but I don’t think a lot of students are interested in working for startups,” said Siddhant Sethi, a first-year electrical and computer engineering major.

“I don’t know anything about TechSpark, but I’ve heard of it,” sophomore electrical and computer engineering major Marisca Besheh said. After hearing a description of the event, Barry ques- tioned its usefulness. “I think it serves a certain purpose for certain students; however, I think a lot of CMU students are motivated enough to start their own startups, so why would they want to work for other people’s startups?”

Owolabi feels that students are interested in that — I think students are interested in that.”

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TechSpark participants

The following companies had participated with the Career and Professional Development Center as of Saturday to participate in TechSpark:

- Bean Capital Ventures
- StarTap Academy
- Braintree
- Clearinghouse Technologies
- College4You
- Expensify
- Expensify
- Expensify
- LivingSocial
- MyBebble
- Matrix Group International
- Medallia, Inc.
- Meraki
- Microsoft Dynamics
- Nest Labs
- Rhum Labs, LLC
- TransPerfect
- Vast.com, Inc.
- UrbanCode, Inc.
- Zonoff, Inc.

Allison Cosby
State resolution disobeys spirit of First Amendment

North Shore Connector should not be transit priority

Twitter policy promotes transparent censorship

Parents are increasingly aware of product origins

While the economic advantages of the North Shore Connector are undeniable, the project seems to be a failure. Besides the maintenance and repair of many roads, highways, and bridges in the region, the connector between Downtown and the Squirrel Hill Tunnel will not feature any transit issues that are more pressing and urgent.

The Port Authority deals with a significant financial burden and often threatens to cut bus routes important to the community. Numerous communities already have insufficient public transportation support. Important areas in and around Pittsburgh such as Squirrel Hill, the airport, and Downtown could be better connected. The funds used for the North Shore Connector could have been used to address, if not solve, these pressing issues.

The history is not, of course, the real reason the House passed its resolution. The House declared that the Bible is the “word of God,” that “enjoining our love and faith in God through holy scripture” will reverse “the neglect and perversion of the truth” and “there is a national need to study and understand the Bible for all time.”

The House doesn’t say what version of the Bible the American School should be reading or which holy scriptures they should be applying. However, we suspect that the vote would not have been unanimous had a representative suggested that Americans read and apply the teachings of the Qur’an—“which of course coincide with teachings in the Christian Bible and the lessons of every other major religion in the world for the last few thousand years.”

The house would have even passed a resolution in support of one of the principal tenets of these religious texts: the “right to life.”

The Pennsylvania House opposed the spirit of the First Amendment by passing this bill instead of enacting the policies to create an environment of free speech. Hopefully other web services like Twitter will alter their censorship policies to create an environment of unrestricted free speech. Hopefully other web services like Twitter will alter their censorship policies to create an environment of unrestricted free speech.

The New Hampshire law, biases and all, is beginning a trend of parental and community control of education from a public good into a personal service, taking away the freedom to object to school instruction in an open, unbiased, and non-threatening manner. For the law is demeaning, disrespectful, and undemocratic to those of us, parents and students, who are familiar with surrounding nations.

The historians of our nation are clear on the history of freedom of speech. From the First Amendment all the way up to the present day, Americans have stepped down universally to a universal number of users to see a post. And, in the last few years, Twitter altered their censorship policies to create an environment of unrestricted free speech.

Twitter is also partnering with the website bloomberg.com, the only review content and that Twitter will take on address and telephone number for verification; letters must not exceed 350 words. Authors' names may be withheld from publication upon request.

The New Hampshire parents now have the right to deny their child access to any and all, is beginning a trend of parental and community control of education from a public good into a personal service, taking away the freedom to object to school instruction in an open, unbiased, and non-threatening manner. For the law is demeaning, disrespectful, and undemocratic to those of us, parents and students, who are familiar with surrounding nations.

Recently, the House altered its policies to create an environment of unrestricted free speech. Hopefully other web services like Twitter will alter their censorship policies to create an environment of unrestricted free speech.

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Harms of hookah smoking go unacknowledged

CONNIE CHAN
Journal Staff Writer

Amidst the surge of hook- ing into its social scene in the early 2010s. Approximately 200 to 300 hookahs can be seen at businesses in the U.S. from 2000 to 2004, according to a study by the World Health Or- ganization. It has a relatively low popularity by skyrocket among young adults.

I have many friends who proclaim their desire for cigarettes, yet these same friends do not hesitate to have some smoke from a hookah. Incongruities have shown the con- sequence of hookah may not be far from those of its more notorious counterparts.

Studies by the World Health Or- ganization show that smoking hookah can be worse for your health than cigarettes. First of all, this is not a reason — this is a comp- of the amount found in one cig- arettes, hookah has a relatively iminent danger of second-hand hookah smoke. Since the odor still contains tobacco smoke, it exposes people to the same harmful chemi- cals found in cigarette smoke, such as hydrogen cyanide, nicotine, and ammonia.

In fact, hookah smoke can be even worse than cigarette smoke. The burning of charcoal used to produce the smoke adds 425 grams of carbon monoxide per gram of shale — 11 times the amount found in one cig- arettes — according to a study by the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program. Keep in mind that an hour-long session requires about 15 grams of shisha. The same study reported that hookah smoke also contains higher levels of lead, nickel, and arsenic than cigarettes, as well as 36 times more tar. It doesn’t sound like a cor- nerstone that hookah smoking can lead to heart diseases, respiratory diseases, and oral cancers. The harm of hookahs has remained under the radar for far too long.

Don’t get me wrong — I couldn’t care less about what people choose to smoke, drink, eat, wear, or watch. What bothers me is the faulty reason- ing and beliefs behind a person’s ac- tions. If people are well aware of the actual effects of their smoking, then I will respect their educated deci- sions. But it is disheartening when someone smokes hookah with a false understanding of its consequences. This smoker is either a victim of so- ciety’s ignorance or in denial. In ei- ther situation, the truth needs to be acknowledged.

The best thing I can hope my ciga- rette-hating, shisha-smoking friends receive is enlightenment. Perhaps it was the onset of research that led policymakers to implement hookah bans throughout the U.S.

All of my friends owe it to them- selves — and their bodies — to know the myth and facts of smoking hook- ah. If they choose to continue smok- ing, I only hope they will bask in the fruity fragrance and relaxing effects of hookah without the use of aromatics.

Jesse Lieberfeld, a junior at Win- terthur School, won a essay title “Fighting a Forbidden Symmetry” for a Hidden Word.” The essay told the story of 17-year-old Jesse Lieberfeld, a member of Carnegie Mellon’s Martin Luther King Jr. Committee. In his essay, Lieberfeld describes how he grew up in his support of Israel as he watched his treatment of Pales- tinians grow increasingly harsh and inhumane.

The essayproves Reveredskepticism about hookahs from students at Carnegie Mellon and members of local pro- Israel and Zionist organizations. However, I have often heard un- fortunate truths about the lives of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Lieberfeld described a commitment to human and civil rights as King had.

Lieberfeld’s critics are either un- aware or do not understand the discrimination against the Palestinian minority in Israel, who make up about 20 percent of the Israeli pop- ulation. While Palestinian citizens in Israel have full voting rights and serve in the Knesset, the Israeli par- liament, there are still inequities in areas of employment, education, and health care.

A study by Adalah, the legal cen- ter for minority rights in Israel, stated that “more than 30 main laws discriminate, directly or indirectly, against Palestinian citizens of Israel, and the current government coordi- nation has proposed a flood of new race and discriminatory bills which are at various stages in the legis- lative process.” In his essay, Lieberfeld rightly compares the treatment of African-American’s in the U.S. to the current treatment of Palestinians.

Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are also subjected to segregation and human rights viola- tions. Their freedom of movement is severely restricted because they are forbidden to travel on certain roads that are exclusively reserved for Is- raeli citizens.

A 2011 report from the United Na- tions’ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs detailed how this extensive system of militarization and checkpoints continues the sys- tem of conscripted movement: Israeli human rights organization B’Tselem said road separation to the West Bank is a form of apartheid. Last year, B’Tselem officially condemned this discrimina- tion, echoing Israel’s narrow sectarian expression in “Letter from Birming- ham Jail.”

Home demolitions and land ex-propriation occur regularly in the West-Bank, leaving some Palestinian homes and forcibly displaced. The separation barrier surrounding the West Bank, constructed in 2004 and declared illegal by the International Court of Justice, appears formidable essential to the livelihoods of Pales- tinians and separates members of Palestinian families.

As a result, Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank have practiced nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience, holding weekly demonstrations to protest these con- ditions. Thus, Lieberfeld is justified in drawing historical parallels with civil rights activists in the 1960s who implemented similar methods.

While the Israeli government ar- gues that checkpoints, roadblocks, home demolitions, and other poli- cies are directed against illegal Israeli settlers, evidence shows Israel’s behavior toward Palestinian- scha has grown increasingly dis- crimination.

Lieberfeld’s analysis of the conflict is echoed in international law and universal principles of human rights. By bravely speaking out against the oppression of Palestinians, Lieber-feld embodies a legacy of social jus- tice beckoned by King.

Jesse Lieberfeld (shenaldbah) is a sophomore for The Tartan.

Matt Finlay
Creative Writing
Sophomore

“to work for ESPN as a broadcaster.”

Isabelle Weiss
Junior in Linguistics and Violin Performance
First-year

“To be in a professional orchestra, symphony orchestra, and a CIA linguistics analyst.”

Ming-Ming Lin
Junior in Linguistics and Violin Performance
First-year

“To be the John Fekner.”

Sylvia Kang
Economics
Junior

“To be an English language teacher.”

Karen Wu
Economics
First-year

“to work for Goldman Sachs.”

LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVES

The Graduate Student Assem- bly (GSA) continues to serve the entire student community every day. Our department representatives and Executive Committee are some of the brightest and kindest stud- ents on this campus.

GSA members are proud of the fact that we are both the most visible and the most active organizations at student government at Carnegie Mellon. Our school began with an enthusiastic involvement in Orientation. Each incoming grad- uate student had the opportunity to meet our executive members personally. GSA aimed almost every department during Orienta- tion. In an effort to engage every new student population at the first possible opportunity, we organized an Ice Cream Day, a new great initia- tive from the Student Life office, and a barbecue that had nearly 2,000 attendees.

We have spent a significant chunk of our capital reserve over the past two years on campus events, new weights at Skibo, and a forthcoming sound system in the finance room of the University Center. We recently commissioned the opportunity to offer subsidies for further uses of the funds to the entire grad student community. (Newly covered) bike racks will be a reality on this campus in

GSA takes measurements to improve student life

The Spring Employment Opportunities Conference is this Wednesday. So we asked,

What is your dream job?

“High school junior embodies legacy of justice

JASON IMBROGNO

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JASON IMBROGNO

The Graduate Student Assem- bly (GSA) continues to serve the entire student community every day. Our department representatives and Executive Committee are some of the brightest and kindest stud- ents on this campus.

GSA members are proud of the fact that we are both the most visible and the most active organizations at student government at Carnegie Mellon. Our school began with an enthusiastic involvement in Orientation. Each incoming grad- uate student had the opportunity to meet our executive members personally. GSA aimed almost every department during Orienta- tion. In an effort to engage every new student population at the first possible opportunity, we organized an Ice Cream Day, a new great initia- tive from the Student Life office, and a barbecue that had nearly 2,000 attendees.

We have spent a significant chunk of our capital reserve over the past two years on campus events, new weights at Skibo, and a forthcoming sound system in the finance room of the University Center. We recently commissioned the opportunity to offer subsidies for further uses of the funds to the entire grad student community. (Newly covered) bike racks will be a reality on this campus in

GSA takes measurements to improve student life

The Spring Employment Opportunities Conference is this Wednesday. So we asked,

What is your dream job?

“The Spring Employment Opportunities Conference is this Wednesday. So we asked,

What is your dream job?

“The Spring Employment Opportunities Conference is this Wednesday. So we asked,

What is your dream job?
The swimmers dive off the blocks and into the water to begin the race. Swimming and diving take on the University of Pittsburgh February 6, 2012 « The Tartan thetartan.org/sports

University of Pittsburgh. The...
The Tartans' victory.

"I'm really happy to be back on the court and a part of the Tartans' winning culture," said junior forward Jeremy King.

It was really improved defensively, with the quality of our doubles for such an early season match, especially, given the fact that we started four doubles in the doubles lineup," said head coach Andrew Giannini.

"Doubles success is going to be a key for us to make the NCAA this year, so it was great to see us get off to a strong start in area," added editor-in-chief Nealy's teammate.

"What we're missing is a balanced offensive attack. It's finding our spots, but will return home on Friday night. The women's basketball team had a strong start in that area," said head coach Andrew Giannini.

"Athlete Profile

Ben Nealy

Sports Director

This past Saturday, the Carnegie Mellon men's tennis team kicked off its spring season with a home match against West Virginia Wesleyan College, a Division III college.

The Tartans continued their home stretch in their off-season, with improved conditioning and lifting sessions.

This past officially started two weeks ago, and the team's hard work paid off with a 9–0 victory.

The team won its second straight against the West Virginia Wesleyan Bobcats, and took the lead 3-0 after doubles.

Men's tennis sweeps first match 9-0

"It's a new era, we are making ourselves better and will return home on Friday night. The women's basketball team had a strong start in that area," said head coach Andrew Giannini.

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Men's tennis sweeps first match 9-0
Comics
Check out some ad campaigns that didn’t make it to the Super Bowl.

Dollar Movie
AB Films presents four movies this weekend in McConomy Auditorium.

Paperhouse
WRCT explains the importance of musical variety.

Musical
Pittsburgh Musical Theater puts on a provocative performance of Spring Awakening.

Ed Piskor
Local cartoonist tells stories of hackers, rappers, beatniks, and peace activists.

of Montreal
Of Montreal’s latest album, Paralytic Stalks, signals the band’s entry into adulthood.

PSO
The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra performs spiritual pieces, including Brahms’ Requiem.

Drumline
Braddock Mayor John Fetterman and street artist Swoon discuss community building through art.

Of Montreal
Braddock Mayor John Fetterman and street artist Swoon discuss community building through art.

Advice
Everything you need to know about beards and pedestrians.

Education
WRCT explains the importance of musical variety.

Dollar Movie
AB Films presents four movies this weekend in McConomy Auditorium.

Playground
School of Drama students showcase independent projects.

Ed Piskor
Local cartoonist tells stories of hackers, rappers, beatniks, and peace activists.

Did You Know?
Did you know that students celebrated Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day last year?

Puzzles
Challenge yourself with this week’s sudoku and hexadecimal sudoku puzzles.

Horoscopes
See what the stars have in store for you this week.

Calendar
Find out what’s happening on campus and around Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh Noir
Local writers put dark twists on stories set in familiar locations.

regulars...
...diversions...
Community turns to art activism
Mayor John Fetterman and Swoon discuss art in Braddock

Before even opening his mouth, John Fetterman — the mayor of Braddock, Pa. — is immediately interesting. At 6'8" inches tall, with expansive shoulders, a shaved head, goatee, and tattoos running up both arms, the Harvard graduate looks more like a professional wrestler than a politician — a fact he joked about during a presentation he gave Friday evening in McConomy Auditorium.

Sponsored by AB Lectures, Fetterman’s presentation was followed by an appearance from Caledonia Curry, a street artist known as Swoon. Swoon is invested in the ongoing urban development project, Transformazium, which is being instituted in Braddock.

"In a weird way, we wouldn’t be sitting here right now if it wasn’t for Braddock," Fetterman began, introducing the audience to his town with a series of media slides and pictures. In the last several decades, de-industrialization has transformed the once-prosperous town of 20,000 into a Rust Belt ghost town of less than 3,000. Plagued by severe economic hardship, nearly every business has fled, leaving the buildings to crumble and violence to stake its domain.

"We’ve lost 90 percent of our population. Ninety percent of our buildings and businesses are gone — we are the poorest community in Allegheny County," Fetterman said, with an air that communicated his dedication to his community.

But then the mood of his presentation shifted. A bright picture of smiling youth who had taken part in Braddock’s summer program filled the projection screen and the mayor began to speak about the revitalization currently taking place in his community.

The re-purposing of abandoned structures, including the conversion of the town’s First Presbyterian Church into a community center; the creation of an urban garden on a previously vacant lot; and the installation of a 3,000-square-foot playground in place of the dilapidated remains of a JC Penney are among the improvements made since Fetterman took office in 2005.

The mayor, whose dedication to his community is evidenced by the tattoos on his forearms — on one arm the community zip code, and the dates of the five homicides that have taken place in Braddock since he took office on the other — has gone as far as to contribute his own money to the revitalization effort.

“I’m the guy with the best job in the country,” Fetterman said. "I love what I do, but make no mistake, it’s hard.”

In a more recent effort, the town paired up with Levi Strauss Jeans for an advertising campaign that was filmed in Braddock, featuring actual Braddock inhabitants, pumping more than $1 million into the community.

Perhaps the most interesting revitalization approach taken by Fetterman has been through art. “Artists see value in circumstances that other people don’t,” he said.

For this reason, artists like Swoon have started to play an active role in rebuilding Braddock through the Transformazium project. Swoon said that she sees art as serving a very important purpose in communities, and was attracted to Braddock because of her interest in urban farming. The street artist, whose diverse projects range from the construction of weather-resistant earth-bag domes in Haiti to the building of rafts made from New York City trash that she then rode down the Mississippi River, called Braddock a “microcosm of our country.”

Along with other artists and activists, Swoon has turned her efforts to converting Braddock’s abandoned United Brethren Church into an arts-based community center, furthering Fetterman’s art-focused community building efforts.

Carnegie Mellon students with interests ranging from public policy to the arts attended the lecture, and many of them were already aware of the work being done by Swoon and Fetterman.

“I came because I’m a huge fan of Swoon’s artwork and I’m also interested in what’s going on in Braddock,” said Christina Lee, a sophomore art major.

Sophomore in the Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences Celine Berger became familiar with Swoon through the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art’s Art in the Streets show. “I’m really interested in urban redevelopment and street art. I found out about Braddock from the Levi’s Jeans commercials,” she said.

Angela Vertucci | Junior Staffwriter
Pregnancy, incest, suicide, and rape — every controversial issue was included in the Pittsburgh Musical Theater’s (PMT) performance of *Spring Awakening* this past Friday at the Byham theater. *Spring Awakening* is the musical adaptation of a banned 1891 German play, featuring a chilling folk-infused, alternative rock score by composer Duncan Sheik.

The plot focuses on a group of disquieted teenagers living in a small town in Victorian Germany. As the characters’ sexual feelings begin to stir, they find themselves fighting their tyrannous adult superiors and the rigid, conservative belief system of their society. The play — which deals with emerging sexual desires, loss of virginity, homosexuality, teen suicide, botched abortion, masturbation, child abuse, shame, and death — won eight Tony Awards (including Best Musical) after its original Broadway debut in 2006.

Although *Spring Awakening* is a dark and emotionally demanding show, PMT’s mostly college-aged cast gave a Broadway-caliber performance. Kathlene Queen, a PMT veteran, began the show as Wendla, singing the haunting opening number that pulled the audience in and set the tone for the rest of the show. Logan Williams, a senior at Robert Morris University, played the strong-willed, rebellious Melchior and, hitting each note decisively, had perhaps the most memorable voice of the evening.

As the lead roles, Queen and Williams had remarkable chemistry together. They brought a sense of urgency and honesty to their fragile relationship on stage, two sheltered and confused teenagers in love. This chemistry was demonstrated during the love-making scene at the end of Act I, the most important and powerful scene of the show. The scene is very explicit: Both actors showed some skin and pretended to have sex on stage, and the audience watched as Williams’ character simulated acts of sexual foreplay before he and Wendla made love. Although this scene definitely has the potential to be awkward on stage, Williams and Queen delivered a realistic, raw, and moving performance.

Jameson Corrie played Moritz Stiefel, Melchior’s troubled best friend who struggles with school. In addition to adding some comedy to this otherwise serious production, Corrie did a great job performing the unique choreography of *Spring Awakening*. During “The Bitch of Living,” a song about boys’ anguish in suppressing their sexual desires, Corrie and the other schoolboys jumped around stage haphazardly, stomping their feet and rocking air guitars.

Another outstanding performance was accomplished by Adriannie Knapp, who played Ilse. She is a societal outcast who ran away from home because her father beat her, only to run into the arms of another abusive man from a Bohemian colony.

Although the majority of the cast was composed of adolescents, two adults were responsible for playing all of the adult roles — including parents, teachers, and the clergy — to symbolically demonstrate the adults as formulaic and identical. Barbara Burgess-Lefebvre, a Robert Morris University theater professor, took on all of the female adult roles, while Brady Patsy, who teaches at PMT’s Richard E. Rauh Conservatory, played all of the male adults. Both did a terrific job of demonstrating the struggle between youth and adults in society.

PMT’s production of *Spring Awakening* stood out with its simple and personal style. The show was performed on a rectangular platform with no set or props other than an arrangement of wooden chairs, which were moved around and set up by the cast members themselves. Instead of a traditional orchestra, *Spring Awakening* boasted a rock band that played onstage behind the platform. The band was led by music director Tim Marquette, and it kept audience members tapping their toes for the entire show. But perhaps the most innovative aspect of *Spring Awakening* is that there were actually limited seats on the stage, allowing audience members to be a part of the show and experience the story in a whole new way.

When the curtain was drawn, *Spring Awakening* opened its audience to a world everybody knows. Whether you are currently an adolescent or an adult reminiscing on your past, you will connect with the honest, heartfelt characters fumbling on stage in attempts to find love and a good life. Although *Spring Awakening* is filled with comical and lighthearted scenes, the show ultimately forces the audience to face a myriad of challenges present in society today.

Most importantly, the production daringly compares our modern society to Puritanical 19th-century Germany, compelling us to be aware of the troubles that continue to haunt our world.

*Spring Awakening* is a musical everyone should see, and PMT offered an impressive production of the show. The show does contain strong language and explicit content. However, if that notion bothers you, it is perhaps all the more reason to go see it.

**Joshua Claudio | Dossier Editor**
New album from of Montreal

Paralytic Stalks signals band's entry into adulthood

The last paradigm shift for the band of Montreal was signaled by the release of Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer? in 2007. The album abandoned the escapist neo-psychedelia that had defined of Montreal's early work in favor of deeply personal songs revolving around lead singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Kevin Barnes' separation from his wife. These songs explore the less glamorous aspects of human consciousness.

Hissing Fauna also introduced Georgie Fruit — Barnes' 40-year-old, African-American, transsexual, funk-playing alter-ego — who dominated the latter half of the album and all of the band's next two albums.

Under Fruit's musical guidance, of Montreal's music morphed into a mesh of R&B, cock rock, funk, and pop loaded with self-deprecating hedonistic fantasies that would make Prince blush. While this shift toward hypersexuality was somewhat refreshing in 2007 — when indie bands were polite, prudish, and doe-eyed — times have changed.

In the past five years, indie has grown to be edgier and more rebellious, and the shock value that accompanied of Montreal's sexy and self-examining musical style has dissipated. But when False Priest was released in 2009, it was clear that Barnes was still strongly attached to the idea of his alter-ego.

Paralytic Stalks, the group's newest album, was a crossroads for the indie veterans: Would they continue making gimmicky shock music or would they evolve into a band that could distinguish itself in the growing indie community?

Upon listening to Paralytic Stalks, of Montreal's decision is resoundingly clear: Fruit is dead. The opening track, “Gelid Ascent,” reconfigures expectations with expansive space-rock drenched in an aura of sinister dread. The songs “Spiteful Intervention” and “Wintered Death” both feature arrangements reminiscent of the classically influenced infancy of progressive rock while “Ye, Renew the Plaintiff” begins with the bright, funk-tinged sound of Skeletal Lamping and False Priest before falling into more psychedelic guitar-centered rock.

While it is sometimes difficult to determine the influences of the band's new sound, it is clear that the group has not lost its sense of musical versatility, nor the preternatural darkness that emerged in Hissing Fauna.

The biggest development on Paralytic Stalks, however, is of Montreal's newfound fondness for sonic manipulation. The group does not manipulate sound the same way that post-punk and psychedelic rock did by making use of space, but rather by incorporating seemingly random spurts of noise and chopped up samples.

This is most salient on “Exorcismic Breeding Knife” and “Authentic Pyrrhic Remission,” which both feature extended sections of cacophonous noise. If Hissing Fauna was the moment at which of Montreal emerged from the naïve innocence of childhood, then Paralytic Stalks signals the band's entry into adulthood: It is focused, jaded, ambitious, yet experienced enough to know that there is such a thing as too much sex.

Paralytic Stalks will be released on Tuesday.

Matt Mastricova | Staffwriter

of Montreal lead singer and songwriter Kevin Barnes focuses on sound manipulation in the band's latest album.
Unbeknownst to many, Pittsburgh has a vibrant independent comics scene. With over seven comics shops and the ToonSeum, a museum wholly dedicated to animation and comics, Pittsburgh is home to a lot of comics aficionados. With homegrown comics anthologies like Andromeda and Unicorn Mountain alongside comics giants like Jim Rugg, Frank Santoro, and Tom Scioli, there’s a lot of ink hitting the page in this city.

In the midst of this community is Ed Piskor. A workhorse of a cartoonist, Piskor has made great strides in the world of professional comics over the past seven years and has opened up this medium for storytelling. Piskor’s comics tell a range of stories, from the passions and politics of hackers to reflections on life in Cleveland to the borderline biblical history of hip-hop culture.

Piskor was born in the city of Homestead, Pa. in 1982. Piskor said that money was tight growing up, but pencils and paper were easy to come by. Determined to pursue a future in comics after high school, he made his way to the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art, where he studied the ins and outs of comics creation.

He has been a professional cartoonist since 2005, having entered the world of publication by collaborating as an illustrator with comic book writer Harvey Pekar for his American Splendor comics. Their collaboration continued as they worked on two subsequent graphic novels: Macedonia, the story about the travels of a peace activist, and The Beats, the story of the generation that opposed mainstream American conformity and conservatism.

After the collaborative work, Piskor began to focus more on working solo — writing, penciling, lettering, and inking his comics himself. As a cartoonist, Piskor has found a writing style that appeals to unique audiences. His recent works include Brain Rot and Wizzywig, which is the story of Kevin “Boingthump” Phenicle, a young prodigy who becomes fascinated with social engineering, phone phreaking, and computer hacking. Piskor has engaged audiences outside of comics’ traditional demographic by writing about these unusual topics and using the internet to expand his fan base.

More recently, the “Hip Hop Family Tree” segment of the Brain Rot series has been developing a highly interactive online fan base. Little-known figures in the history of hip-hop culture, like DJ Disco Wiz, have been getting in touch with Piskor via Facebook and responding to his historical depictions of the 1970s hip-hop world. When asked about the purpose of the “Hip Hop Family Tree,” which traces the history of hip-hop culture, Piskor laughed and explained that this sprawling project is just an excuse to put the family tree flowchart together.

“If you really get into the old records and the music from the beginning,” Piskor said, “throughout the years you can draw these very clear lines between each generation. It is almost like the Bible. Grandmaster Flash begat Grandmaster Melle Mel, Kool Herc begat DJ Disco Wiz ... and so on.”

Piskor is often asked what kind of research he does for his historical stories. He responds seriously that “to say ‘research’ makes the work seem like a homework assignment.” As he sees it, he has been building on his memory bank of knowledge since he was a kid. If he has to delve further than his own knowledge in order to fully tell a story, he never sees it as researching but rather as “reading for pleasure.”

To keep himself drawing, he incorporates his passions into his current projects, personal or professional. For example, when he became curious about the worlds of verboten information, hacking, and breaking systems, he wanted to delve deep into them so as to understand the nuts and bolts. In order to justify the time and energy needed to reach this level of comprehension, he made Wizzywig, a 300-page comic. “I feel like a slacker if I’m not working constantly,” he said.

Although his approaches to the creative process might seem extreme and obsessive, Piskor’s tireless work in communicating his learnings through comics provide his readers with portals into curious worlds.

Juan Fernandez | Staffwriter
PSO puts on balanced, spiritual performance
Soloists, choir, and orchestra combine for Dvořák’s Biblical Songs and Brahms’ Requiem

Last weekend at Heinz Hall, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) performed Antonín Dvořák’s Biblical Songs and Johannes Brahms’ A German Requiem as part of its Music for the Spirit concert series. The program, which offers two concerts per season, presents music that is meant to “spread a spiritual and universal message,” according to the PSO’s website.

Although Friday night’s program consisted of two works featuring verse from the Bible, Christianity only served as the lens through which the featured composers explored the ideas of life, death, and resurrection. Both composers picked scripture in their native languages (Czech for the Dvořák piece and German for the Brahms piece) that does not dwell in fear and mourning, but rather in celebration and fond remembrance of those who have passed.

The program opened with Dvořák’s Biblical Songs, which were written after the deaths of his two friends, fellow composers Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Hans von Bülow. Internationally renowned baritone Thomas Hampson sang with assurance, and his voice carried effortlessly over the orchestra. His clear diction and tone served the difficulty of the Czech language very well. The PSO, under the baton of artistic director Manfred Honeck, accompanied Hampson beautifully. The orchestra delivered the traditional Czech music within Dvořák’s composition without grandeur, acknowledging the timeless beauty inherent in a simple folk dance.

The highlight of the program, however, was Brahms’ Requiem. The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh and soprano soloist Chen Reiss joined the symphony, Honeck, and Hampson for this hour-long masterwork. Brahms wrote the piece while mourning the loss of his mother, as well as that of his mentor and dear friend Robert Schumann.

Brahms’ conception of the work was unique in that he avoided the traditional Latin text for his requiem — thus the title A German Requiem. He also refrained from using the standard requiem text; instead, he selected passages from the German Luther Bible that are meant to offer comfort to those in mourning, making this a requiem not for the dead, but for the living.

The composition is a personal one, and the music is distinctly Brahmsian: The polyphonic texture is thick and layered, and the music is deeply affecting and unsettling.

The Brahms piece required much more from the orchestra than did the Dvořák, and the PSO did a wonderful job of supporting the chorus without overpowering it. Although there were a few moments when the chorus and orchestra did not seem to be on the same page, Honeck was quick to reel them in and continue, hardly missing a beat.

Hampson shined in Requiem, especially in the sixth movement, singing with stunning gravity not heard in Dvořák’s Biblical Songs. Reiss’ solo spanned a wide emotional range: sublime and sweet one moment, fierce and dramatic the next. The interplay among the orchestra, choir, and soloists was incredibly warm and well balanced, producing a seamless and organic performance.

Brian Gilling | Special to The Tartan

The Ides of March
Thursday, Feb. 9
8 10 12

Is Ryan Gosling becoming anyone else’s favorite actor? The star of three critically acclaimed films this year (Drive; Crazy, Stupid, Love; and The Ides of March), Gosling brings a quiet intensity to every role he plays. In this film, Gosling plays Stephen Meyers, the deputy campaign manager for presidential hopeful Mike Morris (George Clooney). The movie takes you behind the scenes of the primaries, with plenty of intrigue and string pulling to go around. Its release during the current primary season is no accident.

Real Steel
Friday, Feb. 10
7:30 10 12:30

This movie can be summed up as an adult version of “Rock ’Em Sock ’Em Robots.” Real Steel tells of a future in which human boxers have been replaced with robot boxers. While this could have been an awesome lead for a story of a robot that breaks free from its programming and starts a war against humanity, the robots just beat each other up the entire movie. Hugh Jackman is the protagonist as a robot owner trying to make it big in the boxing world. While not quite “Rocky with Robots,” as some reviews have stated, this is a well-made film with a bonafide action star.

American Beauty
Saturday, Feb. 11
7:30 10 12:30

American Beauty is, on the surface, a very basic movie. It follows a suburban family consisting of a slightly depressed father, a materialistic wife with monogamy issues, and a daughter looking to explore her sexual side. However, this film is so much more than that. It is about seeing beauty in the world and being happy with the knowledge that you still have the ability to surprise yourself. Oscar-winner for “Best Picture” and “Best Director” in 2000, American Beauty is extraordinarily written — a classic of American cinema.

Paranormal Activity 3
Sunday, Feb. 12
8 10 12

Possibly the strangest film choice to follow up the first three movies this week, Paranormal Activity 3 is the prequel to the original box-office hit. Set 18 years prior to the first movie, this one also revolves around a husband and wife whose children befriend an invisible entity living in their home.

Terrifying, right? The movie is shot in the same homemade footage style as the previous two and, while it may seem like it has been overdone, there’s not much out there that can give genuine, realistic scares like this franchise. Fun Fact: Made on a budget of just $5 million, the flick has grossed over $200 million worldwide.
Playground Festival showcases independent work

School of Drama students explore creative opportunities, experiment with different mediums

Allison Cosby / Pillbox Editor

The School of Drama may seem exclusive to non-majors, but spend five minutes in the sprawling, sensory world of Playground Festival and you realize just how open it is. Playground is a free, creative environment for drama students to explore other mediums for their art and showcase their independent work.

This year marked the ninth annual Playground Festival, which ran from last Thursday through Saturday in the Purnell Center for the Arts. Playground is a master event that transforms all of Purnell into a spectacular event that transforms all of Purnell into a fantastic world, with experimental installations and performances happening all day.

Playground provides students with an opportunity to push themselves and work on stand-alone projects. "It's a sectioned-out time of the year where [drama classes are canceled] — and they can just focus on creating new work, work that they're interested in," said sophomore directing major Cameron Margeson.

Playground is one of the highlights of the year for many drama students, and they start thinking about their Playground pieces months in advance. In October, they pitch their ideas and begin writing scripts. Actual rehearsals don't begin until the Sunday before Playground, however, so students only have three days to prepare.

One of the largest engagements of Playground is the light-time constraint. "You have three days to create anything from a 35-minute to 45-minute piece, so you have to learn what's necessary in order to create something," Margeson said. "You learn new technologies when you're so pressed to create something. You have to sort of work outside of your own habit and get things done."

While students have just a few days to put together their pieces, their enthusiasm often turns their pieces into extended projects; many continue working on their pieces throughout the weekend.

First-year drama student Will Gossett created an installation piece titled "Volumetric Display" for his first Playground this year. Gossett's piece is a media installation that projects three-dimensional and moving images in its display area — which is made of carefully scavenged, clear, vertical strings. Moreover, "Volumetric Display" runs on open source software. "I'm in the process of writing my own content to add to that loop of different shows," Gossett said on Thursday night. "It took us years to get [the structural link] that I didn't have time to get that [coding] done before the opening, but tonight I'm going to work on it more."

Senior directing major Miranda Steege saw this year's installation curator and was in charge of coordinating the installation works with the Playground Festival Committee. "Installations are a great way to do something you don't normally do," Steege said. "Because that's not at all what most of our classes are like, so it's a sort of a chance to push beyond what we do in class."

This sentiment seems to be a recurring theme in Playground. "It's a chance for students to push themselves out of their comfort zones and challenge themselves with work they don't usually have the opportunity to do. Students took advantage of this opportunity, resulting in a wide range of performances and installations from dance and comedy shows to fully immersive, sensory experience installations and murals.

"It's absolutely about people challenging themselves," said Priscila Garcia, a sophomore directing major. "You go back and you realize the things you've learned in your semesters at Carnegie Mellon — and then you try and see how you can incorporate those with things you already know. It's an experiment. It either works or it doesn't, and that's that."

The Playground environment is very open to these experiments; however, it's all about pushing yourself and trying something new. "I think it's a very constructive environment," Garcia said. "It's just when students are lazy that people become very judgmental, which I think is fair."

Margeson also praised the festival's ability to open up creative opportunities for drama students. "We don't always get to study things that we're outside of our option. So Playground is a time when a designer can direct and an actor can design and a director can write. There's anything you want to do that you're not getting from classes, Playground is when you do it."

While Playground is an incredibly open environment for drama students, it's not publicized to the campus community and is almost exclusively attended by drama students, drama professors, close friends, and family. "I think we need to think about it as a community here in Purnell before it can expand elsewhere," Garcia said. "I do think there's a reason for that — I think all of us as students want to see each other's pieces and there really just isn't space for larger audiences."

With a limited supply and a huge demand, tickets for the performances are hard to come by. All tickets are free and available made available the day of the performance.

"Tickets are like gold" was a common phrase uttered by drama students throughout the weekend.

Playground is a festival by drama students, for drama students. Despite the event's somewhat exclusive nature, Playground creates an open and inviting opportunity for drama students to express themselves and experiment with new mediums.

Summing up the goals of Playground, Margeson said, "It's not so much to allow off the work that you want to do, but it's a time to really stretch yourself."

— Cameron Margeson

Sophomore directing major


Did you know?

100 years ago
Feb. 1, 1912

In Carnegie Tech intramural basketball news, the Allamazoos defeat the Squeedunks 23–6. Their uniforms are described as “elaborate costumes,” including knee socks in a variety of colors and patterns. The victorious Squeedunks wore large blue bows on their heads.

50 years ago
Feb. 14, 1962

Alpha Phi Omega initiates a new system for helping students reclaim lost items. The information desk at Skibo Gymnasium is the new location for all things lost and found around campus. Among the mountain of scarves, purses, and gloves, there is also a window drape which needs to be claimed.

25 years ago
Feb. 3, 1987

Taylor Mason, a visiting comedian, puts on a well-received show for Carnegie Mellon students. In his own words, “It’s nice to do a show where the SATs are over 400.” His jokes are tailored to the high-brow humor Carnegie Mellon students are sure to appreciate, although he does take a stab at the University of Pittsburgh.

10 years ago
Feb. 4, 2002

We all know Carnegie Mellon’s infamous reputation for being a place where students never sleep, and a SciTech article addresses one way students achieve these ridiculous hours without dozing off: caffeine. The article urges students to be aware of the effects of excess caffeine intake, including migraines, vomiting, and tremors.

5 years ago
Feb. 5, 2007

A dedicated group of students gathers to meet with a task force, started in 2005, to discuss the necessity of having an official mascot for the school. While the Scottish terrier that adorns a variety of Tartan paraphernalia is nice, students want an official mascot at sporting events in order to draw more fans to the games.

1 year ago
Jan. 31, 2011

In honor of the upcoming Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day, The Tartan asks students about their favorite uses of this special packaging tool. Answers range from being wrapped up in it and rolling down hills to popping it with the mind. Some students even claim to use it to wake up fellow students.

Catherine Spence | Staffwriter

Local writers spin dark stories

Pittsburgh Noir includes haunting stories in familiar locations

When one thinks of the noir genre, it’s usually in the context of cinema. Black and white film, dramatic close shots, and a lone man walking away in the rain come to mind. Akashic Books breaks away from this medium, however, with its series of noir short story collections, each set in a specific city. One of the latest installments in this series is Pittsburgh Noir, a collection of short, Pittsburgh-based noir stories that showcases the darker side of fictional 'Burgh residents.

While many people might think that noir only consists of brooding private detectives dealing with mysterious female clients, the genre is actually a bit more varied than that. Film noir usually includes alienated, morally ambiguous heroes; crime; and a pessimistic outlook, with its characters often placed in unwanted, doomed situations. The 14 contributing authors to Pittsburgh Noir have taken the characteristics of this classic film genre and applied them, with varying degrees of success, to the short story medium.

These stories take the reader through every nook and cranny of Pittsburgh, from the suburbs of Fox Chapel to the bars in South Side to a houseboat on the Allegheny River. There’s something comfortable about reading stories solely set in Pittsburgh — there is a rush of familiarity and associations when the stories mention a place you see or go to all too often, like the apartment on North Craig Street mentioned in Kathleen George’s “Intruder,” or Pamela’s Diner in Squirrel Hill, at which the narrator eats in Aubrey Hirsch’s “Cheater.” Of course, some of that comfort is reduced when that familiar location serves as the setting for a grisly murder.

As one would expect from the noir genre, there are plenty of murders, but every writer interprets those murders differently: Carnegie Mellon professor Terrance Hayes delivers a poetic, introspective reflection upon a murder in East Liberty in his story “Still Air,” while Carnegie Mellon professor Hilary Masters’ “At the Buena Vista” gives a humorous, conversational account of a middle-aged man who is after the fortune of one of his relatives.

Several of the stories stray rather far from noir conventions, which detracts from the book’s overall impact as a noir collection. Carlos Antonio Delgado’s “Far Beneath,” for instance, is a beautifully written — yet disturbing — story from the perspective of a nine-year-old boy who begins exploring sexuality with his brother. Despite the author’s great style, the subject matter doesn’t seem to relate much to noir. Similarly, “Homecoming” by Kathryn Miller Haines gives an account of a World War II soldier coming home to his cheating wife, and the story doesn’t have any identifiable noir characteristics. These stories, while well-written, distract from the book’s focus on the noir genre.

Thankfully, the majority of the stories in the collection remain on point, like Lila Shaara’s ghostly “Atom Smasher,” whose twist ending is guaranteed to surprise. George’s “Intruder” also provides a fresh perspective on the classic crime mystery, complete with a full cast of interesting characters and a modern take on the quintessential femme fatale.

Anna Walsh | Staffwriter

Pittsburgh Noir was edited by local mystery writer Kathleen George and published in May 2011.
As Good Looks Increase by Doghouse Diaries

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Ad campaigns that didn't make it to Superbowl XLVI

Tragedy by Reza Farazmand

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Sudoku Puzzle: Very Hard Difficulty

Crossword

Easy Difficulty

Medium Difficulty

Sudokus courtesy of www.krazydad.com/hexsudoku/

Using traditional Sudoku rules, fill in the 16 x 16 grid with 16 hexadecimal digits. Each row, column, and 4 x 4 block contains the digits 0 to 9 and the letters A to F.

Solutions from Jan. 30, 2012
Horoscopes

aries
March 21 - April 19
This unseasonably warm weather is calling to you, tempting you to abandon your books and go for a walk. You can’t fight Mother Nature, so go for it!

Taurus
April 20 - May 20
You know that Leo doesn’t have the greatest self-control, and if he or she is going to shop, then you might as well reap the benefits. Try to talk them out of it, but when in doubt, make sure you get something nice for yourself too.

Gemini
May 21 - June 21
You know how to deal with tough situations and that is great for you, but you would feel even better if you helped others to do the same. So next time you see someone going through a tough time, go out of your way to help.

Cancer
June 22 - July 22
Feeling a bit close-minded this week? Being so closed off is a necessity at times, but only in moderation. Broaden your perspective, and others’ attitudes toward you will greatly improve.

Leo
July 23 - August 22
Put down the credit card and step away from the online shopping. Yes, it is cute, but do you really need it? No.

Virgo
August 23 - September 22
You and your phone are close and, while that’s different, it’s okay. Just make sure to lift your head up once in a while and enjoy the people around you.

Libra
September 23 - October 22
It’s time to ask for help in the one class that is kicking your behind. Seek help now or suffer later.

Scorpio
October 23 - November 21
Too much campus food can be a bad thing. Stop punishing your taste buds, treat yourself and go out to eat.

Sagittarius
November 22 - December 21
Ask someone else for advice. You will be much better off.

Capricorn
December 22 - January 19
If you don’t like something in your life right now, fix it. Yes, it is going to be hard, and yes, you may not know where to start, but you can do it.

Aquarius
January 20 - February 18
As much as others hate to admit it, you’re pretty awesome; you’re a little annoying at times, but awesome nonetheless.

Pisces
February 19 - March 20
Adventure awaits, but only if you seek it first. Keep your eyes open and you will be in for a magical surprise.

Nicole Hamilton | Comics Editor
Melancholia. Regent Square Theater. 8 p.m. Through Feb. 9.
After attracting huge crowds at the Three Rivers Film Festival last November, Pittsburgh Filmmakers is providing another opportunity to see Melancholia. Directed by Lars Von Trier and starring Kirsten Dunst, Melancholia is a science fiction drama about a new bride’s depression and the end of the world.

TUESDAY 2.7.12
Jenny Owen Youngs with New Empire. Brillbox. 9 p.m.
Indie pop singer-songwriter Jenny Owen Youngs will perform with the Australian pop-rock group New Empire.

THURSDAY 2.9.12
Wings of Desire. Melwood Screening Room. 7 p.m.
Two angels watch over Berlin in this 1987 Franco-German fantasy film, directed by Wim Wenders. The 1998 American fantasy film City of Angels is loosely based on Wings of Desire.

FRIDAY 2.10.12
Maya Lin Lecture. Carnegie Music Hall. 6 p.m.
Artist Maya Lin will give a lecture about her work, which focuses on the way we live in and interact with nature. The lecture will be followed by the opening of her exhibit at the Heinz Architectural Center galleries.

SUNDAY 2.11.12
Crispin Hellion Glover: What Is It? Andy Warhol Museum. 7 p.m.
American actor Crispin Glover will give an hour-long live performance and present his directing debut film What Is It?

Out of Order: Kirk Degiorgio with PTA and Paul Fleetwood. Belvedere’s. 9 p.m.
As part of Humanaut’s monthly series of dance parties, United Kingdom techno producer and DJ Kirk Degiorgio and Pittsburgh house and techno DJ Paul Fleetwood will play at Belvedere’s.

ONGOING
Tavia La Follette, a Pittsburgh-based performance artist, started this project after participating in Artists Residency Egypt in 2010. The installation is an artistic exchange between Egypt and the United States.

The museum features paintings and sculptural installations by Cathy Wilkes that focus on her personal experiences.

The exhibition showcases interdisciplinary artists who incorporate science and technology into their creative processes, as well as scientists who use their technology and resources to create art.

Compiled by Allison Cosby | Pillbox Editor

Want your event here?
Email calendar@thetartan.org.

Write for Pillbox
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Last Tuesday, AB Special Events brought ice sculptor Richard Bubin to Carnegie Mellon to create ice sculptures at the Fence. Bubin is the Guinness World Record holder for the fastest ice carver, having carved 61 300-pound blocks into different sculptures in just four hours, 22 minutes, and 55 seconds in January 2002.