Researches say manganese may fight E. coli

Manganese, a mineral essential for many biological processes, has been found to have potential in fighting E. coli, a common cause of foodborne illness.

Campus seeks solutions to Pittsburgh transit troubles

Carnegie Mellon University is seeking solutions to the transit troubles that have plagued students, faculty, and staff for the past year.

In a recent town hall meeting, Vice President for Campus Services Ryan Wolfe presented an analysis of the university's use of the Port Authority system and the potential for a university-run shuttle program.

Wolfe highlighted the challenges faced by the university in replacing lost service due to cuts in the Port Authority system. He emphasized the need for a more robust and efficient shuttle service to ensure that students, faculty, and staff have reliable transportation.

The university has expressed interest in taking over shuttle operations, but Wolfe noted that the current budget does not support such an undertaking. He suggested that a university-run shuttle could be a viable solution, potentially avoiding the financial burden of cutting back on services.

Several students and faculty members raised concerns about the potential implications of a university-run shuttle service. They expressed concern about the feasibility of such an operation and the potential costs that could be shifted to students and faculty.

Despite these challenges, Wolfe remained optimistic about the prospect of a university-run shuttle and encouraged further discussion and planning.

In conclusion, the university remains committed to finding a solution to the transit troubles that have affected the campus community and is open to exploring alternative transportation options.
As this year’s newest line of smartphones and tablets hits the shelves, consumers may be surprised to see a new trend of devices that are designed to hold Carnegie Mellon University’s Samsung Galaxy Note range as the largest smartphone ever released. This trend is driven by the advancements in technology, specifically in the areas of display technology, battery life, and processing power, allowing for larger devices that are still powerful enough to perform efficiently. The Carnegie Institute of Technology, along with the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Engineering and Applied Science, received a $3.5 million grant this last Wednesday which will fund research related to the improvement of transportation. The grant, which covers the next two years, focuses specifically on initial inquiry into, and eventual development of, innovative technologies that will make transportation safer and more efficient.

As a result of the grant, a new initiative called the University Transportation Center for Technologies for Safety, Efficiency and Effectiveness, or T-S3E UTC, will be developed by Carnegie Mellon and Penn, and located on Carnegie Mellon’s Pittsburgh campus.

Mark Golumbia, a professor of architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will give a lecture on digital design and architecture. Golumbia is the head of the Digital Architecture Archi- tectural firm that has published several books on digital architecture. The firm has designed several digital projects, such as the Architype architectures — which changes to suit the needs of the client and the work- seeker on projects internationally. It was founded in 1995 by the Architectural League of New York’s “Emerging Voice.” In 2006, it has completed projects ranging from an office refurbishment in Boston to a computer dome system, with a surface that physically moves.

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**Dorms compete to conserve energy**

**Insider trader tells students his story**

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**KEVIN WAD / Staff**

Carnegie Mellon is participating in the three-week Port Campus Conservation Network (CCN) competition from Feb. 6 to Feb. 27.

The goal is to get public transportation to Harrisburg to lobby in favor of the student’s transportation needs.

**February 20, 2012 • The Tartan**

The cards will also facilitate the future of public transportation, Wolfe said. The cards can be used for every meal to being the future of the competition. Alex Ger -

**BARRIE CLIFTON / Staff**

A man convicted of insider trading, Juan Fernandez, is scheduled for Feb. 29 at the courthouse in Harrisburg to lobby in favor of the student’s transportation needs.

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**They have a $64 million problem.**

Even if we were able to save every $30,000 million more dollars, that’s not helping.”

—Ryan Wolfe

**Director of Campus Services**

Under the current agreement, the university pays the Port Authority a gross amount such as, or no matter the actual number of rides taken. Murphy said that the $64 million per day, up from $58 comes every year.

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Manganese may fight E. coli toxins

Science & Technology

MUSICAL CHALLENGE BRINGS MACHINE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT ONLINE COMMUNITIES AND CREATIVITY

LISA METER Junior Staff Writer

This month is February Album Writing Month (FAWM), an annual online songwriting challenge for songwriters to compose a collection of songs in a month's time. During the month-long challenge of composing 14 songs by the end of February, musicians find an opportunity to learn, experiment, and share music. The challenge stems from a seed where 50 musicians to the Shiga toxin, researchers exposed groups of mice to the Shiga toxin and manganese. After four days, the manganese treated cells were 3,800 times more protected than those without manganese.

The next step was to test the effectiveness of manganese in mice. After formulating a safe dosage, the researchers exposed groups of mice to the Shiga toxin along with the manganese, and another group with just the toxin alone. Within four days, the mice treated with manganese showed fewer symptoms — in contrast to their usual counterparts in the control group. This is promising for health advancements and means bringing possibilities for future Shiga toxin treatment. Manganese is a relatively inexpensive and abundant metal. If the research team can produce a manganese treatment, it could be a feasible solution.

Researchers still need to check if manganese can protect against E. coli. Although it is a clear protector against pure Shiga toxins, there needs to be more research to see how the manganese affects the bacteria that carries the toxin.

Manganese, however, is toxic, and it can be harmful to ecosystems if it is not controlled. Combined with manganese, the researchers observed that the metal can cause a deformation of GPP130, leaving the Shiga toxin all dressed up with no place to go. In addition to being burned from the symphysis, the toxin was displaced to the lysosomes where it could be destroyed. The treated cells were 3,800 times more protected than those without manganese.

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Personal digital assistants utilize voice recognition

A linguist at the University of Calgary in Canada claims that texting has a negative effect on one’s ability to accurately interpret words.

According to the website ScienceDaily, voice recognition technologies have been around since 1940. Scientists at Bell Laboratories Homer Dudley patented a machine called the “Parallel Bandpass Voice Codifier,” which could recognize and output sounds based on what it heard. The first technologies of this kind could only recognize a few words by comparing them to signals in a database, but the machines were groundbreaking.

Since then, the technology has become more flexible and accurate, but its basic structure has remained the same. Because machines are not capable of understanding human speech, the best they can do is form reasonable guesses about what certain words sound like and whether humans are likely to speak certain words.

The technology behind personal digital assistants is still fairly new, but one of the limitations Dudley would like to see overcome is its exclusivity to smartphones.

The hacker who breached Facebook’s cybersecurity last April received an eight-month prison sentence that day. Last April, 26-year-old British student Glenn Mangham stole sensitive information from Facebook’s internal network while in his bedroom in York, a city in northern England.

Researchers at Lancaster University in England found that if everyone in the United Kingdom switched to a vegetarian diet, the production of various foods, including meat, would result in the amount of greenhouse gas emissions decreasing by 13%.

Many fossilized dinosaurs have been found in recent years with their heads and necks abnormally arched backwards. Scientists have always thought that this occurred from death spasms, but two researchers from Saskatchewan and Germany have recently come to the conclusion that these fossilized conformations may have occurred long after the dinosaurs’ deaths.

After experimenting with chicken carcasses, they found that a ligament in the upper spine released energy as surrounding muscles and other soft parts were designed, causing the bones to arch backwards. The scientists believe a similar process occurred in dinosaurs after death.

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Why do some dinosaur fossils look so weird?

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Why do some dinosaur fossils look so weird?
Correspondent’s remarks exhibit issue with society

Last month, the Pentagon re-leased a report that stated the rate of sexual crimes within the U.S. Army. Trotta said during a Fox News seg-ment that while more public than in the military. Panetta suggests that the re-ports of sexual assault within the mil-itary increase. Although the use of a gun in the video has been contro-versial, we support the uni-versity’s leaders in their efforts to in-crease educational quality and student satisfaction.

“Facebook Parenting” father does not cross the line

Small tuition increase reasonable for new students

President Jared Cohen emailed members of the university last week with two important announcements: the Inspire Innovation capital cam-paign, which has raised $1 billion so far, and the tuition for the 2013-14 academic year is going to be increased. The fundraising milestone is a major ac- complishment for the university and its supporters, and we hope potential donors will invest in Carnegie Mel-ling’s future.

Trotta said during a Fox News seg-ment that many parents feel when they are irreverent, Jordan then pro-ceeded to shoot eight bullets into the air. Last year, there were 3,191 re-port of sexual assault within the mil-itary. Trotta suggests that the true increase is around 10,900. The fact that the percentage of re-ported sexual assault has increased so dramatically over the past six years should be raised in a good news in terms of those who support this movement.

Tony Tommy North Carolina father Tommy Jordan posted a video on YouTube on Feb. 8, titled “Facebook Parenting: the use of a gun in the video has been contro-versial, we support the uni-versity’s leaders in their efforts to in-crease educational quality and student satisfaction.

Carla Glauser

Last week, the Obama administra-tion backed off of its previous stance on employee rights for religious institutions — such as Catholic hos-pitals and nursing homes — for employees. They throw forks at their parents, kids in restaurants can be tyrants: McDonald’s or The Cheesecake Factory. It’s rare to see a quiet, idyllic fam-ily at the dinner table, but our culture as a whole needs to develop the same laws as the secular organiza-tions, such as to protect their employees.

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“The arm’s are range of 85 percent prorated within the range of sexual crimes within the mil-itary. Trotta’s, condemned re-ports in funding to support programs that assist victims of sexual assault in the military. It is likely that without these programs, even more of the alleged 19,900 victims would be unheard, too ashamed or frightened to report.

Small tuition increase reasonable for new students

Many students’ first reaction to tuition increases is frustration or un-der it all. The arm’s are range of 85 percent prorated within the range of sexual crimes within the mil-itary increase. Although the use of a gun in the video has been contro-versial, we support the uni-versity’s leaders in their efforts to in-crease educational quality and student satisfaction.

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Pipeline construction could benefit economy

February 20, 2012 « The Tartan

The Keystone XL pipeline, which has been hotly debated the past few months, was denied its permit last month by President Barack Obama on the grounds that he did not have enough time to adequately review whether the pipeline would be safe. This was after a compromise between Republican and Democratic members of Congress resulted in a deadline for a decision on the pipeline.

Republican members, led by Speaker of the House John Boehner, measured results last month to construct the pipeline. Boehner’s goal is to give the House Committee on Energy and Commerce the power to grant the pipeline’s permits instead of the president.

Opposition on the pipeline should be approved because it would create a number of jobs, allow the U.S. to decrease its dependence on foreign oil, and be environmentally safe.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce projects that 250,000 jobs would be created by the pipeline’s construction. According to a report by ABC News, 119,000 jobs would be in the oil industry and the pipeline would add about 100,000 jobs to our stagnant economy.

The pipeline has the potential to jump-start some long-term economic growth. This would be a much needed shot in the arm for our stagnant economy.

Opponents of the pipeline claim on several blogs and environmental awareness websites, notably green.org, that it doesn’t add U.S. energy independence because much of the oil going to Gulf Coast refineries is for export and not sold to U.S. markets.

However, they would be correct, the reason that this oil is being exported is because onshore oil is too expensive, according to sandiegoconnection.org. If the U.S. were to upscale tar rates and make the domestic market more competitive as the foreign market for oil, then the Keystone XL pipeline would be just half of a two-part solution to increasing energy independence.

If the reform is enacted, there were also a gateway toward a safe oil partnership with Canada, a nation which we have a history of friendly trade relations. As of right now, however, because of the U.S. Senate’s failure to enact this tax reform, we still wouldn’t have developed the domestic oil resource needed to be independent. This is why development of the pipeline would help give the United States options in the future if we want to promote energy independence.

The biggest objections to the Keystone XL pipeline is its environmental impact. The pipeline’s route would go through the Ogallala Aquifer, which provide drinking water and agricultural support for many in the Midwest and home a large wildlife population.

However, the pipeline is “one of the most technologically advanced and safest pipelines in the world,” according to Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-Ky.), who serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. “TransCanada has designed it to have 57 improvements...”

In addition, there are 200,000 miles of comparable pipelines in the U.S. that have managed to operate with little or no harm to the environment.

The pipeline would help the U.S. economy in many ways without a large environmental impact. Companies would be able to transport their oil and gas at a much lower cost, cutting into the price of gasoline.

I understand that most CMU students are not concerned about the pipeline’s safety, but that does not mean that their college education is generally unfa- sful. One must be factually savvy to pay “sticker price” to attend Carnegie Mellon University.

It would be interesting to learn what changes would be made in administration and employee compensation, and other labor union- benefit plans. I am sure that our college education is generally unfa- sful. One must be factually savvy to pay “sticker price” to attend Carnegie Mellon University.

I attended Carnegie Mellon af- ter graduation from high school in 1974. The tuition for the year at that time was $2,570. My law mother, piano performer and student, Gloria Siegel Spiegler, at- ended Carnegie Tech from 1939 to 1943. When she began the won- derful period of her youth, the tu- ition was $750 to $1,000 and 13 tuition is more than 15 times that. If the prices of all ex- sential commodities and services had increased by that amount, the American people could not afford to live.

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Tartans basketball faces Emory and Rochester at home

A8 « thetartan.org/sports

The Tartan have come at a better time cut before he was able to play the team. After getting cut by good college player. He went to California state champion-ing by the wayside.

The game looked promising early on as the Tartans had a quick 9-0 lead from forward Jamie Brophy and forward guard Chandler Caufield and continued to hold a double-digit full-court press. Ran-car-me Mullion and handled their opponent’s repertoire. However, the Tartans managed to break through and find some open opportunities to the basket. The constant attack in the paint and the free throw line for the Tartans, Mullion and a three as they found the game with the ball.

The Tartans were up by as much as 15 points during the first half, but due to the Eagles’ 59.1 percent mark. They hit 93.8 percent from the three at the end. But late-game turnovers did not allow the Eagles to reach the point difference. The Eagles extended their lead again allowing Caufield and Mullion’s full-court press to the fill-in the game. They finished the game by adding to the lead.

Sophomore guard Jacquie Marie Ayala was named the game’s most valuable player.

Sophomore guard Razanav won the 200-yard consolation this weekend. Jodie Luther had two clutch field goals and two free-throw shooting. The Tartans managed to break through and find some open opportunities to the basket. The constant attack in the paint and the free throw line for the Tartans, Mullion and a three as they found the game with the ball.

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Sophomore guard Jacquie Marie Ayala was named the game’s most valuable player.
Oscar-nominated shorts
Short films show wide variety of creative influences • B6

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SMBC

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Interval Monday and Space Exchange offer weekly jazz performances.

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Check out the latest installment of Apartment 4H.

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Test your skills with this week’s sudoku and hexadecimal sudoku.

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Discover your future through this week’s horoscopes.

Calendar
Find out what’s happening on campus and around Pittsburgh.
SMBC author comes to CMU
Zach Weiner discusses new book, connects with audience

Author and illustrator of the popular daily webcomic *Saturday Morning Breakfast Cereal* Zach Weiner came to Carnegie Mellon last Thursday to give a lecture in McConomy Auditorium, sponsored by the Activities Board. The content of his lecture, from a preview of his new book to a Q & A session, solidified the reason why his work is so popular on campus.

While McConomy wasn’t packed with attendees, the enthusiasm that accompanied Weiner’s entrance made up for it. Weiner greeted the crowd, adorned in a Carnegie Mellon scarf and socks with sandals.

His lecture consisted mainly of two parts. The first involved him presenting an “Adventure of Your Own Choosing,” plotted out in a Microsoft Word document and projected for everyone to read. It is the current version of a book he hopes to have written, illustrated, and published in a few months.

Without giving too much away, the book involves the reader choosing among various vocations, dealing with interesting people and places named after Czech curse words, and making heinous decisions. When confronted with a future career path, the crowd, of course, chose for the protagonist to be an engineer.

“This is unhygienic, even for the engineering department,” Weiner said, quoting a passage from the book detailing a gruesome fight scene. He knew his audience too well.

“It was different from most lectures,” said Lauren Ruoff, a sophomore in the College of Fine Arts.

“While the Q & A was usual, it was cool that he had the book preview.”

Nerdy and humorous references abounded as Weiner presented the rest of the novel, and his comedic nature really exhibited itself. In a community like Carnegie Mellon, often deemed socially awkward even by its own students, such humor thrives because of its geeky perspective.

After the “Adventure of Your Own Choosing” portion, Weiner then proceeded to the Q & A portion of the lecture. While the advance preview of his new book was funny and entertaining, this part of the evening was much more interesting.

Weiner usually focuses his comics on the topics of science, math, love, religion, history, and phallic humor. When asked about the prominence of nihilism in his comics, Weiner responded, “Nihilism is funny. It’s kind of depressing, but it’s fun to put in comics.”

His ability to connect to the audience had less to do with the subject matter of his comics and works, and more to do with his genuine persona. “He was just a very cool guy,” said Karl DeStefano, a sophomore physics major. “He was very nice. Before the show he was doing drawings and talking to people.” In many ways, Weiner could have been a student at Carnegie Mellon. He was very attuned, both in appearance and speech, to the populace of the university.

During the talk, Weiner also described his writing process, often sending ideas to a “joke congress” comprised of his friends and wife before they become comics. When a comic that his wife did not find funny becomes popular and receives a lot of views, Weiner described it as, “Winning the relationship.” He added, “I’m way ahead.”

Weiner really connected with the audience throughout his lecture. While the book preview was humorous, it was his casual talk with the audience that really shone through. It’s how his perspective comes through in person and in his work, in addition to the subject matter and style of his comedy, that made this lecture memorable.

**Josh Smith** | Forum Editor

SMBC author and illustrator Zach Weiner gave an entertaining lecture to a small but enthusiastic crowd last week.

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**Advice for awkward people**

**About roommates and girlfriends**

**Dear Patrick,**

My roommate got a new girlfriend, and I have mixed feelings about it. He’s never in the room anymore, which is great. On the other hand, I hate seeing him happy. He used to be full of contempt and rage, but now he’s mellowed, full only of hatred and anger. Is there a way I can keep him out of the room and unhappy?

Thanks,
**Need Original Tips,**

**Laughter Of Neighbor Encourages Lonesome Yearnings**

Dear NOT LONELY,

It may seem like a smart idea to sabotage his new relationship, but if they break up he’ll probably spend a few weeks moping around your room, complaining about the noise, your mess on the floor, and his abject despair. And that’s much worse than having him out of the house and happy.

The key is to keep them together and to make him unhappy in other ways. For instance, if she has a friend he hates, suggest they go on double dates together. Convince her to take him clothes shopping. If he wants to look good in front of her, you can use that to get him to do stuff for you. Just remember: It’s more important that you have the room to yourself.

If that doesn’t work, try bringing your girlfriend around your apartment for visits. The three of you could all hang out together! He definitely won’t hate that. Maybe the two of them could become besties. You could even try to set him up with her friends. I’m sure he won’t mind your unsolicited intrusion into his personal life one bit.

Or just take him to a bar to cry into some whiskey,

**Patrick Hoskins**

Need advice? Send queries to advice@thetartan.org.
Lively jazz nights rekindle flame in Pittsburgh
Interval Mondays and Space Exchange promise vivacious weekly performances

A city that used to be a veritable hotbed of American Jazz, Pittsburgh has seen what could be described as a process of jazz atrophy. Cultural institutions like the August Wilson Center and the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild feed off a legacy of jazz, not a vibrant scene.

Traditional venues, like CJ’s in the Strip District, have strict age restrictions (CJ’s is closed to patrons younger than 30) and prevent jazz from being experienced across generations. Additionally, WDUQ, formerly Pittsburgh’s only jazz radio station, changed to an NPR news station last year. There are simply not enough lively hubs for the cultivation of an innovative jazz scene in Pittsburgh.

In light of this seemingly atrophied jazz environment, two events in Pittsburgh reveal that the local contemporary jazz scene is rekindling: On Mondays, AVA Lounge in East Liberty hosts Interval Monday, and the Thunderbird Cafe in Lawrenceville hosts Space Exchange on Tuesdays.

On what is considered the week’s dead night for entertainment in Pittsburgh, AVA Lounge offers one of the hottest jazz jams, incorporating silent film projections and an open stage. The weekly session was founded by pianist Howie Alexander in July 2007, and is now known as the premier event for jazz music in Pittsburgh due to the local and nationally recognized talent it attracts.

Typically, the sessions consist of two sets. The first set belongs to the Interval Trio (Alexander, Paul Thompson, and James Johnson III), while the second set opens up the stage to musicians in the audience. The jam session features both jazz standards and original compositions, and resident DJ J. Malls (also known as Jason Molyneaux) spins classic jazz vinyl during breaks.

A documentary-style web series, called The Interval Trio & Friends, is currently being produced that focuses on the lives and sessions of the musicians.

In contrast to the Interval Monday jam sessions, Space Exchange at the Thunderbird Cafe is marked by an approach that resembles a New York City artist residency, something rarely seen in Pittsburgh. Saxophonist Ben Opie, drummer Dave Throckmorton, guitarist Colter Harper, bassist Matt Booth, and guitarist/drummer Chris Parker are the core members of Space Exchange, and they collectively oversee the programming for the evenings.

In 2011, the group decided to approach Thunderbird Cafe owner John Pergal for a shot at a weekly residency. Because Pergal has supported the group’s past efforts, this collaboration seemed natural. However, the group has actively argued that Space Exchange neither be billed as a jazz event nor as a jam session. As a result, patrons won’t find musicians casually strolling in to display their skills in a specific genre. Rather, they will find a variety of ensembles associated with the core members, rotating in and out of the Thunderbird Cafe, waltzing across the boundaries of styles.

Aiming to develop a lasting presence in Pittsburgh, the group draws on the public interest in some of the collective’s established bands like Opie and Throckmorton’s Thoth Trio, Harper’s Rusted Root, and Opie’s audacious free jazz orchestra, Opek.

Given the history of Pittsburgh’s local jazz scene, events like Interval Monday and Space Exchange give hope for a playful and innovative scene in the future. As it stands, jazz enthusiasts need not fear a continued atrophy of the local scene. Jazz is happening; now it is up to the audiences to continue sharing the experience.

Future performances at Space Exchange will feature Opie performing the works of American composers Thelonius Monk, Anthony Braxton, and Ornette Coleman, alongside bassist Jeff Grubbs and Throckmorton’s “Book Exchange.”

Juan Fernandez | Staff writer
Making their way to their seats at Carnegie Music Hall last Tuesday night, the show’s attendees must have wondered if they’d come to the right place to see From The Top, an NPR program hosted by renowned pianist Christopher O’Riley. A showcase for musicians under age 18, From The Top was in Pittsburgh for a live recording. The stage looked more like it was set up for a three-ring circus than for a live taping of a radio show. Along with the music stand and grand piano, there were four microphones on stage right, a high wooden chair and small table on stage left, and a curious black box covered with a black cloth. One could almost visualize jugglers dancing about the stage and the young performers playing their instruments while dangling from trapezes.

The black box ended up being an actual magic trick: The show’s announcer, Joanne Robinson, placed a red suitcase on the black box and proceeded to pull out an assortment of plastic flowers and plant them in a vase on the small table. The box then got up and walked off stage — there had been a woman handing Robinson flowers from the box. Other theatrics included one of the show’s producers cartwheeling on stage and an announcement that “coughing during the music is punishable by death.” Once the actual recording began, a euphonium soloist was the first to perform. It was certainly an odd opener, but 17-year-old Grant Jameson made the instrument — a mini-tuba of sorts — sound like a lilting, brassy bassoon. The versatility he presented during the music is punishable by death.’’

What truly made From The Top different from a classical recital were the interviews. After every young musician’s performance, O’Riley would chat with him or her at the microphones on stage right. These interviews seemed to be planned out in advance, but they were still interesting. They served to let the audience know a little more about the young musicians, while adding some comedic entertainment.

Sewickley, has been arranging and composing his own music since he was six years old. He gifted the audience with a flashy performance of Frédéric Chopin’s Polonaise, the Romantic composer’s “let’s rock out” piece for piano. Quite the little showman, Voinov took moments to recoil from the piano like a cat crouching to pounce, so that he could have the momentum to pound out some of the more exciting chords.

During the interview, Voinov revealed that his showmanship tends to control how he presents his performances. For example, last year he arranged a version of “Frosty the Snowman” for piano and orchestra, and performed it with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra — dressed as a snowman. He finished the interview by going back to the piano, donning a frizzy black wig, and playing his own jazzy arrangement of Niccolò Paganini’s famous Caprice No. 24.

The show’s peak, however, was violinist Kelly Talim, a 16-year-old Illinois resident and student of Carnegie Mellon music professor Cyrus Forough. She performed Bela Bartok’s Second Rhapsody with seeming effortlessness. Judging her solely by that performance, one could rightfully say that she’s bound to have a successful career.

The show itself wasn’t flawless: While interviewing Jameson, who was talking about how he comes from a long line of brass players, O’Riley made the remark, “I enjoy a line of Jamesons, now and again.” There was also some feedback during the interview with the Temple University Quartet, so part of it had to be re-recorded. However, the phenomenal young musicians definitely made up for the inherent pitfalls of a live radio show.

This episode of From the Top was recorded at Carnegie Music Hall.

Evan Kahn | Copy Manager

From The Top, and all of NPR’s shows, air on WQED 89.3 FM.
A review of Oscar-nominated short films

Live-action, animated short films provide varied perspectives on growing up, making peace

Regent Square Theatre has been showing the 2012 Oscar-nominated short films since Feb. 10, in preparation for the Academy Awards on Feb. 26. This year’s Oscar-nominated shorts showcase a variety of creative influences in the field. While some are certainly stronger than others, all of the contenders have a unique story, style, and perspective.

**Live-Action**

*Pentecost*, an Irish film directed by Peter McDonald and Eimear O’Kane, follows the story of Damian, a young boy who is forced to serve as an altar boy when he would rather be out playing football (soccer). This comedic film portrays Damian’s tough decision between conforming to what his parents want him to do and following his heart. *Pentecost* had the audience laughing all throughout the credits and into the opening of the next film.

*Raju* is a German and Indian film directed by Max Zähle and Stefan Gieren. The story shows a German couple that travels to India to adopt a young boy. The couple faces a moral dilemma when they find out that the child they are adopting was not abandoned, but rather kidnapped. The film was well made and featured an excellent soundtrack, but the nuances of the story would have been better in a feature-length film with more background about the couple’s relationship.

The two films that followed, *The Shore* and *Time Freak*, were enjoyable but forgettable. *The Shore* was the longest of the short films and seemed to drag on. Despite its heartwarming message of making peace with regrets and facing a troubled past, the film lacked any compelling reason to pay attention for 31 minutes. *Time Freak* is an American film about an inventor who creates a time machine, but gets caught up traveling around yesterday. The short was funny and the audience seemed to enjoy it, but its cuteness also made it seem a bit amateur.

The last film for this category was *Tuba Atlantic*. Directed by Hallvar Witzøe, this Norwegian short follows the final days in the life of Oskar, a 70-year-old man who is going to die in six days. He is faced with the challenge of making peace with his brother before he dies, and is only able to do this by sending huge sound waves across the Atlantic Ocean from a giant tuba that he and his brother built when they were younger. The film brought tears to my eyes three separate times in 25 minutes, and it was the only film in the Live-Action category that received applause from the audience at the end.

**Animation**

The films in the Animation category were less impressive as a whole than the live-action films.

*Dimanche/Sunday*, a Canadian film directed by Patrick Doyon, followed the story of a family’s Sunday routine and a young boy’s imagination. The animation was cute and the music was excellent, but by the end the audience was left underwhelmed.

*A Morning Stroll* shows the story of a New Yorker who walks past a city-savvy chicken on his morning promenade. The scene is shown three separate times — once set in 1959, once in 2009, and once in 2059. Each scene has a different animation style, which made it one of the more visually interesting animated shorts.

*Wildlife*, directed by Amanda Forbis and Wendy Tilby, follows the story of a young Englishman who travels to the Canadian frontier to become a cowboy, only to find that he doesn’t quite fit in his dream life. His life is compared to that of a comet throughout the film, and in the end, the young man sees a comet in the sky and freezes to death in a snowy field. The story was interesting, but the film seemed to drag on for much longer than 13 minutes.

*The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* is an allegory about the healing powers of books. The animation was sophisticated and impressive, and the message of the story felt very relevant when it seems like few people read novels anymore. The film was a bit cheesy at times, but it was enjoyable and delivered a poignant message.

*Tuba Atlantic* is the story of an old man who must make peace with long-lost brother before he dies.

The Oscar-nominated shorts are showing at Regent Square Theatre through Feb. 23; the Academy Awards will take place on Sunday, Feb. 26.
The Frame Film Festival displays student work
ArtHang, Film Club present wide variety of student films, transform gallery space into theater

On Friday, The Frame was transformed into a sleek display of video art. The Frame Film Festival, a combined effort of Carnegie Mellon’s student organizations ArtHang and Film Club, displayed the diverse and eclectic film work of students.

The show was largely formulated by sophomore art majors and ArtHang heads Caroline Record and Michael Bennett; Claire Gustavson, a sophomore Bachelor of Humanities and Arts student in art and philosophy; and Film Club president and senior art major Benjamin Welmond. Sophomore Bachelor of Computer Science and Arts student Andrew Bueno, digital media manager for ArtHang, was the technical head who worked behind the scenes and really got the “show on the road,” Gustavson said.

The downstairs portion of The Frame was dedicated to the work produced by the Film Club since 2010. These narrative pieces included 2010 works like “Zombie College: The Musical,” 2011 short group projects from Film Club, and more professional pieces like the trailer for “Static Shock,” a fan film by senior directing major Stefan Dezil, which will be released in March. Rows of metal chairs sat facing the projection, and the notoriously creepy underground space of The Frame was transformed into a theater.

Talia Levin, a first-year Bachelor of Humanities and Arts student in directing and creative writing, explained her experience in Film Club while watching the projected shorts downstairs. “All that you really need to make a movie is people who want to do it.... Film Club is a nice way to know these people,” she explained. “The only way you can learn [how to make films], especially in a place that isn’t a film school, is to keep doing it over and over again.”

The upstairs portion of The Frame was dedicated to the student work submitted to ArtHang. The dividing walls from last week’s show were kept intact in order to create four separate viewing spaces for the work. Two of the sections displayed several small televisions with their own DVD players and headphones displaying videos on a loop. These devices were slightly hypnotizing to watch, as viewers walked from one TV to the next. Other sections were transformed into larger viewing spaces with seating and films projected onto the wall. The work displayed on this floor varied, but was generally abstract rather than narrative.

The technology that was working to keep the show running seemed to seamlessly continue the loops of video, deliver the audio needed, and run without noticeable glitches. Bueno admitted that the technological aspects of the show provided a challenge, since each separate television had to be working and also have a headphone jack.

First-year linguistics major Edward Wojciechowski III commented upon leaving, “I liked that the array of films showed varied in genre. There was something for everyone.”

This show displayed over 30 student works in an intimate and engaging space. The integration of two student groups allowed for a more thorough display of the many different types of film work created on campus, and provided for a successful show.

Samantha Ward | Junior Staffwriter

Like Crazy
Thursday, Feb. 23
8 10 12

Like Crazy is a romantic drama that won the Grand Jury Prize at last year’s Sundance Film Festival. Jacob, an American design student, and Anna, a British exchange student, fall in love over a year’s time and stay together for a summer. After visiting family in England, Anna is denied re-entry into the United States, forcing the couple into a strained long-distance relationship. Like Crazy’s script was improvised almost entirely by the actors. Fun Fact: The ex-wife of the director has stated that the movie is basically a re-enactment of their own romantic history.

A Very Harold and Kumar Christmas
Friday, Feb. 24
8 10 12

Set six years after the sequel, the franchise that helped relaunch Neil Patrick Harris’ career is back and just as funny as ever. This film follows the fearless duo as they embark on another spectacular journey after Kumar accidentally burns down Harold’s father’s prize Christmas tree. It’s silly, yes, but what else would you expect? Fun Fact: Danny Trejo, who plays Mr. Perez in the movie, wears an ugly Christmas sweater in the film; that alone should be reason enough to see this.

Wet Hot American Summer
Saturday, Feb. 25
10 12

Wet Hot American Summer is one of the most underrated comedies to come out in the last 15 years. It stars a bevy of comedic actors including Janeane Garofolo, Paul Rudd, Amy Poehler, Michael Ian Black, Michael Showalter, Elizabeth Banks, and many more. The movie shows these men and women as camp counselors who hilariously make it through the final week of summer camp. The film is very tongue-in-cheek about itself. Several scenes are too over the top to even describe. It’s the perfect movie to just sit back, turn your brain off, and watch. And isn’t that a fantastic thing to do around midterms?

Academy Awards
Sunday, Feb. 26
7

The Activities Board is showing the Oscars in their entirety in McConomy Auditorium this Sunday. This year’s event will be hosted by Kermit and Miss Piggy. There will be snacks and plenty of opportunities to make fun of the stars from the comfort of a squeaky chair. Nine films are competing for Best Picture this year: The Artist, The Descendants, Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close, The Help, Hugo, Midnight in Paris, Moneyball, The Tree of Life, and War Horse. Will your favorite movie come home with any Oscars?
Hair packs punch despite small-scale production
Drama students take fresh approach on classic musical, put on compelling performance

“Vibrant. Visceral. Introspective.”

That’s how Christian Fleming, a senior directing major, described his rendition of Hair, which was performed last week in the Helen Wayne Rauh Theater in Purnell. Fleming was behind the scenes of the show that served as his senior thesis. “Instead of documenting the journey of a generation of youths,” Fleming explained, “we are trying to create a compelling, personal story of one man’s life.” This plot adjustment was intentional, and Fleming said it contributed to his desired vision for the production.

As audience members filtered into the theater, they were greeted by Claude (played by junior acting major Jacob Tischler), the show’s main character, sitting silently in a hospital bed in the middle of the stage. Claude thinks back to the moment he received his draft card for the Vietnam War. He is greeted by some familiar faces: From behind a 30-foot white sheet come the 11 members of the “tribe,” spinning Claude’s hospital bed as they parade around him. Their leather vests, bell-bottoms, and voluminous hair provide colorful and vibrant contrast to the drab, hospital gown-wearing man weakened by post-traumatic stress disorder.

The tribe whisks him back to the time when he was young and rebellious, when he adopted the title Aquarius. With this confidence and bravado, Claude drops out of school, not holding back in expressing his true feelings to his principal, who is scandalously imagined as a Nazi. The free-spirited hippies show Claude a new life, unbounded and full of beauty.

However, Claude’s parents pressure him to “start being an American” and get a job. The beauty of the stage is exemplified in a great scene when Claude explains everything he has to his parents. During this song, called “I’ve Got Life,” the members of the tribe were seamlessly integrated into the scene as background dancers. Tischler’s voice dominated the song, from the slower emotional parts to the energetic wacky bits.

Claude deals with a difficult dilemma in the show: He wants to make change, but doesn’t want to go to war to do it. When he receives his draft card, however, he begins to think seriously about his departure. Claude then sings “Hair,” the title song, a number dedicated to the luscious and lengthy locks that defined the late ’60s. This song is the epiphany of the show’s message: The importance of self-expression. It begins slowly, with Claude and fellow friend Berger (played by Rodney Jackson, a junior drama major) harmonizing gradually to the violence of war and suffers several knife gashes — accentuated with a loud piano crash, reminiscent of the slashing from the infamous shower scene in Alfred Hitchcock’s Psycho.

And suddenly, reality hits. The playfulness of the first half of the show is gone, and the impending dangers of war quickly approach. Those in charge of the show’s props did an excellent job, especially in this portion of the performance, substituting canes for muskets and bent wire hangers for bows and arrows.

All too soon, the grim and gritty reality sets in as fellow soldiers are shot while crossing trenches — wonderfully accompanied by a sharp, low crash on the piano. Some take their own lives with imaginative yet disturbing depictions of self-strangulation and lighting themselves on fire. The dramatics continue as Claude ends up in a one-on-one fight with an enemy soldier.

Claude steals his opponent’s knife and fatally stabs him, but is so horrified by what he’s done he convulses in horror and begins to cry. In the end, Claude falls victim to the violence of war and suffers several knife gashes — accentuated with a loud piano crash, reminiscent of the slashing from the infamous shower scene in Alfred Hitchcock’s Psycho.

The tribe members return him to the hospital bed where the show began, giving their goodbyes. The light goes out on the tribe, shining only on Claude as he curls up on his true feelings to his principal, who is scandalously imagined as a Nazi. The free-spirited hippies show Claude a new life, unbounded and full of beauty.

But when he goes to toss it in, he can’t. This moment of indecision is emphasized by the piano’s high notes, played by junior piano performance major Stephanie Mao.

This show is as big as the hair it’s named after, but the theater only had a 140-person maximum capacity, so scaling down the big production was no easy task. The cast of 12 tackled an impressive 24 songs, each member getting his or her own solos throughout the show. A single, static set with just the right amount of detail served as the backdrop to the show. Despite being a scaled-down version of the original, this production of Hair hit all the right notes.

Nick Guesto | Staffwriter
Scotch’n’Soda puts on rendition of Eurydice
Adaptation of Greek classic, impressive set design captivate, unnerve audience

“The Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice is a tragic tale of love and loss,” says the director’s note in the playbill for Scotch’n’Soda’s Eurydice. The 90-minute show, which had three performances last weekend in the University Center’s McKenna/Peter/Wright room, was directed by Andy Minton (junior ethics, history, and public policy major) and Brad Sherburne (third-year architecture major).

According to Minton, the realization of this production began more than a year ago, when he first approached Sherburne with the script, written by American playwright Sarah Ruhl. The directors’ vision was immediately evident in the beautiful set. The McKenna/Peter/Wright room was transformed into an immersive world, which brought about a sense of whimsy and wonder.

Metalllic objects such as ladles and eyeglasses hung from the ceiling; the quirky trinkets seemed like they were floating due to magic rather than fishing wire. The set teleported the traditional Greek myth into a more modern era, although the exact time period was ambiguous. The blue palette of the set — from the wallpaper to the umbrellas framing the stage — was a clever nod to the frequent references to water throughout the play.

Eurydice follows the story of two lovers, Eurydice (played by Jasmine Peterson, a sophomore computer science major) and Orpheus (played by Raz Golden, a first-year international relations and politics major). On their wedding day, Eurydice encounters a Nasty Interesting Man (played by Will Weiner, a junior social and decision sciences and statistics double major), who lures her to his apartment with promises of a letter written by her late father (Eli Diamond, a junior drama major).

Unnerved by the suspicious character, Eurydice tries to leave but falls down the stairs and enters the Underworld, joining her father. She also joins three Stones: Big Stone (Christine de Carteret, a fourth-year architecture and history double major), Little Stone (Larissa Jantonio, a sophomore communication design major), and Loud Stone (Erika Tang, a junior economics major).

The Stones function as a stylized version of a Greek chorus, bringing the play back to its traditional roots. Offering explanation and commentary, the Stones provide a necessary contrast to the rest of the piece, as they speak rhythmically and often in unison. The three actresses’ hard work on characterization was obvious, as each Stone had a distinct personality, walk, and voice. Their dark blue and green costumes were almost gothic; elements such as corsets and dark lipstick helped portray the darkness and bizarre nature of the Underworld.

The Underworld itself was denoted by a creative use of lighting. Colder, bluer lighting separated it from the more cheery, warmly lit Overworld. The blue lighting was no doubt used to conjure up the idea of water. After dying, Eurydice arrives via a rain-filled elevator. Water dripped from some invisible source above the stage, creating an aesthetically pleasing effect.

Although Weiner’s performance as Nasty Interesting Man was captivating and unnerving, he really shone as the Lord of the Underworld. The strange, childlike being, with a colorful, oversized bowtie and buttons, rode down the aisles on either side of the audience on a comically tiny tricycle. Weiner was perfectly creepy and hilarious as this character, and successfully portrayed the suspicious similarities between his two characters.

Golden, as Orpheus, was incredibly moving with his expressive face and entrancing voice. Since his character is left alone in the Overworld quite early in the play, the majority of his performances were monologues as he expressed himself through letters to Eurydice. While this had the potential to be redundant, Golden’s emotive performance kept the audience interested.

Although the acting was on par, it was the design that had everyone talking afterwards. First-year vocal performance major Ethan Crystal said, “With the limitations presented by the room, especially with the lighting, I thought they did an excellent job. I was really impressed.”

Despite some hiccups, the performance kept the audience interested.

Lindsay MacGillivray, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, was captivated by the bold stylistic choices made by the directors. “The set and everything was really artistic. I felt it really captured the essence of the show … and when the back door opened and there was the waterfall — that was really, really cool,” she said.

The only drawback of the space is that those sitting any further than four or five rows back may have had a difficult time seeing the stage, particularly when actors were sitting or lying on the floor. However, given the intricate emotions in the delicate piece, perhaps the intimate space was the right choice.

For audience members who were already familiar with the traditional Greek myth, the show was a refreshing take on the story. “It was the traditional story of Orpheus, but with a twist…. It was much more relatable,” MacGillivray said. The directors’ efforts of more than a year’s work were worth it, as cast and crew came together to create this stylized piece in a cohesive manner.

Gabriela Pascuzzi | Junior Staffwriter
Student readings start strong

First event of the year showcases student work, close community

The undergraduate English department kicked off the Creative Writing Student Series on Thursday night with its first event for the spring semester. The event was loosely themed around Valentine’s Day, and was aptly titled “Hearts (And Other Organs).” Three students were featured readers and a few other students participated in the open mic portion toward the end of the event.

Held in The Gladys Schmitt Creative Writing Center in Baker Hall, commonly known as The Glad, the event had a feeling of intimacy and comfort. The lights were dimmed and attendees sat around the room on an assortment of couches, tables, and rocking chairs. Instead of feeling crowded, the setting made the event feel more like a gathering of good friends. The bookshelves that line the walls and the coffee maker in the corner made it obvious that the out-of-the-way location is a favorite of writers.

The series is under new management this semester: Ila Foley, a senior creative writing major; Ines Pujos, a senior arts and creative writing double major, and Madeleine Barnes, a senior arts and creative writing double major, are now running the series. They recruited readers to participate and ran a raffle after the readings had concluded. All undergraduate students in the English department are eligible to perform in the series, but students can only read once per semester.

Foley felt like event was a success; she remarked that she was “glad to see people come out,” and that it was nice to see “lots of familiar faces.” Since the event is held in such a tiny space, the audience was fairly small. However, all members of the Carnegie Mellon community are invited to attend and enjoy some original readings as well as pizza, soda, and candy.

Thursday’s readers were senior creative writing major Brian Sherwin, junior creative writing major Austin Moyer, and sophomore creative and professional writing double major Anna Albi. Their prepared works, along with the pieces shared by the few students who participated in the open mic portion, made for an enjoyable evening. Barnes described the night as being filled with “vivacious readers and lots of crunching candy hearts.”

Since most in attendance were affiliated with the English department, there was a real sense of community and support for one another throughout the evening. Foley described the series as “good community building,” and the post-show environment supported her description. Patrons talked, joked, and ate while the pink and red streamers that decorated the walls were removed and the lights came back up.

The series definitely started off on a high note. Two more events are scheduled, with the final reading taking place at The Frame toward the end of the year. This last event in the series will showcase all of the senior creative writing majors.

Although it is nice to maintain a special bond within the English department, it would be nice to see future events marketed to the broader Carnegie Mellon community. Perhaps next time the crowd will be even larger and more varied, so more students can watch these writers share their work.

Catherine Spence | Staffwriter
**Apartment 4H** by Joe Medwid and Dave Rhodenbaugh

Okay, class, today we're playing basketball! King Leonidas, Epic Fail Guy, you're the team captains. Everyone else, line up on the wall!

Fact: This ball is now stuck in Chuck Norris' gravitational field.

Minutes later

BALLERS! WHAT IS YOUR PROFESSION?

DID THAT CAT JUST DUNK FROM HALF COURT?

You guys... I've got a good feeling about our team!

© 2010 Joe Medwid and Dave Rhodenbaugh

Online at www.4hcomic.com

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**When She's Angry** by Doghouse Diaries

I AM SO MAD AT YOU RIGHT NOW!

If you calm down we can talk about this.

NO! I CAN'T CALM DOWN!

But -- NO!

NOTHING CAN CALM ME DOWN!

Hello?

OMG, Hiii!

DOGHOUSEDIARIES
doghousediaries@gmail.com
Procrastination Yields Panic by Reza Farazmand

Hark, a Vagrant by Kate Beaton
Sudoku Puzzle: Easy Difficulty

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Sudoku courtesy of www.opensky.ca/~jdhildeb/software/sudokugen/

Hexadecimal Sudoku Puzzle: Very Hard Difficulty

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Hexadecimal 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 Feb. 13, 2012

Crossword

%ASAP% %ASTIR% %HEL%D
%MINH% %LEASE% %APER%
%ELIA% %SCOLD% %LESE%
%ROSSI% %SICKLES%
%MOUSSA% %PALO%
%CALAMEBA% %TERIE%
%ARCO% %BLUFF% %DART%
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Hard Difficulty
Horoscopes

aries
march 21–april 19
What have you been up to lately? There are many people who would like to know, and this may be a surprise to you. Take this new information as a sign to pause and really think about your actions.

taurus
april 20–may 20
Challenge yourself this week by using only Shakespearean insults whenever you get angry at someone. Start with calling someone a clay-brained minnow, and then work your way up to the juicier ones.

gemini
may 21–june 21
Spring Break is upon thee. Make haste: Fun and sun await those who seek them out.

cancer
june 22–july 22
This week will be filled with surprises and drama, so hang in there.

leo
july 23–aug. 22
This week, ditch the episodes of The New Girl or anything on the SyFy channel, and watch nothing but day-long marathons of educational documentaries and Antiques Roadshow.

virgo
aug. 23–sept. 22
Reality is such a bore. This week, avoid reality and live a fantasy world created from your own delusions, sadness, and fear. Have fun.

libra
sept. 23–oct. 22
Your doppelgänger is running amok around campus, and you haven’t the slightest idea how to stop it. Leave records of everything you do to prove you are not responsible for the misdeeds committed by your doppelgänger.

scorpio
oct. 23–nov. 21
There aren’t enough urban legends floating around Carnegie Mellon. Take some time this week to come up with something really good in order to frighten as many first-years as possible.

sagittarius
nov. 22–dec. 21
Even though change is taking place all the time, that doesn’t mean we get used to it. There are changes on the horizon for you, Sagittarius. Stand and meet the change with your inherent grace and confidence.

capricorn
dec. 22–jan. 19
Something seems to be missing. Find it quickly or suffer.

aquarius
jan. 20–feb. 18
Tune in and drop out without the LSD. Reach for the remote and use the moving pictures to make things better.

pisces
feb. 19–march 20
There’s not enough color in your life. Brighten your day by brightening your wardrobe.

Nicole Hamilton | Comics Editor

ACROSS
1. Edible roots
5. Actress Balin
8. Mite
14. I smell _____!
15. Deity
16. Unit in a sentence
17. Torpid
19. Armored
20. Saddle horse
22. Eyeball
26. Pert. to the thigh
29. Giant Mel
32. Word after Anglo
33. Tawdry
37. One recording the past
40. Body of salt water
41. Derive
42. Double curve
43. Let loose
45. Heavy napped woolen fabric
48. Wrist bones
53. ___ Darya (Asian river)
54. Divided into four parts
58. Short swordlike weapon
60. Salesgirl
61. Rhododendron kin
62. The last letter of the Hebrew alphabet
63. Peter Fonda title role
64. Sharp reply
65. Application
66. Baby blues

DOWN
1. Cruising vessel
2. Bellowing
3. Jackie’s predecessor
4. Blank look
5. Borodin’s prince
6. Centrepiece of the human face
7. Citrus coolers
8. Become visible
9. Fraud
10. Prince Valiant’s son
11. Sharp-edged instrument
12. Grenoble’s river
13. Bowler hat
18. NFL scores
21. Swabs
25. Flutter
26. At a great distance
27. Demanding
28. Dough
29. Cry of discovery
30. Involuntary muscular contraction
31. Half a fly
32. Versifier
34. Common article
35. French possessive
36. Decade divs.
38. Lacking slack
39. Encouraging word
44. Ogle
45. “M*A*S*H*” name
46. Astonish
47. Pull on
48. Brown-capped boletus mushroom
49. Bicker
50. Turbulent
51. Blender setting
52. Cruise stops
55. Queue after Q
56. Cries of discovery
57. Relocate
59. Day—____.
I'm Not A Toy. The Gallery 4, 206 S. Highland Ave. This exhibition showcases the toy creations of local graphic designer Chase McBryde. Each figure has been handcrafted by McBryde to convey the artist's uniquely contrasting tastes in contemporary toy design.

**TUESDAY 2.21.12**

Pittsburgh Improv Comedy Jam. Cabaret At Theater Square, Seventh Street and Penn Avenue. 10 p.m. 21+ Improv comedians from all over Pittsburgh will perform unscripted scenes on stage. The show will pair comedians into random teams to generate unpredictable comedy.

**WEDNESDAY 2.22.12**

Medicine for Melancholy. 720 Records, 4405 Butler St. 9 p.m.
This love story follows two African-American twenty-somethings as they deal with the changes of a swiftly gentrifying San Francisco. Medicine for Melancholy is part of a series of independent films being shown every Wednesday in honor of Black History Month. Suggested donation is $5.

**THURSDAY 2.23.12**

Sweeney Todd. Phillip Chosky Theater, Purnell Center for the Arts. 8 p.m. Through March 3. Composed by Stephen Sondheim, this award-winning play explores love, loss, and revenge. Guest artist Joe Calarco directs the bloody tale of Todd and Mrs. Lovett as they kill and bake their victims into pies. Tickets are $17.

**FRIDAY 2.24.12**

A Separation. Regent Square Theatre. 1035 Braddock Ave. Showtimes TBA.
Golden Globe Winner for Best Foreign Language Film in 2011, A Separation tells the tale of a woman filing for divorce in contemporary Iran. Directed by Asghar Farhadi, this story presents an intriguing narrative that examines guilt and innocence from multiple perspectives.

**SATURDAY 2.25.12**

JACK Quartet. Andy Warhol Museum. 8 p.m.
Comprised of violinists Christopher Otto and Ari Streisfeld, violist John Pickford Richards, and cellist Kevin McFarland, the JACK Quartet focuses on performing new and interesting works. The quartet will perform Richer Textures, a new string quartet piece written by Pittsburgh composer and educator Amy Williams. Tickets start at $10.

**SUNDAY 2.26.12**

Sunday Night Jazz. James Street Gastropub & Speakeasy, 422 Foreland St. 6 p.m.
The Pittsburgh Jazz Society (PJS) highlights local jazz artist Eric Johnson. The PJS presents local jazz artists every Sunday.

**ONGOING**

Both live-action and animated short films will be shown at Regent Square Theatre in preparation for the Academy Awards on Feb. 26.

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

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Unleash your inner child
Write for Pillbox

pillbox@thetartan.org
Culinary historian and writer Michael Twitty gave a lecture last Thursday on the origins of African-American food, sponsored by the University Lecture Series. Twitty provided food for attendees as part of the lecture, including black-eyed peas and rice, okra soup, and plasas greens.