Advocates push for better biking on campus

The removal of bike racks around campus has prompted many to question Carnegie Mellon’s dedication to biking culture on campus, while many improvements around the city indicate that it will soon be a better place to bike.

In the fall of last year, for example, the city announced the installation of artist-designed bicycle racks in the Oakland District. Downtown, following implementation of two new miles in the Complete Streets initiative’s first public meeting last Thursday that the city expects to install 10 new miles of bike lanes per year over the next five years.

Organizations outside of the government have also made efforts to make biking easier in Pittsburgh.

PeopleForBikes. These reforms play into Pittsburgh’s current need forpedestrians and bicyclists alike with traffic signals, bike lanes, and sidewalks. Pittsburgh City Planning Director Roy Guard said in the Complete Streets initiative’s first public meeting last Thursday that the city expects to install 10 new miles of bike lanes per year over the next five years.

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Campus Crime & Incident Reports

An investigation is ongoing.

Fraud

A campus printer was discovered missing at Carnegie Mellon University. A Carnegie Mellon staff member notified the university police that her hand was struck by a heavy object, and was issued a citation.

Loud Party/Alcohol

A Carnegie Mellon student residing on Forbes Avenue reported seeing a suspicious male looking into an apartment above, and we are excited to bring them work towards their goals and act as a mentor for students of varying backgrounds and fields of interest who could help form the basis of a successful team.

CMU grad student's discovery sheds new light on mysterious cosmic radio waves

A detailed record of a fast radio burst (FRB), a brief, brilliant burst of cosmic radio waves from the distant universe, has been discovered by a team of astronomers that includes Carnegie Mellon University’s Jeffery Potter and Hsin-Hsin Lin. It was identified by Lin, a doctoral student in Carnegie Mellon’s Department of Physics.

Researchers at Carnegie Mellon University are developing a wearable cognitive assistant named “Gabriel” that will be able to “see” what the user is doing and give instructions for tasks as varied as dressing up or using exercise equipment, reconstructing a patient’s trajectory in a hospital, or providing assistance to caregivers.

Carnegie Mellon developing a wearable cognitive assistant named “Gabriel”

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The results of this finding are published in the Dec. 3 issue of Nature.

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It seems that the image contains a document, but the content is not fully visible or legible. It appears to be an article or a page from a publication, possibly discussing topics related to technological advancements, policies, or social issues. The text is partially obscured, and without clearer visibility, it's challenging to extract meaningful information. If you have a clearer version of the document or text, please provide it, and I can assist you further.
While current prostheses attempt to mimic these reflexes, they lack the technology to properly replicate natural leg motion. Geyer and Collins agree that gaining a better understanding of what local leg movements do, balance and how to implement those reflexes into prostheses, is work our laboratory is interested in the idea that if we understand how muscles control their limbs, we can use those principles to control robotic limbs," Geyer said. So far, their models have been able to respond to disturbances at the beginning and the end of the prosthesis's leg swing. Although these results are not yet functional, they represent a step forward in understanding how muscles control movement and how to implement those principles into prostheses.

Archaeologists examine human Etruscan tomb

While working in a field of Giau della Pace, a small town about 10 miles southwest of Florence, researchers discovered a rare and undisturbed Etruscan burial site that was dated approximately 500 B.C.E. The Etruscan people were a civilization that dominated southern Italy from 800 to 400 B.C.E. and was eventually absorbed into the Roman empire.

The Etruscans were known for their art, agricultural, and religious accomplishments. Some of their music instruments included the making of the flute, the rebec, the harp, and the oboe. They were also known for their calendar and their calendar system, the 365-day calendar, was based on the moon and the solar year.

The site that was discovered was dated from the fourth century, the team found two skeletons, one of which was an adult male and the other was an adult female. The male skeleton was of a larger size, and the female skeleton was of a smaller size. The team also found a variety of artifacts, including a stone axe, a stone chisel, and a stone knife. The team also found a variety of animal bones, including those of a cow, a pig, and a sheep.

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Despite these hardware limitations, Collins has devised a clever way to derive better conclusions about what prostheses would enable him to lose weight and design better than others.

One of the outcomes Collins hopes to see with these simulators in their application is clinical tools to improve the prescription of prostheses to amputees. Much like optimizing prescription glasses based on a series of vision tests, Collins believes the same can be done for amputees using these systems by quickly changing the behavior of the robotic device, thereby optimizing the prosthesis for each amputee.

Additionally, Collins hopes to use these systems to continue studying and optimizing prostheses so that eventually they can complement their able-bodied counterparts. The group strives to develop technologies that can outperform current prosthetic limitations, and it has already experienced some success in this endeavor. “This year, we developed an algorithm that reduces the cost of walking,” Collins said.

Although the future of other technologies is to develop better prostheses, another goal of Collins and Geyer’s research is to implement the technology into human application. Once the team has developed effective prosthetic models and finalized the universal device emulators, they will hopefully turn to using these technologies to improve physical performance for people without amputations.

The boundaries of such applications, which could theoretically range from improving military personnel to enhancing athletic activity, provide ample space for imaginative, novel applications.

Encryption techniques used to secure private information

MARTHA SINGLA 
Staffwriter

Encryption is the process of converting any text or message into a form that cannot be understood by a person who does not have information regarding how the conversion was made. The non-coded message is called plaintext and the converted message is called ciphertext. One can change the ciphertext back to plaintext using an algorithm (called the cipher) which gives a numerical or polynomial value and a key that leads to a plaintext value when used with the ciphertext and the key. The key and the ciphertext contain all the information about the conversion between plaintext and ciphertext.

Encryption is a way to hide and transport sensitive information. Credit card numbers for online transactions, social security numbers in employee databases, and other personal and financial information all need to be encrypted.

For example, when making a purchase online, a person types in their credit card details and sends it to the site. While this information is being sent, an attacker could potentially extract that information and use it for nefarious purposes. The point of encryption is to secure the data so that only the person who owns the data will be able to decode it and the person that is supposed to receive it.

There are two kinds of commonly used encryption techniques: symmetric and asymmetric key encryption.

Symmetric key encryption uses the same key for converting the message. The private key comprises a component that plays a major role in converting the message. The private key is published as the public key, along with an exponent that is used to factor a number forms the basis of this system. In this case, the two prime numbers are kept confidential and the product is published in the public key, along with an exponent that plays a major role in converting the message. The private key comprises a different exponent and the product of the prime factors, which is used to convert the cipher text to plain text.

These are only a few of the encryption methods currently in use. Research is going on in other approaches to cryptography and hardware, which is used to decode the message. There are some weaknesses in the encryption methods currently in use. Research is being done on other approaches to cryptography and hardware, which is used to decode the message. There are some weaknesses in the encryption methods currently in use. Research is being done on other approaches to cryptography and hardware, which is used to decode the message.

CMU researchers study issues with current prostheses

Steve Collins, an associate professor in Carnegie Mellon’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Karl Zysset, an assistant professor in Carnegie Mellon’s Robotics Institute, are developing hardware systems called universal device emulators, capable of quickly testing variations in prostheses design, which will allow researchers to understand how to improve prosthetic limbs and hopefully lead to improved designs and prescription.

By developing these hardware systems, Collins hopes to devise better conclusions about what prostheses would enable him to lose weight and design better than others.

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Terrorist social media usage requires complex solutions

One idea was that the United States government should expand their Facebook presence. If social media is an effective tool for terrorism, it can also be an effective tool for our government.

Moreover, just because there are other things that can be done to stop terrorism, doesn’t mean we should only focus on social networks. It may seem mundane, but sadness and outrage aren’t the only sentiments that terrorists themselves also use. Social networks can be tools to find terrorist content and remove it, to unite great minds for a common cause, and to find the duty of companies like Twitter or Facebook to find terrorist groups.

Another concern was that even if regulations were in place and big sites like Twitter and Facebook removed terrorist content, would that even accomplish anything? There will always be more robust sites willing to host terrorist materials, or sites built by terrorists themselves. Trying to shut down activity on the internet is like trying to use your fingers to play a leaking dam.

Some argued that it’s not the job of private organizations to decide what is or isn’t allowable content, but rather said that organizations already make moral or political decisions, such as removing hate speech, or making an option to change profile pictures to celebrate any marriage.

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One idea was that the United States government should enact their Facebook presence, and they should expand it. It’s not because it’s easy, because it’s not. But it’s worth the effort to stop terrorist tweets from going out. And it can be an effective tool for our government.

Most of those who joined the United States government from social media didn’t join won’t ever be persuaded to leave. People can’t be convinced of a cause. They don’t understand the United States government, then maybe they can understand the role of social networks in this evil. How can we use this threat?

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American media creates overblown gun anxieties

“America has not entered a so-called gun epidemic,” nor will it with any likelihood in the near future. If anything, America has had a gun epidemic for generations.

By Brandon Silvers

As headlines like “End the Gun Epidemic in America” become more common, Americans are growing increasingly afraid of their safety at work, at school, and in public theaters. But has gun violence in America really gotten worse? While the media would like us to think that it is true, the data, for the most part, suggests otherwise. According to a Washington Post article that was viral, there have been 334 days and 351 mass shootings so far this year. While this number is certainly more than last year, much of this increase can be explained by the fact that the average mass shooting takes place in a night dealership in which only one or two people have been shot and that occurred in a neighborhood in which only one or two people have been killed.

We do not allow any other opinion

gun companies are never licensed. You need a license — which requires a good gun store, background check, and training — to drive a car, operate construction equipment, and even pour lemonade stands in some states. Why on earth would a gun, in fact, simply designed for causing catastrophe, ever be licensed?

Of course, the answer is the NRA’s full coffers — courtesy of gun ownership and cultural differences between the U.S. and Canada. Gun control would make it even harder to do a similar thing in America. However, this was a long-gun shooting of shepherds and rifles. Canada’s handgun registry

Different from other shooting datasets

is that it uses a broader definition of mass shooter.” According to the FBI, a mass shooting involves four or more deaths. However, according to the Mass Shooting Tracker, a mass shooting occurs when four or more people are shot but at least one person is killed. Such a change greatly increases the number of cases that can be considered a mass shooting. Estimates for the number of countries that have gun laws in place vary from the 69 countries that have gun laws in place to the 131 countries that have gun laws in place.

The death toll from gun violence in America, we must look at more than just the media. According to the Pew Research Center, firearm homicides per 100,000 people. The Washington Post attributes this decrease in violent crime to more police officers, and a decrease in alcohol consumption. From the prevalence of mass shootings has not increased substantially over the years. James Allan Fox, a criminologist at University of Massachusetts Boston, claims that the rate of mass shootings has remained flat overall since he started

According to a study by the Center for Disease Control, 11,208 Americans were killed by gun violence in 2014. In comparison, heart disease, the leading cause of death in America, took 611,105 lives. However, in 2014, Americans were more likely to die of heart disease. In total, there were 10,022 articles related to the death toll from gun violence.

“America has entered a so-called gun epidemic,” or not will it with any likelihood in the near future. If anything, America has had a gun epidemic for generations.

The data suggests that the number of headlines related to mass shootings has remained flat overall since 2014. According to the FBI, the number of mass shootings has remained flat overall since 2014.

The report was released on February 24, 2016, which is the day after the mass shooting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. According to the report, the number of mass shootings has remained flat overall since 2014. According to the FBI, the number of mass shootings has remained flat overall since 2014.

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**Millennials deserve more credit for rocketing the workplace**

Millennials are often portrayed as entitled and unprepared for the workforce, but research suggests that they are actually better equipped to handle the challenges of modern employment. Millennials have grown up in an era of rapid technological change, which has equipped them with 21st-century skills and a strong sense of open-mindedness.

**End the “angry black person” trope; our feelings are valid**

The trope of the “angry black person” is a problematic stereotype that has been used to diminish the experiences of Black individuals. This trope is often used as a way to trivialize or dismiss the feelings of Black people, asserting that their anger is unfounded or exaggerated. This is not only harmful to Black individuals but also to the larger community, as it reinforces a culture of silence and self-censorship.

**Dog whistle politics**

Dog whistle politics is a type of political speech that uses code words that appear to be neutral, but which are designed to appeal to a targeted part of the audience. This tactic is often used by political leaders and officials to appeal to a specific demographic without actually saying anything controversial or offensive.

**Dog whistle politics happen everywhere**

Dog whistle politics are not limited to any one country or political party. They occur everywhere, from local city council meetings to national political campaigns. This is because they are an effective way to appeal to a specific demographic without actually saying anything controversial or offensive.

**Dog whistle politics are everywhere**

Dog whistle politics are a powerful tool for political leaders and officials. They allow them to appeal to a specific demographic without actually saying anything controversial or offensive. This is why they are so effective, and why they are used so frequently.

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To save climate, leaders must cut toxic ties with industry

While Earthlyties may seem odd as an educational program, it is one of the cornerstones of music education here at Carnegie Mellon. It teaches students how to home articulate themselves through music by looking at their whole bodies, and it is also proven to increase young children’s self-awareness.

The other benefits of the Prep School program are less unique to Carnegie Mellon and many others investigated. A study by the Boston Children’s Hospital found that music training in early childhood improves development in the areas of the brain that control executive functioning. According to head researcher Nadia Gabb, “Tons execu- tive functioning is a strong predictor of academic achievement, even more than IQ, we think our findings have strong educational implications.”

Learning an instrument also helps with language processing. The Stanford found that music training helps people detect small differences in syllables and the rapidly chang-ing sounds that make up a language. Another study published in Psych One found a correlation between at least children who received musical training and more fine motor skills, vocabu- lary, and numerical reasoning.

What all of this adds up to is that programs like the Music Preparatory School help students improve their reading and physical ability, expand their vocabulary, raise their aca-demic performance, increase their problem solving ability — all in ad-dition to gaining the ability to play an instrument. The rewards of these improved abilities are obvious in the Prep School’s student body.

Parents who dream of their five-year-olds playing sonatas can bring them to Carnegie Mellon’s Music Preparatory School, where they can become one of two students accepted to the Beginning Piano program, which trains children from the ages five to seven. The benefits of childhood music training are well documented, and music education is a great way for the School of Music to give back to the Pittsburgh com-munity.

However, the cost of the Begin-ning Piano program — and the dis-tress lack of financial aid options — makes this education and its plethora of benefits inaccessible to children of lower socioeconomic status. The pro-gram (unfortunately) rakes in pro-FITting profits and often instead of giving all kids a chance at learning classical music.

The caliber of Carnegie Mellon’s music program is well known. Lower known around campus is the Music Preparatory School, which houses the Beginning Piano program and additionally trains kids from the ages four to 16 in piano, percussion, gui-tar, and string instruments.

Students in the general program take weekly private lessons at $85 per hour, as well as a free elective. At around $200 per semester, the Be-ginning Piano program is more com-prehensive, including a 30-minute private lesson, a 45-minute group lesson to Carnegie Mellon in the beginning class, which non-music majors may join. There are also two choirs and a music major friends event each week skipping around their doors.

Academic performance is one of those areas and without a college degree the largest it has ever been. Yet according to the same article, “only five percent of Ameri-ca ages 25 to 34 whose parents didn’t finish high school have a col-lage degree.”

It’s vital to give children from un-derprivileged backgrounds the skills, self-discipline, and self-confidence necessary for college, and music education can provide that. Carn-egie Mellon has not been shy in this important field. Dr. Natalie Geer of the School of Music has created programs to get music exposure and education into Pittsburgh public schools, including an initiative to give keyboards to underprivileged kids.

However, the Prep School remains unsustainable for many. The $600 re-view cost for the Beginning Piano pro-gram is significant, and the pro-gram requires a commitment of four or five semesters, adding up to about $3500. Most students in the program continue their study through middle school or even high school: poorer students must do the same if they want to see the same benefits. This is cut more than $3000 per year for a family al-ready struggling to pay the bills.

To be fair, there is how universi-ties ran their music prep schools. However, Carnegie Mellon can and should break the pattern. The ben-efits of financial aid options are clear for underprivileged students, and there are also benefits for all of the students and the program at large. Having students from different back-grounds in the group lessons will al-low all the children to hear about different perspectives and experiences, and offering scholarships will help break the class and same-model in clas-sical music programs.

It will not be easy for the Prep School to create scholarship options. The program is currently completely self-funded, and the resources of-fered to students are impressive and therefore expensive.

Nonetheless, the program should make a priority to offer at least one full-scholarship through the entirety of their piano program, as well as a few partial scholarships. Carnegie Mellon can choose to be at the forefront of equal-access to music education for the children. We want the best and brightest students — from all back-grounds.

Sneha Foley (@snehasneha) is a staffwriter for The Tartan.

To save climate, leaders must cut toxic ties with industry

Low-income CMU music students don’t get fair chance to play

While Earthlyties may seem odd as an educational program, it is one of the cornerstones of music education here at Carnegie Mellon. It teaches students how to home articulate themselves through music by looking at their whole bodies, and it is also proven to increase young children’s self-awareness.

The other benefits of the Prep School program are less unique to Carnegie Mellon and many others investigated. A study by the Boston Children’s Hospital found that music training in early childhood improves development in the areas of the brain that control executive functioning. According to head researcher Nadia Gabb, “Tons execu-

tive functioning is a strong predictor of academic achievement, even more than IQ, we think our findings have strong educational implications.”

Learning an instrument also helps with language processing. The Stanford found that music training helps people detect small differences in syllables and the rapidly chang-

ing sounds that make up a language. Another study published in Psych One found a correlation between at least children who received musical training and more fine motor skills, vocabulary, and numerical reasoning.

What all of this adds up to is that programs like the Music Preparatory School help students improve their reading and physical ability, expand their vocabulary, raise their academic performance, increase their problem solving ability — all in addition to gaining the ability to play an instrument. The rewards of these improved abilities are obvious in the Prep School’s student body.

Parents who dream of their five-year-olds playing sonatas can bring them to Carnegie Mellon’s Music Preparatory School, where they can become one of two students accepted to the Beginning Piano program, which trains children from the ages five to seven. The benefits of childhood music training are well documented, and music education is a great way for the School of Music to give back to the Pittsburgh community.

However, the cost of the Beginning Piano program — and the distress lack of financial aid options — makes this education and its plethora of benefits inaccessible to children of lower socioeconomic status. The program (unfortunately) rakes in prof-ITting profits and often instead of giving all kids a chance at learning classical music.

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To save climate, leaders must cut toxic ties with industry

Low-income CMU music students don’t get fair chance to play
December 7, 2015 « The Tartan

Vikings, Broncos, Cowboys, and Colts defy expectations

Zeen Busenberg
Sports Editor

Just before the season, I picked out four teams I thought might have surprising seasons — two teams whose fortunes might turn from the previous season and two who might make a surprise run at the Super Bowl. Exactly none of the four predictions panned out; here I’ll look into what I went wrong and why these predictions didn’t work.

Minnesota Vikings

I had the Minnesota Vikings improving dramatically from last season. However, almost immediately after the release of that article, the Vikings lost tight end Kyle Rudolph to a knee injury for the season, making the tight end the rule of thumb for the deficit in their offense. Tight end Briley Green’s injury complicated matters a bit, but the team still struggled to get on track the entire season. It’s safe to say that the offense was a complete washout for the Vikings this year.

Denver Broncos

This team, like the Vikings, are nowhere near as good as I thought it would be. They slipped by each of their final two games by an average of six points and ten points, respectively. They’re probably not as bad as they sound, though. They really should have won against the Seahawks, the Jets, and the Bills. Their defense has carried them through.

Dallas Cowboys

This team, like the others, have been struggling recent- ly, they have scored 21 points, not on top. Roethlisberger may the Seahawks, Ya Gurl Gutie, Russell Wilson versus team Bofa Bo jacks” 69–62. So that was season. I still lost to Team “the

Indianapolis Colts

The Colts will do what they can to improve their team down, but they don’t want—Quarterback Andrew Luck has missed lots of time with his hand, but the Colts looked horrible on him for the field. Backquart Backquart Matt Aikenandin Luck’s place, but that’s all. The offensive coordinator Ryan Grigson made a mistake in choosing the-Cols defense has improved from disastrous to slightly above average, being much better than the season they hung our on. The other hand, the offense has been alse- unaware, able to do anything. The offensive line has been a nightmare and running back Frank Gore subsequently didn’t get much use. Worse, Phil Rivers has been able to easily control the defense against the Jets, who are facing the Giants in a New York brawl which might not

Fantasy Football: the finale

Fantasy Football

As we all know, my league is a little sad as fantasy football as itself. At any rate, I quit this year, a huge mistake. As far as the league goes, I’m the only one left. I’m sure Jeremy Langeard and I will be the only two in the league to have some fun this year. I still have fun watchingemony Over the

Swimmers set season bests

The women’s swimming and diving team finished com- petition at the Kenyon College Total Performance Invitational on Saturday Dec. 5. They were in third place in the competition, a set of new personal season's bests for Sophomores Mary St. John, Miranda Bond finished in 3 minutes, 25.35 seconds, respectively. Both are top three players at their positions this season to build an offense should look to use the rest of the season to build an offense around the number two receivers. Due

Junior Natalie Kenedy also

picked up for the last time of the season, finishing in two min- utes, 56.87 seconds.

Junior Sandra Haddad fin- ished in 57.11 seconds to post her best time ever.

The Tartans next compete on Saturday, Jan. 16 at Wommem-

College.

Juni Alex Singh also

picked up a season-best in the 200-yard IM finishing in 2 minutes, 57.18 seconds.

Senior Allison Ante and Julie and sustainability and then the game from the West, I think it’s likely that the Colts will make a strong run in the playoffs for the Super Bowl.

Zeke Busenberg
Sports Editor

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College.
Women's basketball overcomes slow start to top Oberlin

JORDAN SAFAH Staff Writer

Junior defensive end Brian Khoury sets the tone when it comes to balancing Carnegie Mellon academic life with football. Khoury has shown a strong commitment to both fields: taking on the challenge to manage the football schedule and a tight defense against the Yeowomen.

Junior forward Lisa Otto contributed to much of the Tartans' scoring in the period, and Murphey was able to get open for a number of two-point baskets. Looking back, the Tartans were able to make the lead after a foul gave Murphey the chance to make some free throws. The Yeowomen had a chance to tie the game at the end of the period, but the Tartans got the rebound and managed to take one more score out of it, closing the period out with a 5-5 lead.

The Yeowomen got off to a quick start in the first period, tying the game before Murphey made another basket. Several lead changes ensued as both teams relied on free throws. At 30 seconds, the Yeowomen were desperate to extend game time by scoring, taking a three-point lead. However, the Tartans were able to recover the ball after Oberlin failed to score again, finally breaking open the Yeowomen's defense.

Although the Tartans played from behind much of the game, they were able to pull through and end up on top by a fair margin. It was a great victory for the team, as Khoury leads the Tartans with a strong defense against the Yeowomen.

“[Y]ou look around and see ... it’s a tough situation but you still have to step up to the plate. You look around and see players in situations like this and you try to do your best,” said Khoury. "[W]hile it's a tough situation, it helps with the team dynamic. It helps with the team chemistry. It helps with the team motivation. It helps with the team excitement and the confidence in the team’s ability to win."

The Tartans will next take on Bethany College on Monday.
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Celebrate this joyous time of year with a variety of awesome tunes • B3

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Fans of the California rapper should be excited by latest album When It’s Dark Out.

5 Justin Bieber
Bieber wins back the hearts of many after his journey from cute child to criminal to heartthrob.

6 Milk Like Sugar
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Even though finals are scary and unpleasant, the rest of Pittsburgh is artsy and delightful like normal.

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Junior Sam Ho spends her year studying abroad at Imperial College London.

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This maze is crazy! Have fun! Take a break from screen exposure.

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Feelin’ fruity? See if your self-declared fruit alter ego coincides with what the stars think.
Time to jam to holiday tunes
As the winter holidays loom closer, listen to these favorites

I grew up in a household that was particular about when and where holiday music could be played: from after Thanksgiving Day to Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Because of this, I am always excited about the season in which I can listen to some of my favorite carols and holiday tunes without being scorned by my parents. Each holiday album and song reminds me of December memories throughout the years, and gives me that semi-awkward wishful look that always looks beautiful in movies, but is weird to see on people's faces in real life.

Here are some of my favorite things to listen to on the days when the days are short and all you want to do is drink your weight in hot cocoa, snuggle, watch Love Actually multiple times, and eat mashed potatoes at any given opportunity.

Pentatonix's *That's Christmas To Me*
It could be my enduring love for Kevin Olusola, this a cappella group’s beatboxer, but 2014’s best-selling Christmas album was super popular for a reason. As much as I love solo renditions of the classics, the small chamber vocal arrangements on this album are refreshing to the ears. Having been used to choral arrangements of church carols, and the mellow timbre of the likes of Michael Bublé for the poppier tunes, Pentatonix offers an interesting halfway point between the two common types. I love their “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” and their “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy,” but they also have a mushy gushy original tune, “That’s Christmas To Me,” which I love.

Last year my parents bought me the album as an early Christmas present, and also to fuel my — and their — obsession with Kevin Olusola. We listened to it multiple times on our annual cross country car trip to my grandparents’ house. If you didn’t have the chance to hear this last year, or weren’t paying attention as it played constantly in the background during long Barnes & Noble shopping trips, it is totally worth rocking out to this year.

A *Taste of Chanukah*
I listen to this album once a year. Growing up as a demi-Jew (half-Jewish), my winter holidays tend to be an amalgamation of the two holidays. One of my favorite traditions in my family is listening to this variety album of Chanukah tunes while decorating the family Christmas tree, complete with the Star of David perched on the top. Being a Boston native as well, this Boston-centric album is a wonderful taste — no pun intended — of various Chanukah traditions. Featuring ensembles from New England Conservatory and around Boston, songs are sung in various languages with different styles and vibes. The album opens with “Oy Chanukah,” an English and Yiddish take on the classic. Throughout the album there are more classic songs, like “Ich Bin a Kleyner Dreydl,” (a German variant of “I have a little dreidl”), as well as psalms, and a comedic latke cooking demonstration. Chanukah is the celebration of a miracle, and the comic energy and general lightheartedness make this album a great addition to the holiday celebrations.

Josh Groban’s *Noël*
Josh Groban has the wonderful talent of being at once humorous, and also soothing. Though by no means a favorite singer of mine, Josh Groban’s Christmas album *Noël* is a great sing-along opportunity, if you are into belting loudly and dramatically with friends and family. To me, singing carols and other songs with friends is a wonderful and relaxing way to spend an evening, particularly if you’re stuck together in a small space — a car for instance — traveling slowly through a semi-scary snow storm and trying very hard not to slide on the ice. Be very careful though, as it is important to pay attention to others in the car when engaging in a sing-a-long, because there is nothing less fun than being stuck in a place where there is a sing-a-long happening that you are not into. And Christmas is no time to start fights.

Ella Fitzgerald’s *Ella Wishes You A Swinging Christmas*
One of the great vocalists of her time, this album from 1960 is still one of my favorite holiday music choices. Her renditions of songs such as “The Christmas Song” and “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” add just enough embellishment and jazzy calmness to make them interesting and joy-inducing. I think her voice is extraordinarily beautiful, and I’d basically choose to listen to it all the time, if I could. For whatever the reason, I seem to have a mental block when it comes to memorizing the lyrics to multiple verses of Christmas carols, whereas I can unwillingly recite all the lyrics to Katy Perry’s “Firework.” Fitzgerald’s album is a great place to re-learn some of those words you forgot, so you don’t embarrass yourself in front of all your cousins when you gather ‘round the piano later.

Mariah Carey’s “All I Want For Christmas Is You”
To be honest, I’ve never listened to the album that this classic holiday song came off of in 1994. It’s called *Merry Christmas*, and I’m going to try to make a point of listening to it over break this year. However, almost everyone loves this song. In high school, my friend David Julien listened to this song every day starting from the beginning of October until March, conservatively, which was pretty weird. But because of that, this song makes me quite nostalgic and is also a good song to dance to. I personally don’t find this song amazing, but it just wouldn’t be Christmas without Mariah Carey crooning in the back of my mind.

Regardless of what you choose to listen to this Christmas, I hope that the holidays are very fun. For those who prefer instrumental Christmas music, there is a wealth of beautiful options. If you prefer to listen to get your holiday groove on to the impassioned and tortured vocals of Three Days Grace or Green Day, feel free, as long as you are happy.

Lula Beresford | Pillbox Editor
New album release by G-Eazy gets personal
Bay Area rapper contemplates his skyrocket to fame in third album, When It’s Dark Out

Two years after dropping his first independent album, rapper G-Eazy sold out his first solo show in 2014. Following this skyrocket to fame was his second album, These Things Happen, which excused Bay Area pride and deliberated on his newfound recognition. The album, which remained at the top of charts for a full year, featured top hits such as “I Mean It” and “Almost Famous” which highlight G-Eazy’s reservations about how long he will be able to hold onto the spotlight. Will he stay relevant? Can he handle a solo tour and make a name for himself? The open-ended set up and introspective vibe of this second album laid out a solid platform on which a highly anticipated follow-up album, with the answer to all of these questions, could be built.

When It’s Dark Out, G-Eazy’s third album, does not disappoint. The album, which dropped last Thursday, is very much a continuation of G-Eazy’s musings about his newly acquired fame and fortune. The featured artist line-up for When It’s Dark Out, though lengthy, is arguably much better than previous albums. The album features Big Sean, Chris Brown, Tory Lanez, Keyshia Cole, and E-40, to name a few.

The album’s intro track samples a beat used several times throughout this album and These Things Happen, which creates a nice cohesion between his past albums and the songs on this particular album. The intro track features G-Eazy singing the words to the poem “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night” by Dylan Thomas. The seriousness and almost eerie vibe of the intro sets the stage for a more serious album.

The first song, “Random,” previously released as a single, has a classic G-Eazy vibe — medium paced rapping with the occasional, frustrated yelling, and a mildly to severely cocky demeanor. Although the featured artists on the album are quite good, it was nice to see G-Eazy start off the album with a statement song that was true to his style and featured his voice alone. The slightly boastful “Random” highlights the hard work that G-Eazy has put into his success thus far in his career, and focuses specifically on how recent events and efforts have pushed him into the spotlight.

“Me, Myself, & I,” the third song on the album, gives us a meditative look at G-Eazy’s success. The premise of the song is plain and simple: Would his friends really be here if he weren’t famous? This theme is seen throughout the album, especially on songs “Sad Boy,” “Don’t Let Me Go,” and “For This.” These themes highlight G-Eazy’s struggle between loving fame and wanting to be surrounded by people who love more than just his success.

Within the next two or three songs, you can really start to see that this album is going to be more personal than his previous two. “Drifting,” an R&B crossover track featuring Tory Lanez and Chris Brown, talks about G-Eazy’s simultaneous drift toward fame and away from the woman he loves. This is another reoccurring theme in the album — G-Eazy is surrounded by beautiful women because of this fame and success, but none of them is who he really wants. The mixing of an almost confused, pondering G-Eazy with this classic cocky rap style creates a dynamic and quite enjoyable album. It’s almost like G-Eazy was in the middle free styling, took a step back and asked himself, “Is this really who I am now?”

The song “Sad Boy” is a perfect example of this confused side of G-Eazy. During the song, he is asking himself why he is unhappy, even though he is living a lavish lifestyle which many envy. This song undeniably signals a transition in the mood of the album. If you came to When It’s Dark Out in the search of feel-good, hyped up vibes similar to recent releases like “Forbes” and “I Mean It,” then you’re definitely going to want to stay within the first half of the album.

The latter half of the album features some really personal moments for G-Eazy about love, family, fame, and the sheer act of balancing it all without losing himself. In “Think About You,” he talks about the inner conflict of deciding whether or not to reach out to a lost love. He doesn’t want to hurt her by reaching out and opening up old wounds, but the last things he wants to do is hurt her by ignoring her. In “Everything Will Be OK,” featuring R&B and hip-hop singer-songwriter Kehlani Parrish, we see a vibe from G-Eazy that is more personal, in which he discusses not only this lost love, but the love lost between his parents. The song is five minutes of chills and pure heartache, but you simply can’t turn it off.

The honesty and reality of this album is refreshingly deep. Many of the songs on When It’s Dark Out are far more relatable than his popular singles about making it big, selling out shows in Europe, and buying Lamborghinis. The album show a more mature, confident rapper. Songs “Nothing To Me” and “For This” show a side of G-Eazy that is far less concerned with abiding by mainstream rap and the opinions of others, and far more concerned with telling a powerful story through quality music.

Even though the album does feature a mellow, more personal touch, G-Eazy fans can rest assured that the rapper’s classic boastful rapping style still has a strong presence, most notably in “You Got Me,” a song previously released as a single, and “One Of Them,” which essentially outlines a list of things that G-Eazy would like — or perhaps is demanding — one of.

All things considered, When It’s Dark Out is a quality album. G-Eazy stayed true to himself, while still managing to successfully create a strong dynamic between someone who is both confident and confused. Although some of the featured artists seem to be an odd combination with the rapper, and the quantity of artists featured on the album seems a bit excessive, most of the songs were good, many of them great, and a few were, in my opinion, fantastic. The contemplative vibe from his second album remains strong in the third album, and the listener still ends with the same, persistent question: “Where does G-Eazy go from here?”

India Price | Assistant Pillbox Editor
Justin gains more beliebers with new music

With a new look, different musical taste, and better attitude, Bieber garners the approval of many.

It seems like just yesterday a young Canadian boy from YouTube was telling us one time that we were the girl of his prepubescent dreams. A lot of time has passed since then, and we've watched Justin Bieber go from a kid in a purple hoodie with hair in his eyes to kind of a tool. From getting arrested for a DUI to leaving a monkey in another country, J-Biebs seems to have done it all. Just when it seemed like things couldn't get any better for the singer, he made a turnaround reminiscent of Britney Spears circa 2007 following his roast on Comedy Central. He apologized for acting like such a brat, but who could blame the guy? He'd been thrown into the spotlight at a young age and if you've ever seen his father's Twitter, you know he doesn't have the best role models around. However what's even more exciting than his becoming less of a jerk is his change in musical style.

Since singing Chris Brown songs on YouTube, Justin Bieber has always been influenced by hip hop and R&B. However he was instantly launched into the spotlight as a young pop star that young girls were literally selling their virginities to meet. Anyone over the age of sixteen didn't even bother giving him the time of day, aside from maybe humming his mainstream songs because they were always on. I personally was an ardent Jonas Brothers fan and because I only had room in my heart for one J.B., I never really could get into his music. However, when he came out with his song "Boyfriend," I saw a glimpse of something unexpected from him. I saw a glimpse of the Justin Bieber of today.

I was still in denial and naively waiting for the day that the Jonas Brothers would get back together that fateful day in 2012 when I first heard "Boyfriend" and thus I paid it and the rest of the Believe album no mind. When I heard "Where Are Ü Now" I knew that I could no longer ignore this new sound Justin Bieber had. I found myself actively listening to this song all the time. I actually felt bad for Justin Bieber that this person was not there when he needed them! Dare I say I was becoming a fan? As a hardcore fan girl in my youth, I knew that these were early onset signs for becoming a Belieber. I continued to push these thoughts out of my mind and told myself that I liked "Where Are Ü Now" because of Skrillex, but when I heard "What Do You Mean?" I could no longer blame anyone else for my love of this song. I had to come to terms with the fact that while Justin was making this effort to include more R&B stylings and synthesized music, I was turning into a Belieber.

Following the release of this song, I was wowed once again with "Sorry," an anthem about how your ex actually misses you for your personality and not just for the sex. As much as I believe that every line of that song is entirely full of crap, the music is great and his vocals are even better. His song "Love Yourself" is a brutally honest jam about his dating someone who's so vain, but only realizing it in hindsight even though he should have known the moment his mom said she didn’t like her. This song leaves me dying to know if it's actually about Selena Gomez, and if so, why he dated her for so long. As if those songs weren't enough, his latest single "I'll Show You" has put my socks back on and blown them off again. Bieber sings about how it's not easy being in the spotlight and even though the pressure makes it hard for him to always do the right thing, he plans on showing us the real Justin Bieber. If the real Justin Bieber keeps making this kind of music, I'll be entering 2016 as a Belieber.

Justin Bieber has been on a steady incline following a very sharp decline. While he's still not perfect as a person, his music has shown a whole new side of him that has never before been seen. His current music is so honest as opposed to all of the cookie-cutter pop songs he previously released. His music reflects real relationships and feelings as opposed to just being about nothing. I never thought that "Bieber Fever" could happen to me. I thought I followed all the precautions to make sure that I never caught it, but it came out of nowhere. Justin Bieber, after all these years, you may have finally made me one less lonely girl.

Jade Crockem | Staffwriter

Bieber has impressed fans, new and old, with a changed attitude and more mature musical tastes.
Even the journey to Studio 201 seemed perfectly suited to the experience that was Milk Like Sugar, a play about an underprivileged 16-year-old girl who must decide whether to follow through on her friends’ pregnancy pact. When our Lyft dropped us off at a seemingly deserted warehouse, we were near positive the location was wrong and we’d been stranded God knows where. But thankfully, Carnegie Mellon is a master of signs. We followed a trail of logoed arrows, which circled almost 360 degrees around the building and finally arrived at an unassuming door marked “ENTER” in spray-painted letters. This one actually opened, and once inside, we were given our tickets and ushered into the largest, coolest freight elevator I’ve ever seen.

When we joined the half full audience, I felt that we’d stumbled upon a niche experimental theater piece. The set itself was immediately eye-catching. A wall of cardboard Pepsi boxes surrounded several monitors which blasted Nicki Minaj music videos, a sugary yet tooth-rotting pop culture reference that foreshadowed the central metaphor of Milk Like Sugar.

The play, written by Kirsten Greenidge in 2011, is clearly contemporary, riddled with slang-heavy dialogue and perhaps already outdated references to the un-coolness of flip-phones. The plot hearkens back to after-school specials and ABC teen dramas, where the protagonist must rise above her situation and break the cycle of teen motherhood, abusive relationships, and underemployment. I was relieved that Milk Like Sugar managed to avoid the worst cliches, including — worst of all — an improbably happy ending.

The play could’ve easily fallen flat without junior acting major Daryl Paris Brigit’s portrayal of earnest but never pitiful Annie. Junior musical theatre major Lea DiMarchi also shined as Annie’s best friend Talisha, a self-righteous bully in a snapback who turns to well-off older men to distract her from her poor life prospects. Senior acting major Alexandra Miyashiro’s Margie was perhaps the least compelling character, a shallow and clueless lollipop-licking girl who inspires the trio’s pact with her accidental pregnancy.

Annie is at the crossroads of an identity crisis. Talisha and Margie pressure her to go splitsies on a kickass baby shower. Her would-be “baby daddy” Malik, an amateur astronomer endearingly played by junior acting major Siddiq Saunderson, encourages her to follow him to college. Junior musical theatre major Iris Beaumier’s Keera, a wholesome poindexter-type who somehow becomes one of the play’s most interesting characters, preaches about the power of prayer and family game night.

Senior musical theatre major Rayquila Durham also gave a standout performance as Annie’s mother Myrna, a janitor who can barely read but dreams of becoming a writer. Having been a teen mom herself, Myrna works hard to provide for Annie, yet cannot bear the thought of her daughter proving herself to be “better.” Durham makes palpable Myrna’s battle between supporting Annie’s aspirations and shielding herself from the knowledge that a better life is beyond her reach. In one of the show’s most powerful scenes, Myrna rebels against Keera’s religious idealism, demanding to see “the Holy Ghost fry up some chicken” if he wants a prayer of gratitude so badly.

Predictably, Annie’s potential paths for a “better” life go sour. Like clockwork, Annie falls out with every important figure in her life. Instead of adding much depth to the characters, these annoyingly equidistant scenes veered toward melodrama and the “tragic backstory” trope, reiterating the same PSA points until they grew tiresome.

Junior musical theatre major John Clay III played Love Interest #2 Antwoine, a tattoo artist who provides Annie with yet another hard dose of reality along with an unexpected shot of self-worth. Unlike Malik and Keera, Antwoine values Annie for the person she is, not for who he could shape her to be. When he and Annie make love, the distorted videos in the background grow clearer, actually focusing in on our protagonist’s face, and the “Great Wall” of Pepsi crashes down. Annie finds a moment of genuine connection and transcendence above the sugary fakeness that permeates her life. Even though she has fallen down the path society prescribes to girls like her, she actively makes that choice. Her lack of opportunity is tragic, as is the pervasiveness of such cycles of deprivation in low-income communities. It’s tragic that Annie has few better options than to tumble into Antwoine’s arms. But Milk Like Sugar is saved from being trite or overbearing by the fact that Annie is not a tragic character.

Milk Like Sugar has a number of points it’d like to shove down your throat, but with its intriguing use of multimedia and a few electric performances, its often bitter message goes down sweet.

Ariel Hoffmaier | Forum Editor
Universal Studios in talks with Tom Cruise for The Mummy reboot

On Nov. 23, it was reported that Universal Studios' upcoming "Monsters Universe" was putting its pieces on the board with a selection of writers developing production strategy for reboots of the studio's classic films. A reboot of The Mummy will be the first to emerge from the pack, and the studio is eying A-list action star Tom Cruise to play a leading role. Though this does not come as a shock, casting Cruise would be a home run choice for Universal. Cruise is one of the few true "action stars" remaining (along with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Vin Diesel, and Jason Statham) but he brings an additional level of acting talent that most others attempt to imitate. Cruise has been nominated for three Academy Awards and has been cranking out action hit after action hit in the past few years. The Mission: Impossible series just saw another success with Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation, Edge Of Tomorrow was one of 2014's most pleasant surprises, and Cruise is currently filming the sequel to Jack Reacher, Jack Reacher: Never Go Back. The deal between Cruise and Universal is not finalized yet (at least, not publicly) but adding his caliber of talent would only increase the value of the new shared "Monsters Universe." The Mummy is set for release in March 2017.

Steven Spielberg comments on recasting Indiana Jones

Recasting roles is not a new phenomenon in Hollywood, especially iconic roles. Seven different actors have played James Bond since the early 1960s. We are about to meet our third Spider-Man since 2002 with Tom Holland. The first Indiana Jones film, Raiders of the Lost Ark, was released in 1982 and was quickly followed by two more films and a third in 2008. Steven Spielberg, director of all four Indiana Jones films, has been hearing all the chatter about recasting the role with the likes of Chris Pratt or Bradley Cooper. As far as Spielberg is concerned, Indiana Jones is Harrison Ford and Harrison Ford is Indiana Jones.

"I don't think anyone could replace Harrison as Jones, I don't think that's ever going to happen," Spielberg said in an interview with Screen International. "It's certainly not my intention to ever have another actor step into his shoes in the way there have been many actors that have played Spider-Man or Batman. There is only going to be one actor playing Indiana Jones and that's Harrison Ford."

Kathleen Kennedy, president of Lucasfilm and producing partner with Spielberg, has confirmed a fifth film is on their radar, but has no timetable for production or release. There is no denying Spielberg's power in Hollywood, and the exponential growth of that power when discussing a film series he is synonymous with building into the cinematic juggernaut it became. Personally, I think recasting the character would offer more opportunities for the survival of Indy. Obviously, should Harrison Ford return to the character, I would be first in line at the theater, but considering Ford is entering his mid-70s, I am willing to put the character and the story in front of the man. Harrison Ford brought Indy to life and I'll always be able to go back and watch The Temple of Doom whenever I need a dose of Harrison charm, but recasting the character would give Lucasfilm the freedom to think long-term about the franchise and develop any of the numerous stories that have been formed around the character. The creative team behind Indy is the same team behind Star Wars, but the franchises are very different. Indiana Jones needs a refreshing start to attract new audiences, especially in international markets, and attaching a new face may be just what the doctor ordered.

Universal Studios eyeing Ryan Gosling for Neil Armstrong biopic

Based on the James Hansen novel "First Man: A Life of Neil A. Armstrong" Universal Studios is looking to secure The Notebook star Ryan Gosling to star as the famous astronaut in the upcoming biopic aptly titled First Man. Damien Chazelle (Whiplash) is attached to direct, and this would not be the first time Gosling and Chazelle would work together. The two are currently filming La La Land, a musical starring Gosling as a jazz pianist who falls in love with an aspiring actress played by Emma Stone. Chazelle made his directorial feature film debut with Whiplash and directed J.K. Simmons to an Academy Award win, so his ability to draw out amazing performances is tested and proven.

The "Space Race," as it was called, is an extraordinary time in American history and Armstrong made world history in 1969. Nearing the 50th anniversary would be a real treat to learn about the man's story and re-experience the magic that space travel offers. As far as Gosling is concerned, La La Land is still shooting, and he is slated to star in the sequel to Blade Runner. That film begins production next summer, and First Man would likely follow. Gosling can be seen in The Big Short, hitting theaters December 11, 2015, and in La La Land, which is set for release on July 16, 2016.

Ryan LaBarbera | Staffwriter
Whether it’s soup or a cocktail, bitters might just be the flavor you’re missing

I walked through the door to Wigle Whiskey for their holiday bitters demo with a couple misconceptions. First, I thought I was about to get free drinks, yet I had to pay a reasonable six dollars for the most delicious whiskey cocktail I’ve ever imagined (The Burgundy: white wheat whiskey, apple cider, cranberry tea, and mulberry spice syrup, with a dusting of cinnamon on the surface). And second, I thought bitters were only for drinks. Demo leader and head of bitters distribution for Wigle Allison Burns proved me oh so wrong.

Next to that was maple-flavored Greek yogurt with mole bitters, which is inspired by a Mexican sauce which is both spicy and chocolaty — the stuff of dreams. The flavor combination was intensely good. The smoky sweet maple flavor really hits it off with the spicy dark bitter flavor. I could imagine this as just breakfast, or even a dip for some crunchy gingersnaps. Allison also shared that for Thanksgiving she used the mole bitters on top of her pumpkin pie, and every morning she throws a little splash in her coffee. Both had me very tempted to buy a bottle.

But the true treasure of the evening was the squash soup featuring the classic aromatic bitters. For the penny-pinchers, unmotivated folks, or unskilled chefs, you can do this with any store-bought boxed soup and a couple tablespoons of bitters. But if you’re the from-scratch type, here’s some good news. Allison was giving out recipes.

Squash and Bitters Soup
1 3-pound squash, kabocha, butternut, or pumpkin
2 tablespoons of unsalted butter
2 large leeks, while and pale green parts only, finely chopped
1 clove of garlic, minced
1 quart of chicken stock
2 cups of water
2 tablespoons of aromatic bitters, Wigle variety recommended
2 tablespoons of light brown sugar
1 teaspoons of sea salt
3/4 teaspoon of black pepper
1/3 cup of heavy cream

Start out by peeling the squash, removing all the seeds, and chopping it into 2-inch cubes.

Then in a big heavy pot, melt the butter over medium heat. Let them simmer and stir occasionally until the leeks are translucent, which should take about six minutes. Next up is everything but the cream. Cook it all uncovered until the squash is tender. Somewhere around 25 minutes later, pour the pre-soup chunky medley into a blender in batches.

This serve eight, so when you make this for your next fancy friend dinner party or to impress your family over break, give your guests options. I recommend putting the heavy cream in a gravy-boat-type pouring container, alongside some extra salt, pepper, and bitters. Let everyone have their soup perfectly to their taste. I would also add some spice to the soup, like nutmeg or cinnamon, but sparingly of course so you don’t overwhelm the squash.

Allison said that the beauty of bitters is that it brings out the sweetness around it, and this rang the truest to me in this soup. It’s so creamy, sweet, and seasonal. Then that little hit of bitter on the back of your tongue reminds to appreciate the slight sweetness.

But since I would also like to throw in a nod to tradition, and no meal is complete without a cocktail, I must include Wigle’s recipe for an Old Fashioned.

Old Fashioned
2 ounces of wheat whiskey
1 sugar cube
2 dashes of pomander orange bitter (which was my hands-down favorite)
1 piece of orange peel

Muddle the sugar cube with the bitters to dissolve it. Then add the whiskey and stir it up. Because you’re fancy, finish it off with a little twist of orange peel. Bottoms up, friends.
Row House makes a boring movie bearable
The fun cinema environment makes sitting through a slow, older film more exciting

If you think that “French v. Hong Kong New Wave” sounds inaccessible and pretentious, you’re right. Even so, I was compelled by my love of film and French to leave my warm dorm room for the chilly streets of Lawrenceville Friday night. Full disclosure, I could only sit through one of Row House cinema’s four screenings of both French and Hong Kong new wave films. Don’t get me wrong; the theater was lovely, clean, and entirely functional. The film, however, was hard to get through (potentially due to my underdeveloped film knowledge — pun intended).

I’m pretty clueless when it comes to film-making and film history, so here’s the relatively minimal context I learned for this film screening: New Wave is a film movement that is characterized by significant innovations to the medium (like location shooting) as well as a uniquely socially conscious voice centered around cultural and political issues of the time. French New Wave is attributed to filmmakers of the 1950s and ’60s who were moving away from the mainstream period pieces largely written by French novelists. Row House showed Made in the U.S.A. and Le Cercle Rouge to illustrate the work of this movement. Similarly, Hong Kong New Wave sought to upend the status quo by creating grittier, rougher films that were also distinctly Hong Kong. Their films were made in Cantonese, the dialect of most residents, rather than the industry-dominated Mandarin films that were shot by transplanted mainland filmmakers. The spirit of this movement was shown with the screenings of Fallen Angels and The Killer at Row House. I’m fairly certain that the parallels between the New Wave movement in different countries are vast, complicated, interesting, etc. Unfortunately, I know nothing about them and was drawn to Le Cercle Rouge mainly because of my conversational knowledge of French.

Le Cercle Rouge is about two men and their male friends as they plan and execute an “elaborate” heist. Main characters Corey and Vogel are attractive criminals who are mustached and clean-shaven, respectively. Corey is sprung from prison after making a seedy deal with a corrupt prison guard in which he agrees to do one last job. Meanwhile, Vogel escapes from a train bound for an especially secure prison and is now on the run from the French police. From the moment that Vogel dives into Corey’s trunk, the two are fast friends, and begin plotting a good old-fashioned jewelry heist once they get back to Paris. I won’t spoil the ending, because it was pretty unexpected. However, like most of the movie, it was also anti-climactic.

Overall, I had the same general thought as I always do when watching old movies, which is “aww.” It’s usually an, “aww, that’s cute” with mild condescension and apology at the parts that feel obsolete. Still, there are valuable moments of perspective that can be gained from old films. For example, scenes from Vogel’s train escape yield some remarkably beautiful and enlightening images. First, we are shown the open and solitary countryside and forested areas where Vogel has taken shelter, and soon after, this visceral landscape is quickly transformed by the occupation of myriad police officers as they form lines and begin to comb for the fugitive. The once peaceful and isolated hillsides are now swarming with beings, creating an intense atmosphere for the chase. This type of imagery is timeless. Additionally, although the film takes a general crime drama format, there are many unexpected moments scattered throughout that take a strangely light-hearted tone. For instance, there are two different scenes that depict the uncompromising detective, Mattei, at home, feeding his three cats. The cats are not integral to the plot in any way, so I’m led to believe they are there for comic relief and character development. It’s scenes like this that feel quintessential “old-fashioned” because they are stripped of every gimmick, reliant on their premise in order to be funny. I appreciate it because it makes me wonder about what was considered funny back in the day and how things have changed. Maybe 45 years ago it was crazily absurd for a full-grown man to go home to an apartment of cats and be so loving towards them. Maybe, it got some belly laughs back then, but this is usually one of the points where I think, “Aww, how cute,” and move on.

Overall, the film was a drag, but the beer selection was great and the seats were decently clean and comfortable. Row House likes to have fun with its audience by discounting ticket prices to patrons that are in costume, and offering a Twilight Zone pinball machine in the lobby. Needless to say I’m excited to go back next week for a series of Miyazaki screenings in full costume. In general, I recommend visiting Row House Cinema on Butler St; just don’t go to see a film that you know nothing about because you’re told that it’s old and important.

Lindsey McClary | Staffwriter

Le Cercle Rouge offered moments of intense confusion and slight comic relief, but overall it drew feelings of condemnation as opposed to appreciation for the 1960 French
I chose to study abroad at the Carnegie Mellon equivalent school in London: an all science, technical university called Imperial College London, where at a 70:30 male to female gender ratio, the odds are still good and the goods are still odd. Unlike most study abroad programs, I will be in London for the entire school year and taking classes for my primary major for the duration of my stay.

Upon first arriving in London, I quickly became aware of the “vacation changes.” These are what I like to consider to be the differences between the UK and US that anybody going to London on vacation will notice. For example, almost getting hit by a black cab because you looked the wrong way before crossing the street or the fact that British people don’t say vacation, they say “holiday.” At first, these differences really stressed me out (I have an irrational fear of being hit by a car), but now, three months later, all of this has become a part of my daily life. People no longer need to translate for me when there’s a British word I don’t understand. In fact, I now use some of these foreign sayings myself.

At Carnegie Mellon, I was in a sorority and Mock Trial, was working a part time job, and had to keep up with classes for a double major in chemical engineering and engineering & public policy. Here in London, I only have chemical engineering courses. I have an average of three hours of class per weekday. We do not have any graded problem sets or midterms. There is only one final exam for each of our courses in June. I cannot remember the last time in my life that I have been so stress-free.

I spend my time doing the things I wish I could have done last year, but never had time for. I walk down to Pret-A-Manger, London’s Starbucks equivalent, for a coffee. I run through Hyde Park on the daily, which actually is an incredible experience in itself. My usual route takes me around the famous Serpentine River and then past Kensington Palace, where the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge reside. I am lucky, because I am located just south of Hyde Park, and right next door to the Royal Albert Hall, where events such as the world premiere of the new James Bond movie occur. All I have to do is peek out my window and watch the movie stars walk down the red carpet right below me.

London is probably the most expensive place I have ever been. One pound is equivalent to approximately one-and-a-half dollars and I spend about three times more per week than I did in Pittsburgh (to be fair, I am overspending). I’m constantly tempted by the styles and clothes that people wear here and have Harrod’s and great shopping right down the road from me. I have to cook for myself here (after being on Red-9 for two years) and have found myself copying the first-year students on my floor for dinner ideas. I am the only third year on my floor, but it seems as though the first years that I live with are just as mature as I am. I believe that it partially has something to do with the drinking age being 18 in this country. Drinking is much more casual and accepted here. The dorm I live in has its own bar downstairs that our university sponsors. Our hall sponsored events typically involve drinking. It’s very strange for me that we are encouraged to be drinking in our first-year dorms together.

Something I will always be grateful to Carnegie Mellon for is its diversity. Last year, I made friends with a study abroad student at Carnegie Mellon from Switzerland. This semester, during a long weekend, I was able to visit him and get to explore the Swiss Alps and eat endless Swiss cheese and chocolate. Traveling is one of the best parts of getting to study abroad, and knowing someone from the place you are going makes the experience so much better. So far, I have visited Geneva and Edinburgh and will be going to Berlin soon. Traveling around Europe, even by plane, is extremely cheap, and has made this experience so memorable.

It’s now the end of the first semester, and I am so glad that I will be here until the end of June. I have been here for three months already — the time has flown by. I have grown to love this city and all it has to offer. The crowded tube stations during rush hour, the women dressed in Topshop from head to toe, and for now, the Christmas lights on every street market across the city. This school year, so far, has been so different on so many levels and I can’t wait to see what next semester has in store for me.

Sam Ho | Junior Staffwriter

Tales from Abroad: Imperial College London
Junior Sam Ho reflects on her experience in London halfway through her year abroad
Merry Xmas by Nehemiah Russell

I'm telling you, it's him! I just know it!

Oh grow up Jake. Santa's not actually real...

Yeah! Santa!

Is it really? Santa!

Hey! Have you kids been good boys and girls this year?

Oy... you...
Colds by xkcd

The worst part about colds:
- Days 0-2: Skin crawling
- Days 1-3: Sore throat, aching
- Days 4-8: Cough, hoarseness

Press@xkcd.com xkcd.com

Picture by Poorly Drawn Lines

Take a picture of me

Taking a picture

Of this picture

Of me.

Poorlydrawnlines@gmail.com poorlydrawnlines.com
Horoscopes

Fruit for thought

aries
March 21–April 19
Lemon and Pear: For maximum brain sharpness and improvement in enthusiasm, the fiery Aries should eat a sweet pear mixed with the juice of a sour lemon.

Taurus
April 20–May 20
Banana: High in potassium to help your digestion, bananas are the key to a healthy Taurus.

Gemini
May 21–June 21
Mango: This fruit invokes high energy, so tango with a mango for a bright and lively day.

Cancer
June 22–July 22
Pineapple: Pineapples help in organizing thoughts and encourage spontaneity. A pineapple a day keeps finals at bay.

Leo
July 23–August 22
Orange: The power of the orange keeps you calm and patient all day. It will make you work harder than usual.

Virgo
August 23–September 22
Coconut: Milky and refreshing, the coconut will help you feel like you can take on the world.

Libra
September 23–October 22
Peach: The perfect fruit to eat with cream. Start your day off right with a fruit high in vitamin C.

Scorpio
October 23–November 21
Black grapes: Add an aesthetic sense to your life with the zing from a bowl of black grapes.

Sagittarius
November 22–December 21
Strawberry: Strawberries are naturally heart-shaped and enhance a Sagittarius’s love life.

Capricorn
December 22–January 19
Apple: An apple a day keeps the doctor away. Apples are full of fiber and great for the heart.

Aquarius
January 20–February 18
Papaya: Aquarius needs to keep its system clean and keep the brain healthy with the papaya fruit.

Pisces
February 19–March 20
Watermelon: The watermelon nourishes Pisces’ hydration needs and is a great way to celebrate the day, no matter what time of year.

Maryann Landlord | Comics Editor
Monday 12/7

Singleton Room, Roberts Engineering Hall. 4 - 5 p.m.
Assistant director of the National Science Foundation for the Directorate of Engineering, Pramod Khargonekar, will give a presentation titled “Opportunities and Challenges in Engineering Research, Education, and Innovation.” He will discuss key priorities and initiatives of the Engineering Directorate, in an aim to broaded the innovative landscape. The discussion is free of charge and open to the public, but intended for members of the Carnegie Mellon community.

Wednesday 12/9

Carnegie Mellon University Philharmonic & Chorus.
Carnegie Music Hall. 8 p.m.
Conducted by Andrés Cárdenes, Thomas W. Douglas, and Daniel Nesta Curtis, Carnegie Mellon’s Philharmonic and Chorus will come together to perform pieces by Poulenc, Debussy, Maurice Ravel, Holst, and many others. The performance will feature soloist Rachel Doehring. The show is free with a valid Carnegie Mellon or University of Pittsburgh ID, and $10 for regular admission. There will be a second performance on Monday, Dec. 11 at 12 p.m., in the Great Hall, College of Fine Arts Building.

Thursday 12/10

Grand Menorah Lighting.
The Fence. 5:30 p.m.

Friday 12/11

Bang Bang Banality.
CC Connan. 7 p.m. & 11 p.m.
Bang Bang Banality is a one-act play written by student Brad Plaxen, a member of Carnegie Mellon’s Scotch’n’Soda. The performance is directed by Donovan Powers and Brianna Hudock. Tickets are available at snstheatre.org, and are $5 with a valid Carnegie Mellon ID, and $10 general admission. The show will run again on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Dancers’ Symposium: Ignite.
CC Rangos. 8 p.m.
The many talented dancers of Dancers’ Symposium present their 26th show, Ignite. The show features a wide range of dance styles, from contemporary to hip hop to tap. The show will also feature a performance by CMU Bhangra. Doors to the event will open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $8 pre-sale and $10 at the door. VIP tickets can be purchased for $10, but are available for pre-sale only. For tickets, visit the Jared L. Cohon University Center’s Wean Commons, or go online at carnegiemellontickets.com.

AV Temple at Remedy.
Remedy, 5121 Butler Street. 10 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Join DJ Firefly and Mike Masali for a night of visual media and rhythm-based music, featuring guests DJs. The event is exclusively for adults age 21 and over, and tickets are $3.

Saturday 12/12

Bill Harper Sextet.
6 Allegheny Center. 8 p.m.
The New Hazlett Theatee presents Billy Harper, a tenor saxophonist that believes in music with a purpose. In addition to music by Billy Harper, the performance will also feature artists Francesca Tanksley, Aaron Scott, Freddie Hendrix, Jaleel Shaw, and Michael Bowie. The show is open to all ages. Ticket information can be found at showclix.com/event/billy-harper-sextet.

Ongoing

Mind the Matter.
Carnegie Mellon University's School of Design presents Mind the Matter, a senior exhibition. Viewing of the gallery is free of charge. A reception for Mind the Matter will be held on Dec. 11, from 6 - 8 p.m.

India Price | Assistant Pillbox Editor
Members of the Carnegie Mellon community gathered in Porter 100 on Saturday to listen to the wise words of their peers during “TowerTalks” — a TED Talk-type event hosted by Morewood E-Tower. **Above:** Dietrich College first year Shubhangi Bhotika speaks to the audience about the value of being able to say no to those around you in order to boost the happiness of you and your peers and friends.