

# THE LA ROCHE COURIER

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## Campus security

### *An issue among students and staff*

by Rebecca Jeskey

*It's 9:00 p.m. on a Tuesday night at La Roche College. A female student leaves her night class and walks through a poorly lit parking lot to her vehicle. She hurries to her car, repeatedly looking behind her. The walk is far and the parking lot is empty. Although she feels vulnerable to attack, she tells herself that nothing dangerous ever happens on this campus. That she has nothing to worry about. Still anxious, she wonders: but does this mean nothing ever could happen?*

According to a recent poll, 90 out of 100 La Roche students reported that the campus is "safe," while 10 percent said it is not. There were 62 commuter students, 34 residents and four staff members surveyed. The sample included 56 females and 44 males.

"I have never seen a bad situation or accident," commuter student Firmin Mucyo said.

People like Mucyo said they are confident in La Roche security. Other students, however, said they see room for improvement.

"I believe it could be a lot safer," Valerie Vento, a commuter student, said. Vento reported that La Roche is not a protected campus.



Officer Bud Stoehr on patrol in the parking lot. © Susan Snow

While two percent of people stated that they consider the campus unsafe in the afternoon, 46 percent said it is not secure after dark. Thirteen people reported that they are vulnerable at night because of dim lighting in the school parking lots. Fifteen percent of students said they always feel safe on campus. Thirty-nine percent did not have an answer.

Nancy Dal Dosso, one of the 13 students who commented on the parking lot conditions, said, "I wish the parking lots were brighter, or that there was a security guard posted out there."

Resident student Devin Patterson, however, said La Roche is not a secure campus in the afternoon. "People can just walk through the doors in Bold Hall," according to Patterson.

Nine percent rated campus security "excellent," and 35 percent gave it a "good" rating. Forty-one percent rated it "fair," and 10 percent said campus security is "poor." Five percent said they were unsure.

Based upon the physical appearance of La Roche security guards, 35 people reported that they are confident in their abilities to respond to an emergency. Fifty-seven said they are not confident. Eight percent did not have an answer.

"A security guard's job often times has nothing to do with physical build. Security guards are watchful people," resident assistant Amir Richardson said. "When something happens, they call proper authority." Richardson said he is confident in security's ability to react to emergency situations.

see *Security*, page 5

*See next month's issue of the La Roche Courier for campus security's response to this survey story.*



## Positive space: it's everywhere

Senior design student Tony Allgeier lingers in Cantellops Gallery. © Stephanie Jones

## Pets in the afterlife

### *Where do pets go after they die?*

by Alan Zahorsky

*"Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in." – Mark Twain*

For pet owners, the death of a beloved pet often leads to questions about Heaven. They've given us so much joy and comfort in our lives, that it is only human to find comfort in the belief that we will see them again in Heaven. So does their presence in this life affect their presence in the next?

Late last year, one of my dogs, whom we had for about 13 years, died peacefully from old age. My family and I knew for some time that it was coming, so we were able to prepare ourselves as well as we could for her death.

While it was still a difficult time, I found myself thinking that I would want to see her in her prime.

"As Catholics we believe that everything that we have been familiar with here will have some place in Heaven," said Father Peter Horton, the campus chaplain.

Father Peter elaborated that while the Bible does not say anything specifically about pets and animals in Heaven, the current Earth will be incorporated in some way.

However, I also sometimes think about the demon dog from my youth that lived a few blocks from my house.

This dog, which was most likely half-horse, once jumped a six-foot tall fence as I walked by, and proceeded to chase me for three blocks back to my house, all the while snarling for my flesh. After this near death experience, I ran straight to my room and started writing my will, having been reminded of my own mortality.

see *Pets*, page 5



The ninja cat awaits his eternal fate at the Carnegie Museum. © Rebecca Jeskey

# Opinion

The La Roche Courier ■ March 27, 2009

## Don't tread on me

by Steve Keller

Once upon a time, there was a colony of the British Empire that would not tolerate tyranny. This colony then rose up against the British Empire and won its independence.

This former colony is now the world's only superpower, and is trying to retain that role as its economy crumbles.

Most people living in the United States today cannot remember a time when the country was not a superpower, or when we did not spend billions of dollars a year supporting other governments and waging unnecessary and unpopular wars.

However, there was a time when the people of the United States had very low taxes, and the U.S. government did not force its soldiers to spend years serving in what seems like an endless cycle of wars.

When the former colony declared its independence, one of its most famous slogans was "Don't Tread on Me." Along with this slogan, there was a rattlesnake, coiled and ready to strike.

According to <http://foundingfathers.info>, there were people who wanted the rattlesnake to be the official symbol for the United States. The logic behind this idea was that the rattlesnake is a formidable, yet gracious foe.

The rattlesnake has very keen eyesight, a symbol of vigilance. Whenever a rattlesnake attacks, it uses the rattle on its tail, from which it gets its name, to warn its adversary to back off. The rattlesnake employs its rattle to avoid using its deadly bite. But once the fight begins, it will not surrender.

I believe that the "Don't Tread on Me" philosophy is an idea that the United States should embrace once again, and apply it to its foreign policy. I want the United States to remove its troops from almost all of the countries where they are stationed, and to stop giving money to other countries. However, I am not a pacifist or an isolationist.

I want the United States to be able to live in peace. This does not make me a hippie. I happen to serve in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, and am more than willing to go anywhere that my government sees fit to send me. My willingness to do so, however, does not mean that I agree with the fact that the US is so heavily involved in the affairs of other nations.

According to <http://cnn.com>, 662 Americans have died in Afghanistan and 4,261 Americans have died in Iraq since the beginning of the War on Terror. That is a total of 4,923 people who have died in a war which started based on faulty intelligence, and the morally questionable doctrine of pre-emptive strike.

The fact that I want the United States to pull its troops out of almost all of the countries in which there currently are troops, has caused many people to brand me an isolationist. This is not true.

As stated on <http://dictionary.com>, isolationism is: the policy or doctrine of isolating one's country from the affairs of other nations by declining to enter into alliances, foreign economic commitments, international agreements, etc., seeking to devote the entire efforts of one's country to its own advancement and remain at peace by avoiding foreign entanglements and responsibilities.

I believe that it is imperative to both the United States, and to the rest of the world, that we have friendly, and open economic and diplomatic relations. We are, at this point, too involved in the War on Terror to cut and run, but I feel that it is very important to stabilize both Iraq and Afghanistan and bring our troops home as soon as possible.

According to <http://worldatlas.com>, the United States recognizes 194 countries around the world



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and according to "The Revolution: A Manifesto," by Ron Paul, the United States has troops in 130 of those countries. Why do we have troops in 67 percent of the countries that we recognize? The costs are astronomical!

In addition to the cost of maintaining a military presence all over the world, the United States also gives a lot of money to foreign governments. According to a 2008 article on <http://parade.com>, the United States gave \$26 billion to other countries in 2008, not including the reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The countries that received this aid were: Israel, Egypt, Pakistan, Jordan, Kenya, South Africa, Mexico, Columbia, Nigeria, and Sudan.

Twenty-six billion dollars is a lot of money. A rough idea of what we could do with this money is as follows: The US gives out \$26 billion in foreign aid. According to <http://cars.com>, \$25,000 is a reasonable price for a 2008 Dodge Charger. With the money that the US gives away annually in foreign aid they could buy over one million Dodge Chargers.

Considering that the population of the United States is roughly 306 million, according to <http://census.gov>, and considering that not everyone in the United States can drive, one can deduce that the government could easily give every driver in the United States a Dodge Charger every three years with the money that we give away in foreign aid.

While that idea is somewhat whimsical, the money could and should be spent on infrastructure. We could solve the social security dilemma, build new roads, maintain the roads we have, create a better public transportation system, create a public healthcare system, or any number of other things.

The saddest fact about foreign aid is that a very large portion of it goes to building up the military of other countries. The \$574 million dollars that we gave to South Africa in 2008 goes toward AIDS prevention and providing education. The \$2.4 billion that we gave to Israel, on the other hand, goes almost entirely to buying weapons.

I have no doubt that the Obama administration will continue the War on Terror, but I do applaud his effort to revitalize relations with other countries, relations that stagnated under the Bush administration. This attempt to rebuild relations is a step in the right direction. But overall, we will unfortunately, almost certainly, fall short of our expectations of a government that will bring peace, prosperity, and sanity back to the United States.

What the United States needs, is to be more like a rattlesnake. We need a well-trained, well-equipped, and efficient Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps. We need to trade with other nations and prosper. What we don't need is to be involved in every country's affairs, and to continue a policy using our strong military to get what we want. That is the action of a bully and exemplifies the very tyranny that we broke away from over 200 years ago.

## Green: the new black

by Korina Roche

Over the years, black has been the trend setting color of the centuries. And for many, it still is.

La Roche College believes in going with green. With more findings of how global warming and landfills destroy our earth, La Roche decided to try and make a difference.

Before this year, there had always been a group called Green LRC. This group asked students to drop off their plastic products and recycle. It wasn't until this year that many people started making a difference.

Across the campus and in every dorm building, bins are available for students to drop in any recycling items. The group now asks for plastics, papers, and metal cans. If one is unable to find a bin around campus, Green LRC asks students to drop off recycling on the third floor of Bold I.

Another difference many saw was the tray-less cafeteria. The Cantellops dining area cut back tremendously on waste products. In previous years, the cafeteria offered trays to carry food. However, this turned out to be more wasteful than helpful. Students piled food on their trays, and took more than they needed. In the end, the college wasted food, as well as water for washing dishes.

Along with the trays disappearing, so did plastic coffee cups. Before, students could grab a coffee or latte to go. But the school removed these wasteful paper products.

In the beginning of this year, La Roche made the Green LRC pact between faculty, students, and staff to maintain good recycling habits. The college gave those who signed a free, recycled material bag for carrying books or grocery shopping. Everyone who signed agreed to simple, everyday changes that make more of a difference than one would believe.

Some of the changes that can be made are:

- Once your phone is done charging, unplug the charger from the outlet.
- Use blackle.com instead of Google. This is a greener version of the search engine.
- Take shorter showers by turning the water off when it's unnecessarily being used.

Whether one recycles or picks up a bottle from the sidewalk, it still makes a difference in the world. Like the La Roche motto says: Be the best for the world.

What better way to help out than to help preserve the world in which we live?



First-place winners Emilio Cabrera and Alanna John perform at this year's talent show. © Maggie Kelly

# Survey Says...

The La Roche Courier ■ March 27, 2009

## Drinking up to keep up

*Survey indicates positive effects of caffeine*

by Leah Conway

**D**oes caffeine drive people to achieve? According to a recent poll surveying 75 women and 25 men aged 19 to 76, 75 percent report positive results from caffeinated beverages.

Thirty-three percent of respondents said that caffeine puts them in a better mood. Twenty-four percent said they become more focused after drinking caffeine, and 23 percent said it improves their performance.

"I think that caffeine is a great way to improve performance and enhance focus," student Chelsea Dersch said. "But it does make some people more anxious and irritable, which is why I don't recommend large intakes for everyone. Know your body and what improves and inhibits your best results."

Thirteen percent said they become jittery or anxious after consuming caffeine. Three percent said they are comforted or relaxed by caffeine. Eight percent reported not noticing any side-effects from caffeine.

A La Roche College visitor who completed the survey, Mary Therese Watson said for her, caffeine prevents headaches.

To determine an average amount of daily caffeine intake, the survey asked respondents how many caffeinated beverages they consume daily. Thirty-two percent said they drink one to two caffeinated beverages

drink caffeine, 63 percent said they consume it every day. Ten percent said five to six days a week. Another 10 percent said three to four days a week. Seven percent said only one to two days a week.

Fifty-two percent of respondents said they consume the majority of their caffeine early in the morning. Ten percent report they prefer their caffeine midday. Another 10 percent said the afternoon was their favorite time to drink caffeine. Six percent said they drink it in the evening.

Seventeen percent of respondents selected multiple options, spreading their caffeine intake over the course of the entire day.

"It's hard to get going without it," student Stephen Hughes said.

Forty-two percent of respondents said coffee drinks are their favorite caffeinated beverage.

"I was weaned from the baby bottle to the coffee cup," assistant dean of academic affairs for academic and career advising Marie Deem said.

Archivist Sister Louise Kovalovsky said coffee is her "favorite beverage overall besides water."

Fifteen percent said they prefer hot or iced teas.

Faculty secretary Barbara Bencsics said, "The only caffeine intake I have is in tea, of which I drink often."

Seven percent said they equally favor coffee drinks and hot or iced teas. Nineteen percent said soft

drinks are their favorite caffeinated beverages. Three percent said they equally favor hot or iced teas and soft drinks. Two percent said they equally favor coffee, teas, and soft drinks.

Two percent said energy drinks are their favorite. "They are my favorite due to their quick punch," student Amy Hanrahan said. "I only use them when I need that punch."

Two respondents said their favorite caffeinated drinks depend on the season. "Coffee drinks in the winter and fall," Professor Larry Likar said; "hot or iced teas in the spring or summer."

Academic and career advising specialist Joan Gerstel said she doesn't drink caffeine. "I love chocolate. Most of the caffeine I consume is in the form of chocolate."

Eight percent of respondents said they have tried caffeine pills for an extra burst of energy. Seven percent said they have tried five-hour energy shots. Four percent said they use or have tried herbal energy supplements. Three percent said they have tried energy gum.

"I take energy vitamins that have caffeine in them," student Catelyn Hilegass said. "I'm very sluggish without them."

Thirty-four percent of respondents said they drink the majority of their caffeine at home. Thirty percent said they drink most of their caffeine at work or school. Seven percent said they get their caffeine in at restaurants or coffee shops. Two percent said they drink the majority of their caffeine on the run. Twenty-one percent said they drink it everywhere.

Forty percent of respondents said they feel sluggish without their daily intake of caffeine. Ten percent said they get crabby. Eleven percent said they are less able to perform.

Twenty-five percent of respondents report getting headaches without caffeine.

Eighteen percent of those surveyed report not noticing any difference in their ability or mood without caffeine.

Deem said she feels like she "forgot to do something important" without her daily caffeine.

Twenty-five percent of respondents said they have experienced caffeine addiction.

"It is a drug, but I don't think of it as one," Hughes said. "I think of it more casually, like a beverage along the lines of orange juice or milk; a natural feeling."

Career counselor Dee Markus spoke of her experience with European coffee. "If traveling in Europe, minimize consumption of the espresso coffees. They are much more addictive than our typical U.S. coffees. I was addicted to the espresso coffee and experienced serious withdrawal when I returned."

"I'm probably addicted," financial aid coordinator Becky Rosswog said, "but see *Drinking*, page 6

## Channel surfing with La Roche College

*Survey participants admit to favorite and least favorite TV shows*

by Alan Zahorsky

**A**ccording to a recent poll about television, almost one-third of the participants said they are embarrassed to tell other people that they watch "Spongebob Squarepants."

The poll asked about television viewing habits and favorite television shows, and surveyed a mix of 100 college students, middle school students and faculty.

Almost one-third of those surveyed declined to answer a question asking what type of show they would be embarrassed to tell other people about. However, 32 percent of the other participants still show their Saturday morning cartoon roots by saying that they watch "Spongebob Squarepants."

A few of the participants added that they are not embarrassed to tell other people. "It's my youth," La Roche student Moriah Jamrom said.

Comedy and dramas are among the most popular genres, with a third of the participants marking the two categories as their favorite. Sports programming and the sitcom are next. Almost a quarter of the 100 respondents marked those two categories as among their favorite genres.

Soap operas and talk shows were the lowest rated. Soap operas, however, are the least favorite genre, according to 38 out of 100 participants. Reality shows came in second at 21 percent.

The participants voted on which show would be the downfall of western civilization. "American Idol" narrowly beat "The Tyra Banks Show" with 29 percent compared to 28 percent.

"I think Tyra Banks, while a beautiful woman, tends to behave shamelessly," Drew Levinson added. "I watched her show once for about five minutes, and I actually felt that I lost wisdom, as if she lowered my comprehension level."

Student Amanda Kunkle looked more closely at the impact of "Idol," however. "More people voted on Idol than for the President. If that's not the downfall, I don't know what is."

Almost half of the participants think that "The Office" is a type of show that represents their life. The choice hit close to La Roche student Christopher Tribannas's life. "Some professors act like Michael Scott," Tribannas said, referring to the show's clueless office manager. "Some have no clue."

One-quarter of the participants felt that their life was more similar to "Monday Night Football." LRC student Nancy Dal Dosso, for example, elaborated, "I just need to be tackled and put out of my misery."

The survey asked which show the participant hated so much that they wish to purge it from existence. Thirty-one percent of those surveyed said that they hate shows like "Survivor" so much that they wish to purge it from existence. "It is so trite and manipulative," said schoolteacher Yvonne Thickey.

Shows like "Everybody Loves Raymond" and "Dawson's Creek" followed, each with about a fifth of the votes. Joe Ziegler, a La Roche student, commented, "Teen dramas are terrible."

When asked what TV program they would never miss, the majority of the participants, 43 percent, chose dramas. Sports programs came in next at 13 percent.

Dramas are also a popular choice if the participant was stuck on a desert island and could only have one DVD box set. Twenty-eight percent chose dramatic programs, with shows such as "Lost" and "NCIS" appearing frequently.

Twenty-three percent of the respondents would choose a sitcom if they were stuck on a desert island. The sitcom "Seinfeld" still remains one of the most popular shows of its decade. When asked which TV show era they wish never ended, 34 percent of the participants chose the show that described itself as being 'about nothing'.

In second place was one of television's earliest sitcoms, "I Love Lucy." Twenty-one percent said that they wish this show never ended.

"I love all the old shows," said Courtney Long. "They were so innocent and purely for entertainment." The survey asked how many hours of television the participant watched each week. Sixty-one percent those surveyed watch 10 hours or less of television each week, with 26 percent watching 0 to 5 hours.

Twelve percent watch 16 to 20 and more hours of television per week.

**"More people voted on Idol than for the president."**

**"I was weaned from the baby bottle to the coffee cup."**

daily. Forty-one percent said they drink three to four.

Nine percent of respondents report drinking five to six caffeinated beverages daily. Two percent said they drink 10 or more.

Sixteen percent of respondents said they drink little to no caffeine daily.

"I don't drink caffeine because of heart palpitations," Julie DeMoss said.

One of the 10 or more drinkers, switchboard operator Ruth Shoff said, "I think life without coffee would be disruptive to my daily routine. I do not think of life without coffee."

Of the 84 percent that do

# English professor provides insight and advice to students



Dr. Maher, eyes wide open, shares pearls of wisdom with her "sweeties."

© Maggie Kelly

by Maggie Kelly

Even if you don't know her, you've most likely seen her about campus in bright colors and a plethora of books in hand. Usually, she greets her students with a smile and a soft-spoken: "Hi sweeties." While she is small in stature, she's large in heart.

In 1991, Dr. Michelle Maher joined the La Roche College faculty. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame, and went onto receive two master's degrees and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois.

"I love poetry and I never went to graduate school with the intention of being a teacher. I just wanted to read and write," Maher said. "I was so frightened of teaching that I didn't even worry about it. It was off the scale, but I had to do it so my husband and I could eat. Once I was in the classroom, I started to like it."

Along with her husband Bob and three children, Maher said she resides here in Pittsburgh after moving from Illinois. Despite her impressive academic record, Maher said she struggled in the job market.

"I'd sent my resume out to hundreds of places by then, but it turns out I got an interview and was hired when I did not expect it," Maher said, referring to the start of

her career at La Roche.

"I identify strongly with students going out to find jobs in this economy," Maher added. "Because I definitely know what that feels like to be struggling to find work."

Although she is a self-proclaimed happy Pittsburgher, Maher said she has aspirations of traveling abroad as well.

She said, "There are two places I would love to see in my lifetime. One would be the Mosaics in Ravenna, Italy. That's where there are Byzantine mosaics of the emperor Constantine, and his mother, and all this stuff. They're beautiful. I would like to see Ephesus in Turkey. That's where, supposedly, the blessed Mother lived with St. John after the Crucifixion."

Along with these desired places to travel, Maher said she has career goals and projects in the works as well.

"I'm trying to get a book of poetry published. That's what I used my sabbatical for, and now I'm just entering contests. That's usually how people get first books published. I'm getting poems published, and I keep writing them and sending them out," Maher said.

According to Maher, experience is a great quality that one can bring to the classroom.

"That helps in the creative writing classes," she said. "Because I can identify strongly with

the students about putting your work out there, and how vulnerable and painful it can feel."

This compassion for students manifested itself when Maher received the Brother Gregory Nugent Award for excellence in teaching at La Roche College in 2001. She compared her empathy for students and their learning to the love she has for her own children.

"It's like when you have a child and you love them," Maher said. "Your heart is walking around in another person's body."

The English professor said that her students inspire her and she strives everyday to enrich their learning as much as possible. Although she said she was apprehensive about teaching at first, she said she has found it to be a rewarding profession.

"It's those moments that are really the best, where there's a moment of clarity in the classroom, and just good feeling," she explained. "And the students are receiving what my teachers gave me, which was the presence of someone who loves to read, and loves to think about reading."

Her friends, family, and books, enhance her life outside of the classroom, according to Maher. As she approaches a new stage in her life, she offers advice to her students.

"The best advice I would give to young

# Emmy winner adjusts to ordinary life at LRC

by Rebecca Jeskey

In La Roche College's CC Square, one finds a variety of students. The dance major. The graphic designer. The group of students hovering around the pool table. An Emmy winner.

Before coming to La Roche College to study political science in August 2008, freshman Hisham K. Alwan said he worked as a freelance journalist and a producer for ABC News. His documentary, "Iraq: Where Things Stand," won an Emmy Award for Best Story In Regularly Scheduled Broadcast.

"I worked for ABC News as a freelance cameraman from 2004 to 2005. In these years, I went to different cities in Iraq," he said.

According to Alwan, he had to interview ordinary people about their opinions on war. "We waited one year and tracked down the same people, and asked them the same question," he said. "After one year, they had different answers."

Alwan said he repeated this process and after five years, the documentary for which he later won an Emmy was completed.

The 23-year-old lived in Baghdad, Iraq his entire life before coming to La Roche in 2008. However, he explained that working as a journalist in Baghdad has its risks.

"I received dozens of death threats. I was in the middle of cross-fire explosions. I was targeted by terrorists. I lost a lot of colleagues. Three of my best friends were all killed because they were journalists," he said.

He added, "Because for terrorists and extremists, you tell the truth that they don't want the others to know."

While Alwan described the job as dangerous, he said it is also a rewarding profession. "You are the only person who can deliver what these people think. You are the link between them and the outside world, and between them and the government," he said.

Although the Emmy winner said he has had to interview officials, such as presidents and prime ministers, he said he is more interested in hearing the voices of ordinary citizens.

"Most of the stories I do, I like to be in the streets interviewing people," he explained. "Seeing what the people in the streets say is way better than listening to an official. Because the official keeps saying the same thing over and over."

To avoid risking his life, Alwan said he took precautions to live safely. "I just carried on," he said. "I had to be more careful. I changed my car every couple weeks. I didn't drive the same way twice. I carried fake IDs with different names, just in case."

While these extra measures may seem daunting, Alwan explained the importance of people disregarding fear in order to live their lives.

"When you get a death threat, you could stay at home, doing nothing. And technically, you are dead," he said. "If you don't do anything, if you're afraid of everything, just hiding inside of your house, what is the point of living?"

Even though the political science major does not face death threats at La Roche College, he explained that he still compares Pittsburgh to his hometown. "It's nice. It's safe," he said. "But there's no place like home."

Being an average college student, according to Alwan, is the one thing he has had to adjust to at La Roche.

"I was too busy working, so I didn't give any time for hobbies or anything. I'm just starting to fit back into ordinary life," he said.

see *Emmy*, page 6



Alwan on location in Syria. © Hisham K. Alwan

# Personality on the road

## *A profile of student cars and their owners*

by Joseph Ziegler

All owners take care of their cars, and all cars take care of their owners.

A Mustang, a Geo Metro, and a Jetta. The Mustang belongs to La Roche College student Brian Datt, The Geo Metro belongs to sophomore Hilary Steger, and the Jetta belongs to student Kelsey Landis.

Datt's Mustang is black, has two doors, eight cylinders, 260 horsepower, and a manual transmission. Since Ford introduced the Mustang in 1964, it has been one of the most noticeable vehicles on the road.

The sophomore's Mustang is no exception. The glistening, recently washed, black paint, and not-so-modest exhaust draw plenty of attention.

Datt is well-versed in automotive knowledge. His Mustang is in notable condition, and through his care and knowledge, it should stay that way.

A devout hockey fan, Datt occasionally has his hockey sticks and practice balls in the Mustang. Other than the occasional sports equipment, Datt's car is well-kept and clean. The leather interior is spotless.

Sophomore Hilary Steger's car, a slightly aged Geo Metro has worn blue paint, but is kept in pretty solid condition. Occasionally making a journey home to Vermont, Steger said the car always holds up. Except for once, when a tire popped. Steger said, "It's got its quirks, but it's a good car."

The seat covers are custom-made by Steger, and are complemented by a cozy and strong, but pleasant pear smell. A wedding-planning book rests in the back seat because Steger is planning a wedding. Hand lotion and body spray rest in the center console.

Kelly Landis' vehicle is a white, four door, Jetta. It has four cylinders and a five-speed manual



From left to right: students Hilary Steger, Brian Datt, and Kelsey Landis hang with their rides.  
© Joseph Ziegler

transmission. She said the car has been through some rough points, including a replaced clutch, but it remains strong.

The white Jetta is hard-working like Landis, who studies one of the most demanding major offered at La Roche: interior design. It has never failed on the journey home to Johnstown, Pa. or to school, according to Landis.

Therese Nuttall, Landis' roommate, said they call the car Rocky-Tank. The reason, Therese said, "Is because the car never stops like Rocky and is tough like a tank."

A few trinkets in the car reveal the owner's personality. A small string of fake, plastic

Christmas tree lights hang from the review mirror. Rainbows of elastic hair bands wrap around the shifter. Dozens of CDs are tucked strategically in holders attached to the visors, and a teddy bear is safely buckled in the middle of the backseat.

An athletic girl, who has played soccer since she was five, Landis said she always keeps a soccer ball, a pump, and soccer shoes in the back seat. According to Landis, she even has a soccer coaster in the cup holder.

Though the occasional quirk or problem may have caused its owner frustration, the Mustang, the Metro, and the Jetta remain intricate parts of their owner's personalities.

## Campus security

*continued from page 1*

Commuter student Maggie Kelly said she is not confident in campus security's capability. "I feel this way simply because I don't really see enough of them," she said.

Out of the 100 students surveyed, 14 reported that they have had to call security for an emergency.

Emily Chylinski, a resident, said she contacted campus security after she left her purse in the lunchroom. She said, "It wasn't that big of an emergency."

According to resident student Jon Park, he called security when he found his roommate unconscious. "Security was the only La Roche number I knew," Park added.

Ten of these students reported that campus security responded within five to 10 minutes, and four students said they responded in 30 to 45 minutes.

Park, however, received no response. "They never came," he said. "I called, but I never got an answer."

When security came to their aid, four people reported that security resolved their issues "very well," while five said they handled it "well." Three students said security settled it "fairly," and two reported that they responded "poorly."

Resident student Amber Doerfler stated that she contacted campus security when Bold Hall II flooded. She said the security guard resolved the problem "fairly."

"He wasn't prepared," she said. "He had to go back to his office to get a phone number when he knew the situation."

Campus security is "very prepared" for a school shooting, according to 10 percent of the students surveyed. Thirty-eight percent said they think La Roche is "somewhat prepared," forty-six percent said they believe the school is "not prepared." Six percent said they were unsure.

"They have never brought this issue up publicly. They never told students what we're supposed to do or what they would do for us," resident student Stephanie Huet said. According to Huet, the school is "somewhat prepared" for a school shooting.

Like Huet, commuter student Morgan Triska said she does not think security is equipped for such an emergency. "We have not had any type of drills," Triska said.

Fifty-nine out of the 100 students surveyed said they think campus security guards should be armed. Thirty-six people disagreed, and five students did not have an answer.

"This is a college and not a child's school," according to Nicholas Paris, a commuter student who said security guards should carry weapons. "Bank guards are armed to protect money, so school guards should be allowed to have a deterrent effect on crime."

Other students, like commuter Drew Yeskatalas, said armed security guards are potentially more harmful than helpful.

"Guns on campus are never smart," Yeskatalas said.

## Pets in the afterlife

*continued from page 1*

Today I'm not so sure that the demon dog wanted to kill me, or even that he was demonic in nature. From time to time, we come across animals that we're convinced are evil incarnate. The demon dog, for example. The ninja cat that is only allowing you to live for its amusement. The squirrel that sits outside your window, staring at you intently for hours.

You just know he's planning something.

If we perceive our beloved pets as going to Heaven, are these other, more evil, animals going to Hell?

I turned to my stolen hotel room Bible (judge not lest ye be judged) and found that, like the Heaven question, the Bible does not say anything about this topic.

But it's more of a matter of nature rather than action, according to Father Peter. "They don't have the capacity for deliberate evil," he said. "Even the wild animals, it's more a sense that, as part of nature, they kill to survive."

Just as it is in their nature to simply act to survive, it is in our nature to apply human morals and ethics at times to pets and animals, and to judge them accordingly. The demon dog may have simply been feeling playful.

However, I still personify it as a symbol of evil, and I fear that I will have to keep looking over my shoulder in the afterlife, just in case he jumps another six-foot fence.

Ultimately, we try to define Heaven in terms that are grounded in this reality. The unknowable is simply that -- unknowable. The transcendent nature of Heaven may negate these mortal concerns once we pass on.

"We believe that everything that God created will somehow be present," Father Peter said. "We just don't know how."

While we may not be able to find out exactly how our pets will appear in Heaven, that is what faith is for.

For now, we'll just take comfort in the belief that every pet, as well as the animal world, will have a place in Heaven.

Except for those squirrels.

# Women's basketball championship run

by Joseph Ziegler

**L**a Roche women's basketball team made it to the AMCC Championship game. In the first appearance in school history, the team lost 67-46 to Pitt-Greensburg.

Leading scorers in the game for La Roche College included Freshmen Angel Daniels with 11 points, closely followed by Jaquaylla Kessler with 10.

The team finished the season 15-11, and had a conference record of 10-8. Two playoff wins earned them a spot in the championship game. The entire team will return for next season.

Last season, the Lady Redhawks had a record of 14-12, and lost to Penn State Behrend in the first round of playoffs.

As listed on the La Roche College athletic website, women's basketball coach, Eddie Benton, said prior to the 2008 season, "We have a great combination of experienced returning players to go along with a great recruiting class and transfers."

He added, "I am very excited about the upcoming season and I anticipate great things will happen. Hopefully, we can build on what we started last year."

This season, the Lady

Redhawks managed to match and surpass the success found last season.

Overall, La Roche College women's basketball scoring leaders were Jaquaylla Kessler with 418 points scored, followed by Chantelle Jennings with 302 points scored.

The 2004 season marked the first time the Lady Redhawks had a winning record and made it to a post-season in 12 years.

With success in the last two seasons, a spot in the championship game this season, and the entire team returning, La Roche College women's basketball is poised for success in future seasons.

# Drinking up

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there are worse addictions."

To assess a correlation between caffeine and sleep quality, the survey asked respondents how many hours of sleep they get a night. Two percent said they get nine to 10 hours of sleep a night. Fifty-one percent said they get an average of seven to eight hours of sleep a night.

Thirty-four percent of respondents said they get five to six hours a night. Eight percent said they sleep somewhere between five to eight hours a night. Two percent said they get three to four hours.

When asked if they think their caffeine intake affects their quality of sleep, five percent of respondents said "yes, definitely."

Thirty-two percent report sometimes having trouble sleeping, while fifty-six percent said the quality of their sleep is not affected by caffeine.

"A cup in the evening relaxes me," Mimi Yahn said. Yahn is another campus visitor who also completed the survey.

Several respondents said they do not allow themselves caffeine after a certain time of day in order to be able to sleep soundly at night.

Realtor Nancy Ware said she has nightmares if she drinks caffeine after 8 p.m.

## English professor

continued from page 4

people is to recognize the holiness and dignity of their lives," she said. "And even if they suffer setbacks, to try and hold that in their hearts. Try not to compare yourself to people. Try to remember that your life is holy in and of itself, no matter what you do or don't do."

She added, "My hope for them, and what I experienced, is that I get happier every year."

It is difficult to summarize any person with a simple quote, song or even book. However, Maher said that her favorite pieces of wisdom come from people like Mother Theresa, and naturally, famous authors.

"Sal Bellow, at the end of the novel 'Henderson the Rain King' says that, 'Whatever I achieved, I owed a love and nothing else.' Something like that," she said. "That's a quote I love."

## Emmy winner adjusts

continued from page 4

He added that his interests include reading, current events, shooting pool, and hanging out with friends.

The handsome 23-year-old does not come across as an Emmy winner. One would never guess by his relaxed, laidback demeanor, that his dark brown eyes once spent time behind an ABC News camera. To him, he gained more than an Emmy Award through his work as a reporter.

"After meeting and listening to a lot of people, traveling to a lot of countries, I have more sense about human nature," he said. "I became more of a critical thinker. I don't get pissed off easily. I just talk with people very easily and open-mindedly."

He added, "When I say I'm from Iraq, I get people who are eager to learn. People ask about how life is there."

The political science major isn't lying when he says he keeps an open-mind while talking to others. He said that while some people he's met have asked offensive questions, he is glad they ask anything at all.

"It is always better to ask a stupid question," he said, "than not ask at all and have the wrong idea about something. Even if a question is stupid, ask it and then you will learn something different."

**Editor-in Chief:** Rebecca Jeskey

**Entertainment Editor:** Angela Elnyczky

**Sports Editor:** Joseph Ziegler

**Lead Designer:** Stephanie Jones

**Advisor:** Ed Stankowski

**Contributing Staff:** Maggie Kelly

Alan Zahorsky

Steve Keller

Dan Pasqua

Leah Conway

Korina Roche

Susan Snow

Dear angie:

by Angela Elnyczky

*Disclaimer: Advice will not work across the board for everyone, even though it can be helpful in gaining perspective on a problem. The following is meant to entertain and inform, but not to be taken as the only solution to the given problem. Talking to a counselor is something that there is no substitute for.*

**Dear Angie:**

I'm pretty sure I have a crush on my professor. Help!  
- Hot For Teacher

**Dear Hot For Teacher:**

Whatever you do, do not tell your professor about these feelings or confusion that you're experiencing. Talk to your friends first, Don Treser, professor of psychology and director of counseling services, said. If there was anything strange going on, your friends would have probably noticed the same things that you had about the professor's behavior. However, your professor's behavior could be unintentional -- especially if he or she has a naturally flirty personality. Regardless of what conclusions you draw, though, you should not talk to your professor or another professor, Treser said. "Ethically, it's the worst thing you can do," he said. "The professor could lose [his or her] job," Treser said, "and you might fail a couple of classes." Either way, he said, confronting this with your professor, or another authoritative person, might cause more of a mess than solve anything. If the situation is becoming too distracting or making you lose focus in class, Treser said, "drop the class -- but make sure it's before the add/drop period, or you'll get fined." He said if it's something you both absolutely feel that you should pursue, wait until you are done with the class or graduate. Try looking for a boyfriend or a girlfriend that is not a professor at your college.

**Dear Angie:**

I just decided to move in with my guy friend. He's a really great guy and fun to be around, but the apartment looks like a mess. The furniture is all mismatched, there's a big hole in the wall from God knows what, and he insists on hanging up this clock with John Wayne on it. There's even this large, odd light bulb that has something inside of it. I think it's a flamingo? I'm not too sure. Anyway, I want to tell him to change a few things and have some of my stuff up, too, but I don't want to upset him or get off on the wrong foot. What should I do?

- New Roommate

**Dear Roommate:**

If you don't want to start off on the wrong foot, it isn't a good idea to tell your new roommate a long list of things that you want to change. Some possessions hold a different meaning to others, Treser, a professor of psychology and director of counseling services, said. "I have a black and white picture of Iggy Pop the size of a SMART board hanging in my house," Treser said, "my wife hates it." He said he bought the painting from a student at La Roche. If you're moving into his apartment, Treser, licensed social worker and certified alcohol counselor, said, you don't want to come in and "girly up" or completely change his place. Instead, he said you should reach a compromise. By talking to him, you can find out what he's willing to part with and what he wouldn't mind you adding, fixing or removing. "Everything could be compromised," Treser said, "except the John Wayne clock."

# Entertainment

The La Roche Courier ■ March 27, 2009

## What do white people like?

*Threatening to move to Canada, Barack Obama and author Christian Lander's 2008 book to name a few.*

by Maggie Kelly

For students, the school year is a hectic time. The course load is intense, along with activities and part time jobs eating up most of the day. No matter what one's major might be, the required texts make reading for leisure seem like an oxymoron.

However, with summer break approaching and the promise of nice weather on the horizon, it's a great time to pick up a light and entertaining read.

"Stuff White People Like: The Definite Guide to the Unique Taste of Millions" by Christian Lander is an excellent book for the witty, intellectual student looking for a light and funny book for the summer. "Stuff White People Like" is a satirical look into the creature comforts of the unique and vibrant white culture.

The book is eye-opening. Whether you are a white person, or know someone who is, "Stuff White People Like" is a guide to a culture that may not be underrepresented, but definitely under-discussed. Lander takes the reader on a list of 150 things that white people enjoy, beginning with

coffee and ending with rock climbing, and with hating their parents somewhere in between.

As a white person reading this, get ready for some self-deprecating humor. If you are indeed white, you will notice that some of the things you like add to your blaring whiteness, connecting you to a greater community of people.

For instance, if you stand still at concerts, own an Apple product, or love The Daily Show with Jon Stewart/The Colbert Report, you are not alone. In fact, part of what makes you white is attending 80s Night at a local bar, or being annoyed with Alanis Morissette for improperly using the word irony in her song "Isn't it Ironic?" because of your love and understanding of both irony and 90's music.

If you are not a white person, Lander offers advice that it is your golden ticket to getting along with white people, because white people desperately want to get along with you, too.

Coming in at number eight on the list is Barack Obama. Lander points out that white people love him because if they don't, their fear of being racist, will come true.

After reading this book,

you will be armed with the knowledge of how best to deal with white people and how to make them like you. This essentially comes down to sharing your culture with them, and complimenting them on their already vast knowledge of it which feeds their self-righteous attitudes.

For instance, another thing white people love, according to Lander, is assists in basketball. By passing the ball to a friend of another race while playing a pick-up game of basketball, white people do their part to reconcile the guilt in their heart after years of oppressing other non-white people. Lander's pointer on taking advantage of this "weakness of whiteness" is to always pick the white guy to be on your team, so you can get a lot of baskets.

"Stuff White People Like: The Infinite Guide to the Unique Taste of Millions" will make you laugh out loud and better appreciate things you never thought you would.

When you get a chance in your hectic day, go all out and kick back on your IKEA couch, put on some indie music, and indulge in this witty guide that has just the right amount of sarcasm peppered over the facts.



© <http://johnfrusciante.com>

## Red Hot Chili Peppers' guitarist combines the dark and light through new album

by Dan Pasqua

"The Empyrean" is guitarist John Frusciante's 10th solo album, aside from the five Red Hot Chili Peppers albums that he's played on, and the two experimental albums recorded with his band Ataxia.

Upon listening to this album, or any of his solo efforts, one will not find the funk-heavy songs he creates with the Red Hot Chili Peppers. What one will find is a more psychedelic, electronic rock album.

Frusciante's guitar wizardry is less prevalent on this album, being replaced by synthesizers, a string ensemble, The Sonus Quartet, and a choir known as the New Dimension Singers.

When the guitarist does use his instrument, he provides enough energy to satisfy any longings one may have for his famous style of playing. The first track on the album, "After The Beginning," is an instrumental guitar opus over nine minutes long, comparable to historic funk-rock group Funkadelic's epic instrumental, "Maggot Brain."

Listening to the album, one notices the sudden changes in mood, going from high points to low points, and then back up again.

These changes are evident in the song "Dark/Light," which is actually two songs in one. "Dark/Light" captures the mood changes that are evident throughout the entire album.

On his website, <http://johnfrusciante.com>, the guitarist said that while mixing the album, he experimented with volume levels in an attempt to make the sound as big as possible.

Sudden volume changes are noticeable in songs like "Central," when all the instruments fade out, except for the string section. Frusciante's singing falls deep into the background, but still provides the melody that pushes the song forward. As the song continues, the vocals make their way back to end it.

"One More of Me" finds Frusciante utilizing the low end of his vocal range, providing a previously unheard style of singing from the artist. The vocals end halfway through the song, where the strings pick up to form an energetic, melodic ending to the song.

The last song, "After the Ending," finishes the album on a high point.

Since drums are absent and the music has a big, prophetic sound, listeners feel as if Frusciante lifts them off their feet.

"The Empyrean," a gift from Frusciante, takes listeners on a musical and emotional journey, given the high and low points throughout the record.

Many musicians try to accomplish this on their albums, but Frusciante evokes emotion in his music and makes his listeners believe it.



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# Who says class is boring?

*La Roche students and faculty describe some of their interesting in-class experiences*



“To show that some have more than others, they gave colored cards to all [La Roche Experience] students. The ones with red cards sat on the floor and ate rice while others sat at a table and ate chicken, beans, soup and had silverware.” -- **Jerry Grace**, freshman engineering major

“I taught a special course for Russian executives [not at La Roche]. One asked me how much it would be to buy a Mercedes Benes. I told him and the next day he came to class with \$35,000 in cash.” -- **Alan MacQuarrie**, accounting professor



“While teaching at Pitt, one female student came to class reeking of weed. She leaned back in her chair and fell back on the floor and laid there. She was a big girl, so I had to help her up and told her to see me after class. After class, I told her to never come to my class smelling like cheap weed again.” - **Ed Stankowski**, professor of professional writing

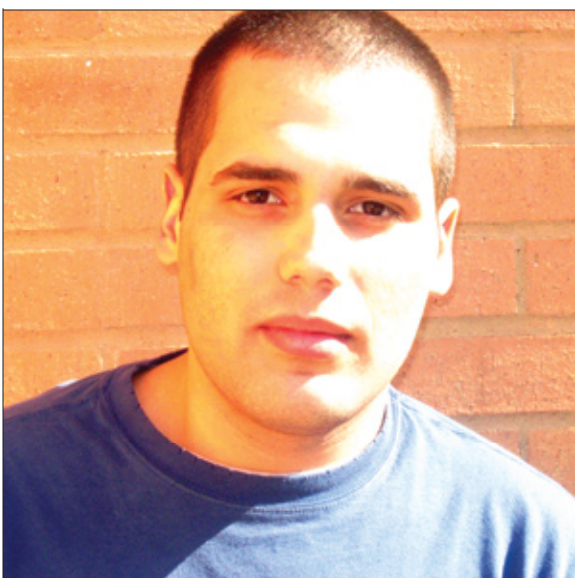


“One professor brought his wife to every class and she sat in the back and never said a word.” -- **Onieka Doyle**, criminal justice senior



From left to right: Khadija Palmer, Onieka Doyle, Knastassia Glaze.

“Cops arrested someone in the middle of class.” -- **Khadija Palmer**, sophomore psychology major



“I shook my ass at the professor in a presentation on fashion in Italian class.” -- **Caleb Dobosh**, junior accounting major

“My professor started crying in front of the class. One girl went up to her with a tissue and asked what was wrong. The professor said she missed being a ballerina.” -- **Melissa Oseicki**, senior communications and professional writing major

