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THE PRINCETON SUMMER JOURNAL

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Many media internships unpaid

By Ashley Jones-Quaidoo, Lesley Le Platte, Jeanne Li and Ellen Pham
with the staff of The Princeton Summer Journal

Like many aspiring journalists, Harvard University student Michelle Hu went hunting for media internships this summer. But as a student on financial aid, Hu had to consider money when making her decision. Hu simply couldn't afford to take an unpaid internship. In the end, she got an internship with Al Jazeera in Washington, and was able to pull together money to cover basic expenses—a \$1,000 stipend from Al Jazeera and a \$1,000 scholarship from the Asian American Journalism Association. Even with this funding, however, budgeting for the summer still wasn't easy.

"I had to find a place with cheap rent," Hu said. "Every time I bought food it was a conscious decision."

At least Hu was able to find funding. With the economy sluggish and the news industry struggling, unpaid journalism internships seem more common than ever. And that means students from low-income backgrounds are facing a major barrier to entry in the industry.

In a survey conducted by The Princeton Summer Journal, 53 out of 80 college students working at internships

in the media this summer were not paid by their publications for their work. (Last week, the Summer Journal sent emails to approximately 1,000 students who work for college newspapers asking about their summer employment. Eighty of those who responded were interning in journalism.) Of those 80 students, 25 (or 31 percent) were on need-based financial aid. According to data compiled from U.S. News and World Report, 46 percent of students from the colleges and universities that these 80 students attend are on need-based financial aid.

The reasons for the disproportionate underrepresentation of financial-aid-receiving students in journalism internships appear to be complicated. Only six of the 27 students in paid internships are on financial aid—suggesting that money isn't the only reason low-income students are not working at journalism internships. (A lack of family or friend connections in the media world may be partly to blame.) However, there is no doubt that lack of payment can be a barrier to low-income students. Of the 19 students on financial aid who were polled and are working at unpaid internships, at least 14 are receiving scholarships or some help from their school—and might not have been able to take the

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Plan B One-Step on an NYC pharmacy shelf with its new packaging (l.). The FDA's new policy has led to widespread confusion among pharmacists.

Plan B rules cause confusion

By Erick Arzate, Shemaiah Clarke, Miguel Diaz and Hunter Richards
with the staff of The Princeton Summer Journal

This June, in response to a federal judge's ruling, the Obama administration made the emergency contraceptive pill Plan B One-Step available over the counter to people of all ages and genders.

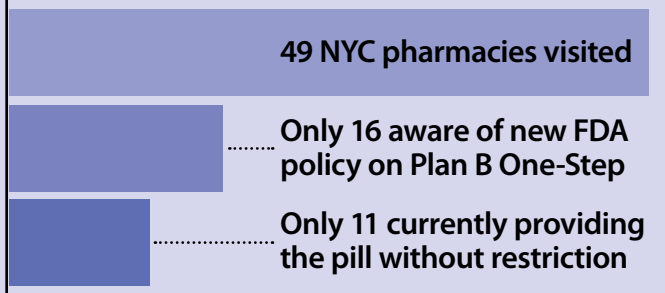
But an investigation by The Princeton Summer Journal revealed that the vast majority of pharmacists interviewed in New York City did not know about this recent change regarding the rules for access to Plan B

One-Step, the most common "morning-after" pill.

Of 49 pharmacists interviewed Wednesday in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx, only 16 were even aware that Plan B One-Step was now available to everyone without age or point-of-sale restrictions.

And of those 16 pharmacists, only 11 were actually selling Plan B One-Step without any restrictions. Several of the pharmacists interviewed said they were still enforcing the now-defunct age restrictions and cited lack of guidance from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the pill's manufacturer,

CONFUSION ON THE MORNING AFTER



WHAT PHARMACISTS TOLD US

- 'I have no idea. They change [the policy] all the time. It's hard to keep up with it.'
- 'As far as we're concerned, you've got to be 18.'
- 'Now they're saying 15. I've seen other documents that say it's 17 years old. Everything is in limbo.'

PHOTO BY SHAWDAE HARRISON :: THE PRINCETON SUMMER JOURNAL

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM

Dueling delicacies delight

By Hunter Richards
ALLEGAN, MICH.

With three established ice cream shops competing for customers in Princeton, it raises the question: Which one is getting the cold shoulder?

The newest of the trio is The Bent Spoon in Palmer Square. Founded in 2004, the store is known for its constantly changing creative flavors—it's had over 500 in

See BENT SPOON page 2

By Miguel Diaz
BRONX, N.Y.

As you enter The Bent Spoon, a Princeton ice cream shop, the decadent smell of organic ice cream wafts over you, making it tempting to taste the flavors. The ice cream flavors are written on small pieces of cardboard above the counter, giving off a family business feel.

The streets of Princeton include many stores that

See ICE CREAM page 2

By Lauren Smith
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Princeton residents know their ice cream. There are three ice cream parlors within walking distance of each other, each with its own unique style, flavors, and ambience.

The Bent Spoon, a small, cozy parlor established in 2004, sits on a narrow strip on the west side of Palmer Square. There are just three tables in the shop, so it's not the best place for large crowds.

Its fans, however, couldn't care less.

Long-time customer Christin Mertz said she comes to The Bent Spoon "way too often, according to my wallet—and my waistline." As she described the shop, her face lit up like a kid in a candy shop, or in this case, an ice cream shop. "It's different, creamy, sweet. It reminds me of summer," she said. Mertz said that she was loyal to The Bent Spoon, skipping other shops in the area.

If, at first, you do not recognize the taste or smell of savory ice cream, do not be alarmed. The Bent Spoon specializes in flavors that are

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Start-up schools to address poverty

By Odett Salcedo
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa, last year, Jason Warrington '13 and Greg Groves '13 could not help but notice the poverty that surrounded them. The two Princeton students were especially struck by the homelessness and poor standards of education. While the situation moved them, they realized that very similar problems were affecting Americans back home.

Along with Christian Smutherman '14 and Amina Yamusah '13, they wanted to find a way to approach the problem.

"We decided to create our business based on the proficiency of minority students in math and English. Black male students have the lowest graduation rate in the United States and one of the reasons is that they are not receiving the foundation they need in order to succeed," Groves said.

Upon realizing that both of them received a Montessori education, they decided to base their plan on the

See SCHOOL page 10

By Navil Perez
THORNTON, COLO.

Several Princeton students and alumni are looking to follow in the footsteps of Teach for America founder Wendy Kopp '89 by tackling the challenge of education in America.

Christian Smutherman '14, Greg Groves '13, Jason Warrington '13 and Amina Yamusah '13 are establishing a non-profit called the Freestyle Montessori Urban Academy (FMUA).

While studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa, Warrington and Groves were taken back by the poverty and inequality they encountered. But they soon realized that the issues they witnessed in Cape Town were not unique to South Africa.

"Seeing the parallels between Africa and America were crazy," Warrington said. The group realized that education was key to addressing these issues.

See FREESTYLE page 10

By Jasmine White
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

While studying abroad in South Africa during their junior year, Princeton students Jason Warrington '13 and Greg Groves '13 found themselves engaged in deep discussions about what they were seeing—for instance, a homeless man sitting outside a BMW dealership. Looking back, Warrington described the poverty as completely "in your face."

These discussions made Groves and Warrington resolve to do something about poverty here in their own country. And so, this summer, having graduated from college, the pair, along with Christian Smutherman '14 and Amina Yamusah '13, is working to start Freestyle Montessori, a not-for-profit organization that aims to provide educational oppor-

ties

See MONTESSORI page 10



EILEEN SHIM :: THE PRINCETON SUMMER JOURNAL

The Bent Spoon, one of Princeton's ice cream shops, has drawn a devoted following of customers.



Thomas Sweet features a funhouse mirror and a picture of Albert Einstein licking an ice cream cone.

Gelato lovers abound in Princeton

BENT SPOON

Continued from page 1

its history. “I think people want to try unique flavors and they’ve heard about us and that we’re good,” said one of the store’s managers and owners, Gabrielle Carbone.

The smallest of Princeton ice cream stores, Bent Spoon has only minimal seating for customers. “I think it makes it cozy,” Carbone said. She also said the store is especially proud of its organic ingredients. “The goal is to be able to have a place where people can make really good memories with really good ingredients,” she explained.

On a recent afternoon, one customer, Christine Meriz, said, “I come here way too often, according to my wallet—and my waistline.” Meriz added, “I have a four-year-old daughter who loves this place. She loves that they’re different.”

A two-minute walk away, which isn’t enough to work off the calories from the ice cream, is a store with a very dissimilar identity. Unlike Bent Spoon, Halo Pub offers

the same flavors at all times, as well as lower prices. One customer, Peter, explained the difference this way: “Bent Spoon is excellent quality but too expensive . . . Both are excellent places but I just prefer here.” When asked if the quality difference made up for the price difference, he said, “It’s not worth the difference between here and there.”

Halo manager Antoine Newlin said that he thought the main factors attracting his customers are “affordability and family-friendly atmosphere. All our flavors are all natural—no artificial flavors, sugars, anything like that.” He added, “We’ve got a lot of regulars. A lot of students and a lot of families. With our prices, they’re able to afford us.”

A bit further away—a 10-minute walk from both locations and closer to campus—is Princeton’s oldest ice cream shop, Thomas Sweet. “It’s closer to where I am,” said Princeton graduate student and customer Cesar Perez, explaining his choice. He said he often sees other students when he stops in. “It’s pretty nice,” he added. “It’s very familiar.”

Walking into the store—where flavors are mostly determined by popular demand and suggestions by customers—one is immediately faced with a bright mural of people enjoying ice cream on the wall. Opposite the mural, one can see a picture of Albert Einstein licking an ice cream cone. Next to Einstein is a funhouse mirror.

Manish Rai, the father of children enamored by their curving shapes projected in the mirror, brought his family to Thomas Sweet for ice cream while on a campus tour for his son. Rai said, “I like it so far.” He continued, with a laugh, “I think the kids really like the mirror and it’s inviting.”

Said another customer, Michelle Klein, “Usually, it’s families here and college kids.”

Some ice cream businesses can’t withstand competition, yet Princeton’s three main establishments have managed to thrive by retaining their own unique identities. For Bent Spoon, Halo Pub and Thomas Sweet, these identities have been enough to avoid melting under the pressure from one another.

Frozen sweets for hot summer nights

ICE CREAM

Continued from page 1

attract customers from all over the town. Some of the best, however, are ice cream stores. Everyone loves a tasty ice cream cone on a hot summer day, right? For Princeton locals, stores like The Bent Spoon and Thomas Sweet satisfy that craving.

Thomas Sweet manager Joe Beckett explained that the store was founded in 1980. “I think the University owned this place and actually wanted the store to open,” he said. On a typical Saturday, his store brings in about \$2,700.

The rich and unique concoctions of flavors and toppings tantalize customers as they eagerly await their turn to order.

“As manager, I bake cakes and we choose our new flavors by popular customer demand,” Beckett said. “If a bunch of customers want it, then eventually we’ll have it.”

On the other side of town, the Bent Spoon is open seven days a week to satisfy all its customers. “My favorite flavor is definitely mango,” Chayya Khan, 39, said. “This place is so great.”

Another customer, Adrienne Cacyotto, said that her favorite flavor was the pistachio with dark choc-

.....
‘My favorite flavor is definitely mango ... This place is so great.’

CHAYYA KHAN,
BENT SPOON CUSTOMER

.....

olate melon. “The Bent Spoon feels very unique and homey,” she said.

As Princeton local Christine Meriz said, “I come here way too often, according to my wallet—and my waistline.”

Unique flavors keep customers happy

TREATS

Continued from page 1

anything but normal. The shop rotates more than 500 flavors, with common favorites like sweet basil, dark chocolate sorbet, and blueberry mascarpone. These unique flavors are what keep “Spooners” coming back.

Even first-timers walk away with a smile on their face. A 70-year-old fan said the hazelnut flavor reminded her of Italy. She said she was impressed by the fact that their ice cream was organic, locally produced and still delicious. “Almost as good as the best Italian ice cream,” she said.

Do not let Halo Pub’s name or décor deceive you. Although it is decorated like a British pub, the shop is a center for families and students search-

ing for quality ice cream. Established in 1975 on Hulfish Street, the Pub is known for affordable prices.

“We make our own ice cream,” said Antone Newlan, the manager of Halo Pub. “It’s all-natural with no additives. We’re an alternative.” The Pub has 48 flavors of hard ice cream and 10 flavors of soft. Some of their flavors include chocolate peanut butter, rum raisin, maple walnut, and cherry vanilla.

Halo Pub is much larger than The Bent Spoon. Customers at Halo Pub said that the low prices and larger seating area made it their favorite of the three major ice cream parlors.

Thomas Sweet was established in 1980 at the University’s request, according to Joe Beckett, the store’s manager. Thomas Sweet offers a “blend-in” option, where cus-

tomers can pick a favorite flavor to be mixed with up to three toppings.

Parties, team victories, and University reunions often descend on Thomas Sweet’s central location on Nassau Street. Michelle Klein, a five-year customer, said she divides her time between The Bent Spoon and Thomas Sweet, and that parking availability often helps her determine which shop to visit.

Thomas Sweet may not have the most unique flavors, but sometimes customers just want something simple. “If I want unique, I go to Bent Spoon,” Klein said.

The people in Palmer Square on a summer day are as different as the ice cream flavors in these shops. Whether you like unusual or traditional flavors, you will find a place to eat ice cream in the town of Princeton.

THE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY SUMMER JOURNALISM PROGRAM

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OUR AMAZING PROGRAM ASSOCIATE
Erica Gonzalez ’15

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Vikas Bajaj of The New York Times
Katie Baker of Newsweek/Daily Beast
Professor Miguel Centeno
Bailey DiOrio, Princeton Admissions Office
Christopher Eisgruber ’83, President of Princeton University
Jason Fagone of Philadelphia Magazine
Professor Patricia Fernandez-Kelly
Nathan Geddie of Newsweek/Daily Beast
Dana Goldstein of the New America Foundation and the Nation Institute
Eliza Gray of Time Magazine
John Judis of The New Republic
Sheil Kapadia of Philadelphia Magazine
Professor Stanley Katz
Professor Brian Kernighan
Daniel Klaidman of Newsweek/Daily Beast
Athelia Knight formerly of The Washington Post
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Sasha Polakow-Suransky of The New York Times
Louise Roug of Newsweek/Daily Beast
Joyce Tang of Newsweek/Daily Beast
Jesse Wegman of The New York Times
Griff Witte ’00 of The Washington Post

OUR ACCOMPLISHED ALUMNI WHO RETURNED THIS YEAR

Eboni Boykin SJP ’10, Columbia ’15
Amanda Cormier SJP ’07, Columbia ’12
Semaj Earl SJP ’11, University of California Los Angeles ’16
Rajaa Elidrissi SJP ’11, Wesleyan ’16
Liz Gonzalez SJP ’10, Bowdoin ’15
Walter Griffin SJP ’05, Princeton ’10
Shawdae Harrison SJP ’10, John Hopkins ’15
Yared Portillo SJP ’10, Swarthmore ’15
Asmaa Rimawi SJP ’09, Harvard ’14
Eileen Shim SJP ’07, Yale ’12
Tashi Shuler-Drakes SJP ’10, Mount Holyoke ’15
Katie Zavadski SJP ’08, Harvard ’13

OUR COLLEAGUES WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Marianna Bogucki
Cynthia Cherrey
Robert Durkee ’69 P’93 P’96 P’99 H’83
Jim Floyd ’69
Carey Hoover
Rick Kitto ’69
Evan M. Schneider
Erin Metro
Elsie M. Wirth
Kimberly de los Santos
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Elsie Sheidler



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



‘Fruitvale’ paints portrait of a life derailed

Director’s debut tells heart-wrenching story of shooting victim’s last 24 hours

By Lorena Alvarez
TUSTIN, CALIF.

IN THE wake of the George Zimmerman trial and the struggle to find justice for Trayvon Martin, Ryan Coogler’s award-winning indie film “Fruitvale Station” comes at just the right time to advance the conversation about race relations in America. The movie tells the true story of the heart-wrenching 24 hours leading up to and including the 22-year-old Oscar Grant being shot to death by police while handcuffed and face-down on an Oakland train platform in the early morning hours of New Year’s Day 2009.

The movie illustrates the day Grant’s world collapses. We learn that he has cheated on his girlfriend and sold drugs. His frustration is palpable, as we see him assault his manager after he is fired for repeatedly being late for work. In recounting Grant’s final day, Coogler stays away from the usual polished cinematography, and the shaky camerawork, giving the film a sense of ruggedness. Much of the movie is shot from the perspective of Grant, except for certain key scenes where close-cropped shots of the actors convey the sense that Grant’s end is closing in. A chilling example of this is the final interaction between Grant and his young

daughter, where she makes a futile plea for him to stay home on New Year’s Eve. Michael B. Jordan is authentic and convincing, as he plays Grant like a man who glides through life with assurance. His powerful performance is matched by Octavia Spencer, who plays Grant’s conflicted mother. The final train station scenes are confusingly and frenetically filmed, much like the events they depict. “Fruitvale Station” summarizes Grant’s life in one day, and it can tell us only so much about who he was. But it does make a larger point about the unjustified actions of the police, and the tragic death of yet another young black man.

By Allyson Chavez
NEW YORK, N.Y.

A DIRECTOR who refuses to paint his main character as a Christ figure actually depicts that character as something much more important: a complicated, real human being. In other words, someone who is not at all a stereotype. That certainly isn’t true for the rest of the characters in director Ryan Coogler’s “Fruitvale Station”—a true story about a man named Oscar Grant (played by Michael B. Jordan) who is unjustly killed by police in Oakland. One is able to find many different stereotypes in the film: the teenage mother, the “homies,” the older angry white cop, the younger scared white cop, and

the mother of the “thug” who has to constantly visit her son at jail. But at the center of the film is a character who isn’t a cliché at all. If Coogler would have used his paintbrush and painted Oscar Grant with a simple reality, the movie would just be another generic movie depicting the “hood.” But Grant is not a simple character. On the one hand, he is a guy who wants to make sure his mother doesn’t spend a dime on her birthday, who offers to help cover his

sister’s rent even though he has lost his job, and who is a good father to his young daughter. Yet he also cheats on his girlfriend and resorts to selling weed to make it economically. The fact that Coogler doesn’t idealize Grant makes the film extremely powerful and allows viewers to empathize with him. Coogler’s message is clear: Grant was not a perfect Christ figure but a regular human being, and no human being deserves to die the way in which he did.

Coogler’s message is clear: Grant was not a perfect Christ figure, but a regular human being, and no one human being deserves to die the way he did.

Defying stereotypes, brilliant ‘Fruitvale Station’ brings characters to life

By Imani Ford
CHICAGO, ILL.

AS HE picks up a blunt and takes a long drag, Oscar turns to his girlfriend Sophina and says, “I want you and Ti-Ti forever.” Twenty-two year old Oscar Grant, the focus of the critically acclaimed Sundance winner “Fruitvale Station,” is not perfect—far from it. In one of the first scenes, for instance, we find out—even as he professes his love for both Sophina and his daughter Ti-Ti—that Oscar has cheated. This initially negative portrayal of Os-

car, played by Michael B. Jordan, may alarm certain audience members; within the first 10 minutes, the film begins to paint another stereotypical caricature of African-American communities. But while certain characteristics of Oscar fit the stereotype, far more defy common expectations—allowing viewers to see him as a real person and to realize that the injustice he eventually suffers could happen to anyone. It’s just one of the many ways in which this brilliant film excels. “Fruitvale Station” was released at a sensitive time. With the Trayvon Martin verdict only a month behind us, the film raises similar questions in our society. Os-

car is killed in a scuffle by a white cop who later received a relatively lenient sentence. The film’s director, Ryan Coogler, skillfully tells the story of Oscar on his last day. Coogler humanizes Oscar before our eyes. Very early in the movie, Oscar’s respect for his mother, played by Octavia Davis, becomes obvious, endearing him to the audience. In many ways, the film accurately displays the strength of the matriarch within the African-American community and other aspects of black culture. Numerous stereotypes are unraveled, squashing anyone’s urge to show the characters in a single light. Indeed, Coogler makes the film real for

viewers by making the characters more than their stereotypes. All the characters simultaneously embody and defy their stereotypes. Oscar, for example, continually attempts to “get straight,” even when he gets knocked down multiple times. On numerous occasions, audience members witness Oscar’s kindness. Oscar assists strangers—even though they seem skeptical of his kindness. He cares deeply for his daughter and mother, and cries when he witnesses a stray dog dying. No one can doubt that Oscar and his family are good-hearted people, or that they are flawed—as all human beings are. See GRANT page 4

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Duncan, a reserved 14-year-old boy, grapples with the challenges of family, divorce and growing up in “The Way, Way Back.”

Finding his ‘Way, Way Back’ to adulthood

By Ellen Pham
TAMPA, FLA.

THE WAY, Way Back” resonates with anyone who has ever struggled to find a place to belong. In other words, it’s a movie everyone can relate to. It’s far from a perfect film, but it has enough redeeming qualities to make it worth seeing.

The movie follows Duncan (Liam James), a reserved 14-year-old boy who is forced to spend the summer with his mother (Toni Collette), her insensitive boyfriend Trent (Steve Carell) and Trent’s daughter Steph. Family support is critical when teenagers are grappling with the challenges of becoming an adult, but Duncan has none. His mother is more focused on her relationship with her boyfriend than with her son, even though Trent

manipulates her emotions through guilt. She drinks excessively and ridicules her son’s misery after her brutal divorce rather than sympathizing with him.

Meanwhile, Trent doesn’t like Duncan. The movie starts with Trent asking Duncan to rate himself on a scale of 1 to 10, and after Duncan reluctantly replies, “six,” Trent says he thinks Duncan’s more like a “three.” Ouch. What’s even worse is when Trent feigns interest in improving his relationship with Duncan. Luckily, Duncan can see right through his façade.

Steph isn’t any better. She unwillingly drags Duncan along to her outings and constantly rebels by drinking alcohol, even though she’s only a few years older.

Duncan’s loneliness at home leads him to discover Water Wizz, a popular water park. He befriends Owen

(Sam Rockwell), the manager of Water Wizz, who turns out to be the only positive male role model in his life. The water park quickly becomes his refuge, a place where he can escape from his dysfunctional family.

While the plot at first appears simple, the film is splashed with serious, multifaceted themes including drugs and relationship trauma. Fortunately, the movie has ample comic relief to balance out the solemnity.

An up-and-coming actor, James handles his role with maturity. His portrayal of awkward, passive-aggressive Duncan is spot-on. Steve Carell from the Emmy award-winning comedy series “The Office” is surprisingly convincing as hard-nosed, cynical Trent. But the real gem in “The Way, Way Back” is Allison Janney (“The Help,” “Juno”). Her egregious rantings as

Betty, Duncan’s neighbor, strike a genuine chord.

The film has many positives such as a talented cast and touching moments between Duncan and his mother, but it also has a few drawbacks. It has sloppy transitions, which make the storyline difficult to follow. The comic relief sometimes comes too abruptly after weighty scenes, creating an uncomfortable contrast between the two. And the predictable summer romance is shallower than a kiddie pool, with the chemistry between James and AnnaSophia Robb (“Bridge to Terabithia”) falling flat.

“The Way, Way Back” is a solid summer movie. It’s not especially memorable, but most viewers will find something to enjoy—if only because the emotion and humor will elicit nostalgia about their own memories of growing up.

By Mofida Abdelmageed
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

THE WAY Way Back,” a dramatic comedy directed by Nat Faxon and Jim Rash, tackles ongoing conflicts between teens and adults. The protagonist of

the film, Duncan (Liam James), is a 14-year-old with low self-confidence. Duncan wants to connect with his mom, Pam (Toni Collette), but Pam’s boyfriend, Trent (Steve Carell), dislikes Duncan. Trent and his daughter Steph (Zoe Levin) create a negative atmosphere for

Duncan. Duncan learns to isolate himself from the rest of the world.

The new “family” goes on a summer vacation to try to become closer. Trent degrades Duncan, rating his personality: “I think you’re a three.” Duncan lacks a supportive male figure in his life.

While on vacation, Duncan meets Owen (Sam Rockwell), the owner of a theme park called “Water Wizz.” Both characters learn lessons from each other: Owen gains maturity and responsibility through his relationship with Duncan, and Duncan becomes more fun and less depressed. He gains confidence, becoming known in the theme park as “Pop ‘n’ Lock.” He says, at one point, “This is the only place I am happy.”

The film expresses real situations that families experience. It has a beautifully-written script, and the acting is incredible. The profanity makes it realistic. The protagonist plays an important role, showing the stresses of being a teen. The film should be watched by teens and adults together, and it teaches a lesson about connecting and bonding with people who make a difference in their life. The movie is intense and astounding. It allows the audience to connect with the characters.



In ‘The Way, Way Back,’ Liam James (far r.) plays 14-year-old Duncan in a dramatic comedy that is at once familiar and unique. The movie should resonate with anyone who has struggled to find a place to belong.

Talented cast carries ‘Way, Way Back’

By Sara Solano
NEW YORK, N.Y.

LET ME ask you something: On a scale of one to 10, what do you think you are?” Trent asks Duncan. “I don’t know . . . a six?” Duncan replies. Trent’s response is harsh: “I think you’re a three,” he says.

It’s the first scene of “The Way, Way Back” and already we are learning that Duncan, 14, has a difficult relationship with Trent, his mother’s boyfriend. Right away, audience members will sympathize with Duncan, who is en route to Trent’s summerhouse. What follows is a fantastic story about divorce, teenage years, love and self-realization.

Directors and writers Nat Faxon and Jim Rash walk us through Duncan’s summer. Insecure and introverted, Duncan is not only attempting to navigate the awkward teenage years, but also struggling to recover from his parents’ separation and to deal with the condescending Trent.

Duncan clearly feels lonely at the beginning of the film. Even though his mom’s love for him is fairly evident, she constantly chooses Trent’s company over Duncan’s, pushing Duncan to find support elsewhere.

The film offers no epic sur-

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The film offers no epic surprises, and yet remains unbelievably suspenseful, thought-provoking, and genuinely hilarious.

.....

prises, and yet remains unbelievably suspenseful, thought-provoking, and genuinely hilarious. Despite his horrible dance moves, audience members fall in love with Duncan by the end of the film.

Additionally, the cast is overwhelmingly talented. Sam Rockwell, who plays Duncan’s boss, is my personal favorite. He takes on a major role in the movie—and this just might be one of the best interpretations of his career.

Even though it has stereotypical characters and familiar themes, as well as an ambiguous ending—about which I had mixed feelings—“The Way, Way Back” is a great take on dysfunctional families and self-realization. It is arguably one of the best movies of the year.

By Christian Cordova-Pedroza
LANDENBERG, PA.

THE WAY Way Back,” is a melodramatic comedy directed by Nat Faxon and Jim Rash that focuses on the issues of youth in dysfunctional families and the inevitable tensions that arise between parents and their adolescent children.

The film centers on 14-year-old introvert Duncan, ably played by Liam James, who is on a beach vacation with his family. That vacation is quickly disrupted when Duncan discovers that his stepfather, played by Steve Carell, is cheating on his mother.

Duncan finds sanctuary in a water park away from his powder keg beach home where he meets Owen, played by the likeable Sam Rockwell, the sarcastic and witty manager of the nearby Water Wizz park. He becomes an important influence, helping Duncan crack his awkward teen shell and emotionally process the discord at home.

The movie’s runtime—just

over 100 minutes—prevents anything approaching complex character or plot development. Indeed, many of the characters were little more than stereotypes: the bufoonish, alcoholic neighbor (Allison Janey), the likeable next-door couple (Rob Corddry and Amanda Peet) and Duncan’s prospective love interest (played by an adorable AnnaSophia Robb).

Carell’s performance, in particular, was notable, as he eschewed his usual practice of playing the nice guy for a mean-spirited, sometimes downright cruel—and ill-suited replacement dad for Duncan.

Ultimately, the film’s most redeeming quality was the strong delivery of clever dialogue. The characters’ exchanges—sometimes biting, and frequently uncomfortable to watch—made the characters’ emotions seem real, helping to turn a very simple and well-worn idea into an original chef-d’oeuvre.

In the end, “The Way, Way Back” was much like a fading memory of a teenage summer—fleeting and insubstantial.

In wake of Trayvon Martin verdict, ‘Fruitvale’ raises raw, real questions about race

GRANT

Continued from page 3

The first scene shows Oscar’s death. Nevertheless, the suspense is tangible throughout the entire movie. Oscar’s life is hard but not without joy, and this bittersweet feeling makes it harder to see him go.

Audience members are even more invested in Oscar’s life as a result of the angles at which we see Oscar. The camerawork places viewers in the movie as if they are with Oscar on his

last day. When he walks, the camera follows him from behind. When he talks, we see his face as if we are speaking to him. When he cradles the dying dog, the audience members are watching him from above. Coogler and his team transform the 85-minute film into a powerful journey.

Just as impressive as the camera angles and touching imagery is the work of Jordan. A skillful and beguiling actor, this is possibly his best work. Jordan has not appeared in a starring role since the hit show

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Given recent events, the movie is even more thought provoking.

.....

“Friday Night Lights,” and his return to the field as Oscar does not disappoint.

When the movie ends, multiple emotions are likely to be running through the viewer’s head—awareness, confusion, sadness and

hopelessness. The beauty of the movie makes you hope that people will see it, and that they will see the truth. A movie with ups and downs, it is the best showcase of urban California life since “Boyz n the Hood.” Given recent events, the movie is even more thought-provoking.

Go see “Fruitvale Station” because it is raw and it is real. This movie will cause you to cry—and that is okay. If anything, “Fruitvale Station” exists to make you feel, and those movies are always the best ones.



Michael B. Jordan (second from left) plays Oscar Grant, a 22-year-old young father whose life comes to a tragic end in an encounter with the police.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

‘Time’ delves into notions of happiness

By Xavier Husser
NEW YORK, N.Y.

ON THURSDAY, THE PRINCETON Summer Theater presented a production of “Time Stands Still,” originally written by Donald Margulies and directed by Emma Watt, a recent Princeton graduate.

The plot of the play centers on the struggling relationship between Sarah Goodwin, a photographer, and James Dodd, a journalist who is dedicated to making their tumultuous relationship work. Secrets, affairs and lies had already disrupted the emotions and lives of the faulty middle-aged couple.

In addition to these situations, both protagonists are dealing with the aftermath of Sarah’s accident, in which she survived an explosion while she was working in Iraq. The actors—including Brad Wilson, who plays James Dodd—express emotions so convincingly that the audience seemed very empathetic toward the characters.

The play mixes comedy,

suspense and tragedy into a modern production that can relate to a wide range of individuals.

Another sub-plot is the tension between Mandy Bloom, who plays a vital role in conveying the main theme of the play, and the older characters. Mandy is a caricature of the stereotypically callow youth who is ignorant of the outside world, and her role adds some comic relief to the heavy drama.

A memorable scene occurs when Sarah shows Richard and Mandy graphic pictures of a woman and infant killed by an explosion. Completely horrified at the desensitized reactions of the two journalists—who have experience reporting from war zones—Mandy responds by saying, “That poor little boy. How can you just stand there and not help them?”

Mandy asks the characters, and also directs this question toward the audience. Her lines question what their actual roles—as photographers, journalists or even witnesses—should be. Originally, Sarah responds, “The camera is there to re-

cord life—not to change it.”

However, later in the play, Sarah comes to a realization that she “built a career on the suffering of strangers I’ll never see again.” With lines such as “you just see the misery in life. I wish you could just see the joy,” Mandy’s character could be used as a symbol for innocence and the pursuit of happiness rather than ignorance.

“Time Stands Still” is a phenomenal play about modern ideas and dilemmas. The characters respect the views of ordinary citizens and embody the emotional state of individuals affected by international conflicts.

The play is a dynamic story in which the characters evolve in search of happiness and resolution. Sarah Paton, the actress who plays Mandy, offered insight into her character’s aspiration, which is “growing old with her really smart, intelligent husband.”

By the end of the play, each character finds joy with the support of various people or activities. The play ends on an optimistic and romantic note that instills hope and insight in the audience.



ILLUSTRATION BY RAJAA ELIDRISI :: THE PRINCETON SUMMER JOURNALISM

‘Time Stands Still,’ a Pulitzer prize-winning play, explores the meaning of happiness.

Play tackles nature of journalism

By Jeanne Li
NEW YORK, N.Y.

THERE IS SO MUCH beauty in the world, but you just see misery. Both of you!” – Mandy

“People need to know. Hundreds and thousands of lives are at stake!” – James

This tension over journalistic purpose was at the center of the Princeton Summer Theater’s fourth and final play of its 45th season, “Time Stands Still,” which played from Aug. 1-4, and Aug. 8-11.

During the course of the play, Sarah, a photojournalist, and her boyfriend James, a reporter, served as foreign correspondents during the war in Iraq. While there, Sarah was badly scarred by a roadside bomb that forced her to return home.

Not long after Sarah gets back to the New York apartment where the play is set, she and James meet Mandy, the young, new girlfriend of Sarah’s editor Richard. Mandy, a naïve event planner, enjoys detailing the beautiful things in life, while all Sarah seems to talk about are “wars, famines, genocide,” because she’s “too busy saving the world.”

Still, Mandy respects Sar-

ah’s work until she sees a photo she took of a mother holding her dying baby. “How could you just stand there?” Mandy asks, sobbing. “The camera’s there to record life, not change it,” responds Sarah. And the media’s job is “to capture the truth, not stage it.”

The night after James and Sarah’s wedding, a separate but related tension is brewing between the other two central characters. James loses it after learning that Richard killed an article he’d written for his magazine. Mandy defends her husband’s decision, arguing that there’s more to journalism than publishing his depressing dispatches from the Middle East.

During an interview after the play, Brad Wilson, the actor who portrays James, remarks that the real question for him was, “How could you be that person” to take pictures rather than save people? “That’s the crux of the ethical dilemma,” Wilson said.

Evan Thompson, who plays Richard, took a different position. He said that by becoming a journalist, one has already decided not to become part of the story. Otherwise, one has chosen the wrong profession.

Sarah Paton, who portrays Mandy, recalled that before

starting rehearsals, director Emma Watt asked the actors to close their eyes and visualize “happiness.” Paton said she believes Mandy’s idea of happiness is starting a family with Richard and then “growing old” with him. James, too, by the end of the play, seemed to move closer to Mandy’s position. “I wanna take our kids to Disney World and buy all the crap they want!” he tells Sarah at one point. He wanted a life that was “simple, boring, happy.”

As for the journalist who does want to change the world, actress Maeve Brady pictured Sarah’s definition of happiness as the moment she boards the plane with her camera to start a new assignment. Brady said that her character was so committed to the job that she was willing to give up anything, even if it meant sacrificing her relationship with James.

Watt captures the bitter-sweet nature of a successful career in journalism: the tension between work and family, as well as the degree of involvement a reporter should take with their subjects. “I don’t need to dodge bombs to feel alive anymore,” James says toward the end of the play. Whether Sarah feels the same way is another story.

By Jhazalyn Prince
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

THE THEATRE WAS uncomfortably small. Specks of dust wafted through the still air as the lights above dimmed completely, leaving the audience in darkness and suspense. Immediately we were introduced to the two main characters: a spunky, independent photographer named Sarah and her eager-to-please journalist boyfriend, James.

The play opens with an injured Sarah limping onto the stage. The characters spend a while discussing Sarah’s desire to be independent once her rehabilitation is complete. The relationship between Sarah and James is full of tension, as they discuss their futures.

Soon into the play two

more characters are introduced: a photo editor named Richard and his new, younger girlfriend, Mandy, an event planner.

Mandy, the most relatable character, poses an impactful question that speaks to the theme of the play: “How could a photographer take photos of someone dying rather than doing something to help?”

In response, Sarah says, “The camera is there to record life—not to change it.”

The production also consisted of great acting. In particular, Maeve Brady, who plays Sarah, is excellent. Even when the lights dimmed for a scene change, she maintained her limp. Brady’s simple commitment to her craft made a deep impact on the realistic flow of the play.

James, who is played by Brad Wilson, has the ability to go from calm to loud and

angry in the blink of an eye. This ability to transition is both amazing and overwhelming. He plays a very complex character who may cause a bit of confusion or even evoke familiarity because he reacts as any human being would.

Sarah becomes conflicted in knowing that she may have been able to save at least one life, but she did not. Ultimately, she decides to continue her photography with the goal of telling the truth. Even though she makes this choice, the audience will not feel forced to agree, and the question is left unanswered for individual interpretation.

This play is full of drama, suspense and a twisted-but-respectable ending. “Time Stands Still” is a wonderful production. It raises questions regarding the obligations of journalists and whether their jobs are more important than their humanity.



SHAWDAE HARRISON :: THE PRINCETON SUMMER JOURNAL

Emma Watt ’13, artistic director for ‘Time Stands Still,’ discusses the play last week. The production ran Aug. 1-4 and Aug. 8-11 at Hamilton Murray Theater, Murray-Dodge Hall.

Watch shows that convey true ‘reality’

Daisy Gomez
SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

THE ERA of true reality television shows has arrived and is changing the way we perceive the extraordinary lives of people. Modern reality shows range from focusing on the lives of rich housewives to the extreme cases of obesity. But the new era of reality shows should be watched more often because it allows the audience to see into the lives of realistic people who overcome adversity.

“My 600-lb Life,” featured on the Discovery Channel, chronicles the lives of four people who initially weigh more than 600 pounds in 2004. Filmed over seven

years, the show tracks them as they undergo gastric-bypass surgery and then lose weight, in hopes of getting their lives back on track. In addition, and more important, the show exposes the American people to what could possibly be their future.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one third of the U.S. adults and about 17 percent of children are obese. This places the United States in second place for the highest rate of obesity in the world. Shows like “My 600-lb Life” not only bring the American public into the lives of the participants, but also give a realistic impression on how difficult it is to live with obesity and what it really takes to lose an enormous amount of weight.

Another example is “Supersize vs Su-

perskinny,” a reality show from the United Kingdom that pairs one overweight person with one underweight person. The pair switches diets for 48 hours to help them realize their extreme eating disorders. Though the show takes place in another country, overweight participants of the show are frequently taken to the United States to offer a glimpse of the hardship of obesity in America. Often, cases are taken to Evansville, Ind., which has been referred to as “America’s Fattest City.” The show’s participants quickly learn the real jeopardy they are placing themselves in. It also presents the idea that although obesity has become a part of normal American lives, its boundaries are not limited to this country; obesity is becoming a worldwide pandemic.

There are some people who argue that reality shows are nothing more than scandalous and overdramatic. That may be the case for some, but it should not define reality television. Shows such as “The Real Housewives of New Jersey,” “Mob Wives,” “The Bad Girls Club,” “The Bachelorette,” “Here Comes Honey Boo Boo,” and “Keeping Up with the Kardashians” give reality shows a bad reputation. Those shows are hardly even reality because they are often scripted and dramatized to increase ratings.

More and more educational channels are incorporating reality shows that resemble documentaries, making them more appealing to the public. It is the public that needs to start watching true reality shows and stop focusing on the superficial ones.

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Protect our students through school uniforms

Kina Carney
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

IN 2011, 10-year-old Jasmine McClain, of Chadbourne Elementary School in North Carolina, committed suicide because she had been bullied. Over the course of a month, students made fun of Jasmine’s clothes and shoes. McClain’s mother, Samantha West, told a local news station at the time: “She was a loving child. I just don’t understand.”

Bullying in school may be a delicate subject for some, but it happens to many students in some way or form. As in Jasmine’s case, clothing may be the cause of bullying. In many cases, clothing reflects a student’s economic background. American public schools should consider school uniforms for this reason.

My own high school does not require students to wear uniforms, their reasoning being that college students are not required to wear them. One can assume that most students appreciate not having to wear a uniform, because it allows freedom of expression.

However, I believe that if students are required to wear a standard uniform, a decrease in bullying will follow.

Tracey Marinelli, superintendent of the Lyndhurst School District, told NorthJersey.com: “It is very easy for kids to get picked on for wearing the same clothes over and over or something that’s not in style ... This [wearing uniforms] evens the playing field and gives us something more tangible.”

Students wearing popular trends or expensive brands tend to bully students who are not keeping up with these trends. As a result, victims of bullying due to their type of dress can lose self-esteem. This can result in tragic circumstances.

For families, uniforms can be more affordable than spending money on clothes for different seasons or clothes that keep up with trends. Working in a uniform store, I often hear parents complain about how expensive the uniforms are. What the parents fail to realize is that they are buying uniforms for the entire school year, which will most likely save them money in the long run.

Additionally, some parents can receive financial help to buy uniforms, such as vouchers or gift cards from their schools. Baltimore Community Foundation offers financial donations to families in Baltimore City public schools who need financial assistance to purchase uniforms.

Enforcing uniforms will not immediately end bullying, but it will reduce the stresses and troubles students endure. Schools should understand that not all families are financially equal. Implementing uniforms for students will help low-income families by reducing social pressure and bullying.



STAFF EDITORIAL

A life-changing journey

IT IS HARD TO believe we have been here for 10 days.

It feels like we were just in our first workshop, with Richard standing at the front of the room, towering and intimidating. He asked us, “What is journalism?” It seemed like a simple question, and we all thought we had the answer. Little did we know the answer to this complex question would unfold during our immersive educational journey.

Here we were, 25 strangers from different states, together for 10 days. We came from different schools, different backgrounds and different views. What originally connected us was our shared passion for journalism, our curiosity and our thirst to learn new things and interact with other intellectuals. Over the course of this program, we learned new skills and put them to the test. In the process, we also pushed ourselves to the brink.

We learned that to become a credible journalist, you need to learn to think like a journalist. Journalists are the voice of truth. We were fortunate to learn from wonderful journalists and professors. But we didn’t just sit in a classroom and learn about journalism—we lived it. We reported on important topics and interviewed people from all walks of life. We gathered our information and wrote our articles. We traveled to New York City—for some of us, our first visit—to see major publications like The New York Times and Newsweek. In Philadelphia, we covered a preseason NFL game from the press box.

There is not a lot to complain about when it comes to SJP. Walking up hills every day was a bit of a pain—literally. We had bagels for breakfast a few too many days. Also the lack of bathroom breaks can make for uncomfortable listening. That leads us to our next point: It can be awkward to eat while the speakers are talking. But our biggest complaint is that the program is so short; we realize that the counselors have full-time jobs, but we treasured every minute of this program.

You might wonder how a group of strangers can be united so easily in such a short amount of time. We have not only triumphed together but also suffered through long days and equally long nights. We have helped each other through mental and physical exhaustion, encouraging one another through every deadline. We have been close enough to share many things: ideas, advice, stories, first experiences—even germs. Who knew that sleep deprivation and the common cold can bring people together so quickly?

This experience has been amazing, even life-changing. We know we will go on to do great things. Together as SJP 2013, we vow to report the truth and devote our lives to the pursuit of it. We are sad that our time together has come to an end. We will part ways soon, but we walk away as stronger people. And no matter where we are in this great big world, we will always have this summer. We will always have each other.

THE PRINCETON SUMMER JOURNAL

A PUBLICATION OF THE
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
SUMMER JOURNALISM PROGRAM

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The Princeton University Summer Journalism Program welcomes about 20 high school students every year to Princeton University for a 10-day, all-expenses-paid seminar. Founded by Princeton alumni, the program’s mission is to diversify the world of college journalism—and, ultimately, the world of professional journalism—by energizing students from low-income backgrounds about the possibility of attending elite universities and working for their college papers. For more information, please visit www.princeton.edu/sjp.

The ‘me’ generation: self-obsession with social media

Ashley Jones-Quaidoo
HYATTSVILLE, MD.

GOOD MORNING . . . going out shopping today . . . going to ‘turn up’ tonight”—this is what I see as I scroll through my Twitter timeline almost everyday.

Growing up in the 21st century, a lot has changed. Because of technology, we have become too obsessed with our own lives, and in the process we have lost a broader sense of responsibility to the rest of the world.

In the last 10 years, social media has gained momentum. The famous phrases “What’s on your mind?” or “Compose new tweet” have become a phenomenon, often leading people to babble on about themselves. Conversations that take place

on social media vary, but far too many of them have one crucial thing in common: the subject of focus is always “me” and what it is that “I” want or need.

People want to talk about the color of their hair and the new shoes they’re going to buy once they get paid. Meanwhile, there is the constant competition to gain followers on Twitter and likes on Instagram. Social media—Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram—is promoting narcissistic values in our society.

As a generation, we live exclusively in the present. We fail to think about our future and we forget about our past. I can guarantee you that as I am typing this, someone is tweeting about what has happened to them or how she’s feeling at the moment. But what about our history? What about our future? Do we care?

Learning about history helps

us realize just how frivolous our own trivial problems are. Yet history is being crowded out as we increasingly focus on the present—and on ourselves.

Don’t get me wrong, we are teenagers. Talking about trivial, personal things is normal and sometimes we all need “me” time. There’s nothing wrong with using Facebook or Twitter to debate whether the Redskins or the Cowboys are better (though we all know the answer to that one—Cowboys!). But imagine how much more meaning our lives will have if we pay a bit more attention to the rest of the world.

We need to spend less time posting and tweeting about ourselves and more time doing other things—like reading. Granted, with the fast-paced lives we live, it can be hard to pick up a book and read. Last week, I listened to Jeff Nunokawa, an English

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*As a generation,  
we live exclusively  
in the present.  
We fail to think  
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and we forget  
about our past.*

~~~~~

professor at Princeton University. Nunokawa made an interesting point: He emphasized our rush—our rush to get things done, our rush to be here and there, our rush that hinders our mind. “I urge you to just slow down and take a moment to read, even if it’s just a paragraph,” Nunokawa told SJP students. “Just read.”

Reading and learning is fundamental: It prevents us from forgetting about the rest of the world. I challenge everyone not just to read more, but to become active members of society. Volunteer in organizations that you care about and dedicate yourself to an issue that is meaningful to you. Complain a bit less when things don’t go your way—and don’t complain about politicians not doing their jobs or the lack of resources in our communities if instead of using your voice to talk about politics, you are using it to talk about yourself. We must stop the obsession with ourselves. It is time for us to become responsible for our world and start to care because at the end of the day, we have to live here. And we will have to deal with the ramifications that come with the obsession over “me.”

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Snowden’s actions undermine safety

Jingwei Zhang
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EVER SINCE Edward Snowden leaked evidence of U.S. spying programs, the world has been divided on the issue of whether he is a hero or a traitor. The U.S. government wants to prosecute Snowden as a traitor. Meanwhile, American and international public opinion is divided, but the world public tends to favor Snowden’s side.

I believe that Snowden is a traitor for exposing the fact that the United States hacked into the agencies and institutions of other countries. In essence, U.S. spying on foreign countries only complicates international relations in an era when the world is so interconnected that foreign relations are critical to a country’s standing.

Snowden revealed that the NSA hacked into the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Tsinghua University. The NSA was also spying on foreign phone companies. A few months prior, the U.S. had accused China of hacking into the U.S. government. Now, thanks to Snowden, it was clear that the U.S. was guilty of hypocrisy. And the Chinese public knows it—worsening Chinese-American relations.

After Snowden arrived in Russia, the United States demanded that Moscow extradite Snowden. Instead, Russia granted Snowden asylum. The United States ex-

pressed “fury” at Russia, and Obama subsequently canceled a meeting with Putin. In



response, the Kremlin replied that it was “disappointed.” Prior to the Snowden inci-

dent, the United States and Russia had already disagreed recently on two critical international issues: Iran’s nuclear weapons program and Syria’s civil war. The United States and Russia do not have a strong relationship, and problem after problem only serves to worsen the relationship.

Snowden supporters claim that he is a hero for exposing spying programs so the government will not abuse its authority so severely. However, the spy programs were created in order to protect citizens from terrorists and other dangers. For example, NSA programs had contributed, in one way or another, to exposing the recent Al Qaeda plans for massive attacks on Yemen. As Obama himself has said, there cannot be both 100 percent privacy and security.

But Snowden didn’t just harm our security by exposing a valuable anti-terrorism program. He also harmed our security by damaging our standing with other countries, including long-standing allies. Anything that needlessly increases tensions between the U.S. and other countries has the potential to undermine world stability—and our safety.

History shows that in the years preceding a global conflict such as World War I and World War II, diplomatic relations were at a low. Think about the state of diplomatic relations after what Snowden did before simply calling Snowden a hero.

ILLUSTRATION BY DAISY GOMEZ :: THE PRINCETON SUMMER JOURNAL

Growing up in the mushroom capital

Christian Cordova-Pedroza
LANDENBERG, PA.

LIKE MOST great inventions, Kennett Square was an accidental success. In the late 19th century, European entrepreneur William Swayne traveled to Kennett Square, a small farming region west of Philadelphia, with the intention of cultivating carnations on raised platforms in his greenhouse. In the vacant space below the flowers, he decided to grow mushrooms. Swayne’s initial efforts were successful, so he built the first mushroom house in Kennett Square. As mushroom consumption increased and more markets opened near major ports and cities, the mushroom industry in Kennett boomed—and the town became the mushroom capital of the world.

When I came to the Princeton Summer Journalism Program, not many people knew of Kennett Square, much less its role in the mushroom business. When my counselors at camp joked about it, I realized that I wasn’t in Kennett Square anymore.

In the past hundred years, Kennett’s mushroom production has grown exponentially. Swayne’s original mushroom house multiplied and Kennett’s small trade grew into a multi-million dollar industry.

For the past 100 years, Kennett Square has held an annual mushroom festival with mushroom exhibitions, farm tours, and growers’ demonstrations to celebrate the town’s unique history. Each year, when I visit the mushroom festival, I like to walk down Kennett’s main street and take note of all the intricate exhibits. Local bands and artists come together on this day to bring the community closer. And then, of course, there is the cuisine.

While all of Kennett’s mushroom dishes are great—you can try soups and burgers and quiches, among others—the best of all is Kennett’s homemade mushroom ice cream. I recommend it to all who visit. Its savory taste is one that you’ll only find in the mushroom capital in the world, but it’s distinctive: You’ll have to try it for yourself and form your own opinion.

Some of the revenue generated from the mushroom festival is distributed to 41 local non-profit organizations dedicated to making Kennett Square a more lively and better place. Last year, a total of about \$65,000 was awarded.

But more than just a vehicle for financial success, the mushroom business is also something that links the community together. A large part of the community is directly tied with the mushroom business; our shared culture unites us because the citizens feel that they are part of something greater.

My own father is a mushroom cultivator who has taught me much about the how the mushroom business actually works. As a teenager, he came a long way from his small rural town in Toluca, Mexico. He traveled to Kennett Square in search of his dream to give his children the life he never had. My father had a friend who worked in the mushroom industry and helped him find a job. Once he had established himself financially, he brought along my mother, who gave birth to me a few months later. As a child, I found his work fascinating because it was so different from the typical jobs I heard about in school.

The mushroom festival might seem like a simple, small town American tradition, but the connection to the mushroom culture in my hometown helped us bridge larger cultural divides.

A questionable election in South Korea

Kathy Kang
CAMARILLO, CALIF.

DEMOCRACY IS dead,” said Xi Young Yun, a 25-year-old college student representing University Student Protectors of Democracy during a press conference last month. “We can’t believe that we are experiencing events similar to those that happened under military dictatorship in the 70s, in 2013.”

On a rainy night late last month, more than 25,000 people gathered in Seoul City Hall Square to protest alleged corruption in South Korea’s presidential election. The election was held in December, yet many Koreans are continuing to protest. In the race, conservative candidate Geun-Hye Park—daughter of in-

famous former dictator Jung-Hee Park—defeated left-wing human rights lawyer Jae-In Moon, with 52 percent of the vote. During and after the campaign, Moon’s party, Minju, alleged that the election had been corrupt. Specifically, it raised the question of whether Korea’s National Intelligence Service engaged in propaganda on behalf of the right-wing candidate. (NIS agents were accused of leaving opinionated comments denigrating Moon on websites; the agency denies that this happened.)

Despite the fact that thousands of people have gathered for candlelight vigils to protest, the issue has received little attention in the mainstream South Korean press. That could be because many South Korean news organizations are close to the government.

Unfortunately, the issue has also been mostly ignored by the international media. The New

York Times has reported on the controversy, but overall, there has been far too little coverage in the United States. As a result, many Americans do not know about the allegations.

The NIS’ alleged propaganda during the campaign is not the only fraud people suspect: Through Twitter, Facebook and other social networks, people commented about alleged fraud during the voting itself.

“As democracy has spread, so has the role of elections as the means to establish legitimate government,” the United Nations website states, adding that “the electoral process should adhere to obligations and commitments outlined in international human rights instruments.”

We all have a responsibility to draw attention to situations where this isn’t happening. When your neighbor’s house is on fire,

it is your responsibility to help those in need—which is why the United States, the leader of the democratic world, must put pressure on the South Korean government to thoroughly address these allegations of electoral fraud.

True, Washington is a close ally of South Korea; it views the country as a key partner in security and technology. Yet the Obama administration must give serious attention not just to the Korean government, but to the voices of those South Koreans who believe the last election was corrupt. By speaking out forcefully on this issue, the U.S. government would be helping the description of South Korea on Wikipedia to become closer to the truth: “Although South Korea experienced a series of military dictatorships from the 1960s up until the 1980s, it has since developed into a successful liberal democracy.”

Learning from Portugal’s drug policy

Bianca Uribe
NEW YORK, N.Y.

BACK IN the 1800s, drugs like heroin and cocaine were not only legal, but could be purchased out of the Sears catalog. At the time, the public was not aware of the drugs’ adverse effects, and some parents gave their teething children opium for pain. A common treatment for lethargy was a form of liquid cocaine called “Coca Wine.”

But in 1970, President Richard Nixon began the country’s “war on drugs” by pressing Congress to pass the Controlled Substances Act, which regulates the manufacture, importation, possession, distribution and use of certain substances.

The modern-day result of the CSA is unacceptable. Drug use continues largely unaffected after years of “war.” In 2011, more than 330,000 people were in prison for drug-related offenses, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice. Meanwhile, billions of taxpayer dollars are spent annually on drug prosecution of individuals who frequently turn into repeat offenders.

The CSA is an obsolete collec-

tion of laws that favors draconian enforcement over treatment and research. It should be modified to legalize possession of small quantities of drugs, and to prioritize drug treatment for low-level offenders. Portugal’s drug laws provide a good example for what U.S. drug policy should be.

After Portugal escaped military dictatorship in 1974, the country quickly devolved into a drug epidemic, with the government scrambling to increase funding for drug prosecutions as the number of addicts continued to grow.

Recognizing that a policy of traditional enforcement was not working, in 2001 the Portuguese government opted for a more novel approach, legalizing possession of quantities of drugs consistent with individual use. Now, people in Portugal can lawfully walk down the streets of Lisbon with about a gram of

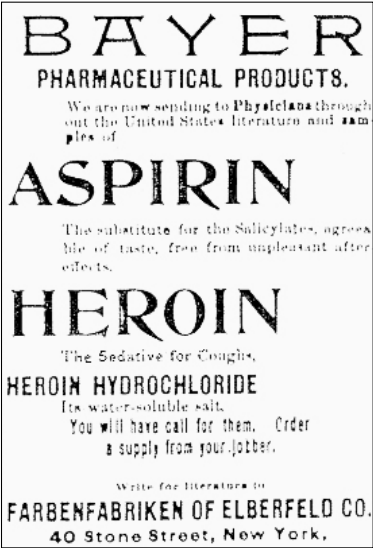
heroin and five grams of hashish.

In lieu of handcuffs, Portuguese authorities often provide addicts with rehab programs, and help former drug dealers to reintegrate into society once treatment is complete.

The results have been dramatic. According to the Scientific American, five years after Portugal’s partial decriminalization, drug overdoses plummeted and annual HIV infections from dirty needles fell by more than 70 percent.

The United States is obviously not Portugal, and to be sure, there are problems with the Portuguese approach to drug policy. Not prosecuting users deprives police of leverage that investigators have historically used to “persuade” addicts to become cooperating witnesses against higher-level drug dealers. And permitting wide-scale drug use runs the risk of only increasing a country’s drug problems while enriching drug traffickers and distributors, who will profit from the broader customer base.

However, shifting law enforcement officials’ attention from drug users to drug dealers may finally lead to police focusing on the really dangerous people: the people who supply both the drugs and the



EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Encourage students to aim high

Allyson Chavez
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

PEOPLE LIKE you don't go to schools like those," my guidance counselor told me when I shared with her my dream of applying to Harvard. I was already reluctant to admit that I wanted to attend a top school, and my counselor's response only further discouraged me from dreaming big.

Growing up in East Harlem, N.Y., I had always wanted to attend an elite college. But in that conversation with my counselor, my dream nearly evaporated as the reality of my surroundings set in.

Unfortunately, my problem is not unique. Across the nation, highly qualified low-income students are disproportionately not applying to top schools, according to research at the Brookings Institute. Top colleges with large endowments fail to communicate with low-income students about the amount of financial aid available to them. This causes these students to use community colleges and other public institutions as an economic safe haven.

But I believe the main issue lies within high schools in low-income areas. At my school, the college readiness—how prepared high school students are to succeed in college—stands at 6.5 percent of the graduating class, according to SchoolBook.

When high-achieving qualified students find themselves in such a low-achieving environment, those students are thwarted from applying to elite schools because they are held to the low standards of the environment they've grown up in.

In the weeks after the conversation with my counselor, I asked myself what was wrong with me. Then I realized that I was not the problem.

As I look around my school, I see teachers who are demoralized and frustrated after decades of being forced to teach to the test—in our case, Regents exams that don't prepare students for college. Their passion for teaching has been squeezed out of them by the education system, and some are even resentful of high-achieving students.

When students lack the support system that they need to succeed, they are more likely to lose confidence in themselves. As a result, students who strive to attend an elite school are perceived as patronizing and elitist.

When high schools in low-income areas knowingly hinder their high-performing students and prevent them from meeting their full potential, to me this qualifies as structural violence.

To be sure, there are outstanding teachers who try to support their students' dreams. But they are ostracized, thwarted by the system and sometimes even overshadowed by the other teachers in their school.

I was fortunate to be able to catch a glimpse of a different environment—the kind of environment that I had been deprived of until then. During my sophomore year, an organization called Girls Inc. offered to take me to visit a number of schools including Harvard. I trembled and felt my stomach drop to the floor as I held the permission slip—I was actually going to visit the place I had dreamt about so often. In the days leading up to the trip, I grew increasingly anxious.

When we arrived, I felt an electric vibe pass through me. I was actually walking toward Harvard Yard. The atmosphere, the architecture, the small city feel, the academics—it was all perfect. I made my way to the bookstore and picked up a sweatshirt from the John F. Kennedy School of Government. I remember looking at the price tag and thinking to myself, "60 bucks?" I had only \$50, but my trip supervisors gave me the rest of the money, saying, "You should have this, for inspiration and as a reminder."

In that moment, I felt complete awe. I was able to envision myself in an environment that, instead of pulling me down, wanted to help me grow. My dream was tangible and finally within my grasp.

Soda ban would address obesity

Mofida Abdelmageed
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

NEW YORK City is sometimes referred to as a "fat," rather than "fit," city. In 2012, Mayor Michael Bloomberg supported a plan to ban the sale of sodas and other sugary beverages in sizes larger than 16 ounces in restaurants and other eateries. On July 30, however, a state appeals court rejected his plan, saying that he had overstepped his authority.

Some New Yorkers applauded the appeals court's decision, but they do not understand the major health consequences that occur after continuously drinking soda for long periods of time. Bloomberg's care and concern for his people is important, and his goal was to decrease obesity rates in New York. "Keep in mind, we're trying to save the lives of these kids," he said earlier this year.

According to a 2011 study by the American Diabetes Association, 25.8 million children and adults have diabetes in the United States. 18.8 million people

have been diagnosed with diabetes, with another 7 million undiagnosed. In addition, 79 million people have prediabetes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 70 percent of children between five and 17 years old are obese. Among adults over 20, that

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*The proposed ban ...
would have helped people
avoid an unhealthy life.*
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number sits at 35.9 percent. This is a dramatic increase from 2000, when numbers for children and adult obesity both hovered around 30 percent.

With the ban, Bloomberg hoped obesity rates in New York would decrease. New York state is ranked as number 7 for obesity and number 13 for youth diabetes among the 50 states. The children are the most at-risk because they are

often following their parent's example. Bloomberg also banned soda and sugary drinks from schools to promote healthy eating and drinking for children.

Some people believe they should be able to eat and drink as they please. And others prefer unhealthy food and drinks because these products are often cheaper.

These people have some reasonable points, but there is significant scientific information that supports the fact that sugary drinks and unhealthy food can lead to major health problems. Obesity rates are constantly increasing, and it can lead to kidney problems, heart disease, high blood pressure and many other major health issues. People who eat and drink poorly are also more likely to develop diabetes. If the ban were allowed to take effect, it could help people avoid these health complications.

In addition, some people do not understand how expensive medical bills can be. Eating and drinking unhealthy foods and drinks can complicate an individual's life. The proposed ban would not have taken away freedom; rather it would have helped people avoid an unhealthy life.



ILLUSTRATION BY DAISY GOMEZ

Higher standards needed in schools

Shemaiah Clarke
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

EVER SINCE moving to the United States from Trinidad and Tobago, I have been struck by how lenient American teachers are. In Trinidad and Tobago, where I lived until June 2012, there are high standards and students are expected to excel in school. Teachers assume an assertive role and constantly encourage students to work harder.

According to the Espoir International Youth Program, Trinidad and Tobago is considered "one of the most educated countries in the world." In my experience, students there graduate from high school groomed for entrepreneurship because of the rigorous teaching system.

American teachers, in contrast to their counterparts

in Trinidad and Tobago, tend to just reward their students for simply trying and rarely insist that they push themselves. The result is an apathetic mindset among students that stunts academic growth. Too many teachers allow students to settle for an average standard, and don't encourage them to reach the heights that are accessible to them.

It isn't just teachers who are to blame. American public education is built around standardized testing, and these tests are not intellectually challenging. Tests in the United States tend to rely more heavily on multiple choice, while tests in Trinidad and Tobago lean more toward open-ended questions—and are more difficult as a result.

Journalist Chris Hedges has described American multiple-choice tests this way: "These tests produce men and women who are just literate and numerate enough to perform basic functions and service jobs."

Of course, higher expectations could lead to students falling through the cracks in the education system and could result in a significant number of dropouts per year in high schools. To prevent this, the United States must devote more money and resources to education—more computers, more books, more financial incentives for teachers.

But the most important reform America could make would be to adopt a more rigorous education system. Teachers should be trained not to acknowledge "no" as an answer from a student but instead encourage them to work harder and more diligently.

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Programming our way to success in tomorrow's society

Erick Arzate
CHICAGO, ILL.

ACCORDING TO News-Media Trend Watch, an average 18- and 19-year-old American spends more than 40 hours per week online, about the time commitment of a typical full-time job. In addition, by the year 2014 more than 77 percent of the world's population will be active Internet users.

These numbers demand our attention. In today's society, everyone depends on computers for nearly every facet of his or her life. Yet the average American has no idea how a computer works. Only 10 percent of schools even offer computer science courses—something that has to change if we are to meet the demands of tomorrow's economy.

In February, Code.org released a video that embraced the idea that everyone should learn how to code. Featuring spokespeople from all walks of life—from Mark Zuckerberg to Bill Gates, will.i.am to Chris Bosh—the video received over 10.5 million views.

The founder of Code.org wrote in USA Today that while only 2 percent of our students today learn to code, tripling that percentage could add \$500 billion to the economy.

Of course, not every school will be able to offer these courses because of a lack of funding. Over the past 60 years, local funding

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for schools has decreased by 25 percent, according to the Federal Education Budget Project.

But if we invest in computer education, it will generate a positive impact on our economy over the long run. This worthwhile investment will ensure that our nation stays competitive and continues to be a leader in science and innovation for generations to come.

In Code.org's viral video, the site promoted its free online program to help students learn to code. There are also volunteer programs like Computers for Classroom, which has been donating computers to schools since 1991.

Through such programs, we can work toward a world where all of humanity is actually knowledgeable about the devices that their lives revolve around, and where technology is an industry that anyone can get involved in.

PERSONAL NARRATIVES

Growing up after my mother’s death

Kina Carney
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

THE AFTERNOON before she died, I stood at my mother’s hospital bedside with my grandma. I looked at all the tubes and machines that enveloped her body. I heard the ringing of the feeding machine. I saw the paleness of her face. The smell of the IVs made me run from the room, into the waiting arms of my grandma. That night, I heard my older brother crying. I ran to the top of the stairs to see what was wrong. I’d never seen him cry before.

After my mother died, I went to live with my grandma. My brother, who was 18, left to figure out his life on his own. My relation-

ship with my grandma and my dad—who was married to, and had a child with, another woman—became tense. When I was a child, my mom would treat me like an adult, sitting me down and talking things out. But my dad and grandma liked to argue. They often got very loud. I wasn’t used to the way they raised children, and I had to grow up quickly.

For the first couple of years, it was my dad’s responsibility to help me with my homework. But when I started the ninth grade, I stopped working with him. I was tired of my grandmother constantly berating me. I learned to take care of myself because I didn’t want to rely on my grandmother. For example, I began to cook for myself and take myself shopping to avoid conflict with her.

At that point, I learned that my brother was the only person who knew who I really was. We share my mother’s kind and calm attitude. There are times when I want to give up on my family, but he reminds me of the morals our mother instilled in us, which keeps me moving. My brother constantly reminds me that our mom would have been really proud of me and she would want me to be myself. This helps me continue even though I have many disagreements with my grandmother and my father.

Despite our differences, I am thankful that I have my father and grandmother in my life; some kids do not have family members who are willing to take care of them after losing a parent. People deal with these situations in different ways, and my

way was to adjust to my new life and ultimately grow as a person. This transition made me work harder, expand my intellectual horizons and become extremely independent and responsible.

Gandhi once said, “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” I believe my mother and brother both embody this phrase. Soon, my brother encouraged me to forgive the people who were there for me. After forgiving them, I was able to mold a whole new relationship with them, which involved me understanding their viewpoints and why they were hard on me. Sometimes you have to be hard on the people whom you want to succeed. Now that I am older, I am very thankful for their actions, and my experiences with them are still helping me achieve my goals.

Losing a home, gaining a perspective

Jhazalyn Prince
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

MY STOMACH clenched painfully as I opened the kitchen cabinet. Day by day, the contents continued to dwindle. I grabbed a Cup Noodles for the third time that day. It was the last package.

I was 13 when my parents separated. My brother, my mother and I had to leave our apartment and move to my grandmother’s apartment building. But in 2012, my mother lost her job, and we were evicted when we came up short on our rent. At age 16, I found myself homeless, embarrassed and angry—let down by my family.

My father had previously shown

me that a good father could make you laugh, feel protected and provide financial stability, but here he proved unreliable. My grandmother and I had shared a special bond since I was a child. She would twist my thick hair in cute matching hair accessories and bundle me up to take me anywhere she went. I longed for the safety of her apartment, but she had told me she couldn’t take me in.

There were reasons, but they all just seemed like excuses. My heart beat savagely against the inner cage of my chest. My mind boiled with confusion as I considered my new reality.

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I believed that “homeless” was a dirty man on the streets radiating with a pungent odor ... But when I looked around the shelter and experienced this new world, I came to realize the truth was far more complex.

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Lauren Smith
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

H i. My name is Lauren. You probably don’t know me or ever will, but I hope what I have to say to you will have an impact on you, maybe even change your life.

I’m the girl in class who raised her hand when the teacher asked a question. I got good grades, participated in school clubs, and make friends with almost everyone. I never get in trouble. I have never done drugs or gotten drunk. I am what you might call a “goody-goody.”

Even with this “perfect” life, I harbored a deep emotional pain. I hated myself. My pain was on the inside, invisible to the world. I felt the need to please everyone and to make everyone like me. I felt absolutely worthless when I did not succeed. I often thought, “Who can love me? I always mess things up.”

I had always thought about suicide. I wondered if anyone would care if I just disappeared. I wondered if my parents, who I know love me dearly, would have been somewhat relieved by my absence. Some nights when I would sit in my bed at night and cry, I would ask the Lord if I could die.

This is how I lived my life for as long as I can remember. I walked around, never feeling pretty enough, smart enough, or good enough for anyone.

Around the time I was 12, though, something changed. I was listening to Ruben Studdard’s gospel song “I Need an Angel” when the lyrics made me realize that I needed help. I grew up in a Christian household, so I knew about Jesus Christ. I went to church, listened to Christian music, and read my Bible. And yet, I did not know Jesus for myself.

So that night, I decided to finally know God for myself. I was drawn to the fact that he loved me despite my faults—enough to die for me—things that I thought would keep someone from loving me. I realized he had created me with all of his love and care, which helped improve my self-esteem and self-respect.

I’m not saying that my life is all rainbows now. I go through challenges every day. But if you are like me, don’t worry. Even with all the challenges that come with life, I know I can be strong. And when I feel the menacing spirit of depression creeping into my heart, I go back to the scripture closest to my heart, from the Book of Jeremiah: “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans



ILLUSTRATION BY SEMAJ EARL :: THE PRINCETON SUMMER JOURNAL

A new life in a new country

Jingwei Zhang
OAKLAND, CALIF.

AT FIVE years old, I moved thousands of miles away and across an ocean, from a village in the Guangzhou province of China to Oakland, Calif. My parents were farmers who wanted me to have a better life, and they had heard that America was a land of opportunity. But it wasn’t until many years later that I realized the difference between my new home and the world I left behind.

When I visited China as a child, I cared only about flicking marbles and eating LiangFeng, my favorite Chinese desert. Ten years later, I started to understand how poverty was affecting my home village. My older cousin in China devotes himself entirely to his studies, knowing that his household depends on him. Meanwhile, my younger cousin also tries his best, but a 10 percent on an elementary school math test is more typical. Sadly, it is not my family’s lack of talent that is the problem, but the poor environment in which they live. In rural

China, adequate teachers—much less excellent ones—are hard to find. America, however, couldn’t be more different. In ninth grade, I began tutoring middle school students in math and English. By the age of 14, I had learned enough to become a tutor and could earn as much money in one hour as my family in China makes in two or three days. Though I was pleased with my new earnings, I couldn’t help but think about how lucky I was compared to my Chinese relatives. But my sadness only caused me to realize that in order to help those without opportunity around me, I had to obtain a higher education.

There is a Buddhist saying along the lines of “You come to this world empty-handed, and you leave empty-handed.” In other words, no matter how wealthy one becomes, the wealth is meaningless at death. What is important is how one lives one’s life and what legacy one leaves behind.

For me, it is to provide a better life for the generations that follow us, just as my parents have done for me.

Finding my home in the city that never sleeps

Sara Solano
NEW YORK, N.Y.

I WAS 13 years old when my parents announced that we would be moving from our home in the Dominican Republic to New York City. My parents made a bad investment with the family business, and thought that we would have better opportunities in America.

This transition meant the end of gymnastics, cheerleading, art class, and soccer. I had to leave my friends and everything that was important to me. We applied for a visa, and on July 27, 2010, we arrived in New York to embark on a new journey.

I felt uncomfortable in my new home. The winters were long and cold, and I wasn’t used to spending so much of my time indoors. I couldn’t imagine New York City ever feeling like home.

I entered Gregorio Lupero High School that September. It was a stressful situation, because I didn’t speak any English. I

only knew how to count to 10, and the phrase “first-time resident”—a phrase my aunt had taught me to help navigate the airport.

I later found out that my high school wasn’t like most other high schools. I entered the “transitional-bilingual system,” which helps recent immigrants transition into English language education. My insecurity and frustration increased. I felt that attending a bilingual school meant I would never be able to rid myself of the “recently arrived foreigner” label, when all I wanted was to be normal. I wanted to blend in and show that I could catch up with my peers who had been in the United States their whole lives.

Now I realize how many new and unique opportunities New York City offers. I have been able to see places I nev-

er thought I would see. The city also inspires me artistically; I’ve fed my passion for painting and drawing through my personal experience of frustration and sadness. Every time I go to Central Park, I feel that freedom of expression. Working as an intern at the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families has also helped me connect with people from similar backgrounds, which has made me feel more at home.

I know that my feelings of insecurity about my accent and relative newness to this country will take time to fade. But I think that those feelings will lead me to work harder everyday, so that I can feel like a Latina who is proud of her culture and background.

Now, I really cannot imagine living anywhere other than New York.

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I know that my feelings of insecurity ... will take time to fade. But I think that those feelings will lead me to work harder everyday ...

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Confusion from NYC pharmacists amid new Plan B rules

PLAN B
Continued from page 1
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months after the ruling, they have received little or no guidance regarding the change.

Joseph Thomas, a pharmacist at Rite Choice Pharmacy in Brooklyn, said that he found out about the new policy by word of mouth, rather than through a formal notification from the FDA or Teva. “The state and federal government should be more clear . . . about informing pharmacies and sending updated information regarding the new regulation,” he said.

Packaging Problems
SOME PHARMACISTS SAID they believed that the duty to clarify the rules regarding Plan B One-Step should fall upon the manufacturer, Teva, which has begun shipping Plan B One-Step with new labeling that will allow it to be sold “in aisle” (meaning not behind a pharmacist’s counter).

But many of the pharmacists interviewed said they had not yet begun to receive the newly packaged pills. They continued to sell Plan B One-Step with the old packag-

ing and were still following the original sales restrictions that are printed on the labels themselves.

At a Rite Aid in Queens, there was an empty space on the shelf where Plan B One-Step was usually stocked. Pharmacist Wai Yin Mak explained that there were no Plan B One-Step pills on the shelves because the store had not yet received any with the updated labels.

When asked about the availability of the newly packaged Plan B One-Step pills, Teva spokeswoman Denise Bradley said in an email that they were “widely available in-aisle at major national retailers.”

Bradley said that Teva worked “in partnership with pharmacies to ensure that they have up-to-date information about when to expect the new packaging and to provide clarification regarding the shelving status.”

However, Bradley conceded that other retailers may be continuing to sell the originally labeled pill. “[T]he timing of when this product will no longer be available may vary across retailers,” she said.

According to the FDA, the

manufacturer should resolve any confusion regarding the rules for Plan B One-Step. “Manufacturers are responsible [for] providing stores with appropriately labeled product,” FDA spokeswoman Erica Jefferson said in an email.

Dazed and Confused
THE LACK OF guidance from the FDA and Teva has left many of the pharmacists who were interviewed confused about when they are permitted to sell the drug, how the labeling affects the sales rules, and to whom they should be selling.

“I have no idea. They change it all the time. It’s hard to keep up with it,” said Ronald Zenger of Mercedes Pharmacy in the Bronx when asked about the rules on who can buy Plan B One-Step.

Pharmacists at smaller stores were particularly vulnerable to this uncertainty.

Of the 35 smaller pharmacies visited by the Summer Journal, most had pills only with the old packaging, and many of the pharmacists at those stores said they were unsure when the newly labeled shipments would arrive. Indeed, pharmacists in only six of those smaller

stores knew about the change in policy regarding Plan B One-Step, and only four were strictly following it.

In the Bronx, Alexandros Argyris from Pharmore Pharmacy said, “Now they’re saying 15. I’ve seen other documents saying it’s 17 years old. I’m not sure that it’s accurate.”

“Everything is in limbo. I haven’t even seen the Plan B script as yet,” Argyris added.

Confusion was not limited to labeling for the new packages. Ana Nunez of Rite Choice Pharmacy in the Bronx incorrectly said that to obtain the pill, “You have to be accompanied by a female if you’re a male, and she has to have ID.”

By comparison, out of 14 pharmacists interviewed at big-chain pharmacies, 10 were familiar with the new point-of-sale policy regarding Plan B One-Step, and seven were actively selling the pill under the new rules.

Still, not even all the large-chain pharmacies were up-to-date on the new policy regarding Plan B One-Step.

“As far as we’re concerned here, you’ve got to be 18 because we haven’t seen the other one on paper [the actual

text of the new regulation],” said Faye Godwin, a pharmacist at a CVS in the Bronx.

In contrast, a pharmacist at a Brooklyn Walgreens, who declined to give his name because he said he was not authorized to be quoted in the newspaper, said that his corporate headquarters sent out frequent updates on their medications, including Plan B One-Step, and that his store was sold out of the newly packaged medication, which had been made available in-aisle.

Source of Discontent
WHILE THE LEVEL OF awareness regarding the new Plan B One-Step sales policy varied from pharmacy to pharmacy, so did the pharmacists’ personal views. Of the 32 pharmacists who agreed to comment on their personal opinion regarding making Plan B One-Step more widely available, 20 said they viewed the change negatively.

One pharmacist at Town Drug Pharmacy in Manhattan said he believes that the change in Plan B One-Step’s point-of-sale rules will increase the chances of the drug being abused. He said that the FDA should have kept the

age restriction. He planned to wait until his inventory “phases out” to get the new packaging.

At County Pharmacy in Brooklyn, a pharmacist who declined to give his name said that he was personally against the change, which he said “sucked.” He added that he had called the FDA to complain.

“I could think of 50 to 100 medications that were safer than Plan B One-Step that currently were not over the counter,” he said. That pharmacist said that despite the FDA’s newly released policy, he would continue to demand identification before dispensing Plan B One-Step.

Opie Malla, a pharmacist from a Rite Aid in Queens, said that she believed that the increased availability of Plan B One-Step was part of an effort to lower health care costs, but that it would promote unsafe sex and lead to more people contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

Still, the new policy had some supporters. “Women should be able to buy it, because it’s their choice,” said Lenny, a pharmacist at Sugar Hill Pharmacy in Manhattan who declined to give his last name.

Tough times for internships

JOURNALISM
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internship otherwise.

“It was a concern how I was going to support myself,” said Celia Bever, an unpaid intern at Seattle Met magazine who is on financial aid. When a \$4,000 grant came through from her school, the University of Chicago, she was able to take the position. “I probably would not have done it if I didn’t get the grant. I wouldn’t want to ask my parents to cover it.”

Even students who manage to find paid internships say the compensation isn’t always enough to support themselves, especially if the internship is in a different city. Lauren Carroll, a Duke University student interning at The Tampa Bay Times, is one of the few students on financial aid polled who landed a paid internship. She also got a grant to pay for the car rental she needed for her reporting trips—which was necessary because her \$11.25 per hour wage wouldn’t have been enough to get her through the summer. “I would not actually be able to do this internship without this grant,” she said.

For students in unpaid internships who aren’t on financial aid, their families can be a key source of support. Daniel Greenberg, a student at Wesleyan, is an unpaid intern at The West Roxbury Transcript who gets by with help from his parents. “The com-

pany isn’t wealthy enough,” he explained, when asked why he wasn’t being paid.

The problem isn’t that editors don’t want to pay their interns. It’s often that they can’t. “I would prefer to be able to pay my interns, but if we had paid internships I don’t think we’d be able to afford an internship program. Our budget is very tight,” said Mike Madden, editor of the Washington City Paper. “Since I’ve been there, we’ve cut several full-time staff writing positions.”

Others, like Pittsburgh Post-Gazette editor David Shribman, said they were working with schools to find sources of compensation for their interns. “We have pioneered this program to make sure interns of any income can get paid,” he said. (Disclosure: One of the Summer Journalism Program’s directors currently edits Newsweek, which does not pay its interns. The Summer Journalism Program was founded 12 years ago in part to combat the lack of diversity in media.)

The editors were sympathetic to unpaid interns. “Even at \$10 an hour, it’s difficult to make it in a major city like New York or Washington. It can be done by living in a group house, eating Ramen noodles—but it’s difficult, no question, and it’s much easier if you have rich parents to pay your rent for you,” said Ryan Grim, The Huffington Post’s Washington bureau chief.

Recent court challenges could change the practice of

not paying interns. In June, a federal judge in Manhattan ruled that it was unlawful to withhold compensation from two production interns on the movie “Black Swan” who answered phones and fetched coffee. In the wake of that ruling, former interns for Condé Nast and Gawker Media also filed suit. Decisions on these cases may help shift the way news organizations view their summer programs.

“We need to change . . . the way people think about it. If everyone thought, ‘Gee if you have an intern, you need to pay them,’ then you wouldn’t have places not paying interns,” Madden said. “We’re reducing the pool of potential interns who can work with us and we’re reducing the pool of places potential interns from low-income backgrounds can spend their summers working.”

Grim, for his part, thinks progress is being made. The recent lawsuits filed by former interns—coupled with a major project by the non-profit journalistic institution ProPublica on the subject—have inspired some media companies to reconsider the fairness of their own unpaid internship programs. Still, Grim worries that potential job candidates are being left behind because internships are open to only the most financially privileged. “The field is dominated by Ivy League, private school, children of wealthy parents,” he said, “and that’s a problem.”

Warrington, Groves start nonprofit based on Montessori school system

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Montessori school located in Princeton. The Montessori schools are based in different cities, but they all have the same mission and vision. Students work for uninterrupted blocks of time, and are allowed to move around their classrooms freely.

Warrington and Groves’ original business idea was to target pre-K to fifth grade black male students through the Freestyle Montessori Urban Academy, a program that would start in the summer of 2014. The students would continue having bi-weekly Saturday classes through the school year and would have the opportunity to cover topics that are not included in their regular curriculums.

To fund the program, Warrington, Groves and their partners applied to the Black Male Achievement Fellowship, a program established by the Open Society Foundation and Echoing Green. For 18 months, the program provides financial and technical assistance to different startups that are seeking to address black male achievement.

Just one problem: Their application was rejected. Resolved to find funding, they

applied and were accepted to the Keller Center’s eLab Summer Accelerator Program, a 10-week Princeton University program that serves as a platform for student entrepreneurs.

During the program, students are provided with training sessions and mentors that help them create a successful business. By the end of the summer, the nine groups participating in the program will have to present their ideas to an audience of venture capitalists and entrepreneurs. The Freestyle Montessori Urban Academy is the only one with an explicitly social mission.

The founders of the program agree that the earlier the students start learning, the easier it is for them to succeed. Based on his experience as a past Montessori student, Groves said that “a student would not be treated as a grade but as person.”

Added Warrington, “The program will supplement what the students learn at school.”

Despite the societal goals of the program, FMUA will charge tuition. Warrington and Groves are hoping to offer financial aid for students who cannot afford the tuition, so that those students can have access to resources that otherwise they would not have. They are develop-

ing relationships with different associations that can help support the program and make enrollment more accessible.

“Parents will be assured that they will not pay any more than they can afford,” Warrington said.

The program has also recently been expanded. It’s not just targeting black males anymore but different demographics.

Every day is a new adventure for Groves and Warrington.

“We don’t have a typical day. Sometimes we might be budgeting, and the next day we would be writing the mission statement or choosing the logo,” Groves said.

In about five years, they would like to run the program at full capacity in cities like Princeton and Trenton. Their goal is that the students will go back to their community and become role models.

“We receive a lot of support, especially from our parents,” said Groves, who has been heavily influenced by his parents’ social work. Groves’ mother is a judge and his father is a lawyer—they have spent their career helping others.

Groves and Warrington hope their students at FMUA will be inspired to do the same.

FMUA school to address poverty in America

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With black and Latino students accounting for the majority of dropouts in the United States, the founders wanted to improve education for low-income and minority students in America.

The FMUA founders decided to model their solution after the approach of the Montessori school system, which encourages independent learning. Groves and Warrington believed the Montessori school system is critical to increasing school retention rates. Both had received Montessori educations and were aware of the costs of such an education. But they also believed that it should not be absent from the lives of low-income minority students.

FMUA founders hope that exposing kids to a school environment where creativity and independence is stressed will foster in them a thirst for knowledge. Students will want to stay in school because “Montessori makes learning fun,” as Warrington said.

FMUA has developed an eight-week summer program supplemented with bi-weekly Saturday classes during the academic year. Additionally, teachers will meet with parents once a week to encourage them to implement Montessori practices in the household.

FMUA is supported by The Keller Center’s eLab Summer Accelerator Program, a program dedicated to helping aspiring entrepreneurs create start-up companies. FMUA is the first nonprofit venture supported by eLab.

Entrepreneurs to launch schools in urban areas

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tunities in urban areas.

Their initiative is being supported by the Keller Center’s eLab Summer Accelerator Program, a 10-week Princeton University program that serves as a platform for student entrepreneurs. It provides funding, workspace and mentorship to help students develop businesses. Participants in the program are chosen through an intensive application process. Warrington and Groves will present their ideas to a group of investors and innovators on Wednesday, and they hope to subsequently make this project into their full-time careers.

Both men, now 22, attended Montessori schools during their elementary years, Greg in his native Ohio, and Jason

in Lower Merion, an affluent town near Philadelphia. Asked how they would identify their financial standing, they described it as “middle income.” Groves’ father is a lawyer, and his mother is a judge. Warrington’s father is a civil rights lawyer, and his mother is the CEO of the Girl Scouts of Greater New York.

“Montessori stresses independence,” Warrington said. The philosophy aims to give students what he calls “drive.” Montessori schools’ style of teaching greatly differs from traditional methods. It allows students to focus on their own personal interests and study them with an independence not seen in most public school classrooms. Groves described the Montessori learning environment as being “more like a living room than a classroom.”

Though their program will be open to all races and gen-

ders, it will be located in urban areas, and will focus on minorities. (Warrington and Groves are both black.) Freestyle Montessori will start off as a summer program and also will offer Saturday classes year-round, but Groves and Warrington hope to start a full-fledged network of Montessori charter schools sometime in the future. The program will target students in pre-K through sixth grade.

Groves in particular, who holds a sociology degree with a minor in African-American studies, spoke passionately about education. He mentioned the 40 percent graduation rate among black men in Ohio, and growing up in an area where he lived directly between “the haves and the have-nots.”

According to the Schott Foundation, from 2009 to 2010 only 52 percent of black males and 58 percent of males gradu-

ated from high school in the U.S., compared to 78 percent of white males. In New Jersey, the rate was 66 percent among Latino men and 63 percent among black men, but 90 percent among white men.

Warrington and Groves are jumping in without much prior experience. Both have acted as tutors and mentors, but neither has worked as a teacher. They plan to hire Montessori teachers, who will go through one week of intensive training before the program starts. Tuition will be charged but scholarships will be provided based on need.

The project may seem ambitious for recent college graduates, but Groves and Warrington are determined. Both feel they were given a leg up by attending Montessori schools, and now, Warrington said, they want to “extend the opportunities to others.”

Eagles fall to Pats

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down pass. His final drive included a 13-yard touchdown pass to running back Shane Veeran, giving the Patriots a 14-7 lead near the end of the first quarter.

Vick and Foles each led a touchdown drive. Vick was first up, and his five-play scoring drive ended with a 47-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver DeSean Jackson.

The Eagles' other starting wide receiver, Riley Cooper, who himself has been mired in controversy for his recent use of a racial slur, caught a 19-yard pass in Vick's second and final drive for the night.

Foles also faced pressure when his first possession ended in a turnover. His second possession ended in a touchdown, however. Overall, Vick finished 4 of 5 for 94 yards while Foles completed 5 of 6 passes for 43 yards,

with no touchdowns.

The Eagles also let Matt Barkley, a rookie out of USC, acclimate to the speed of the professional game. Barkley made inaccurate throws throughout the night, finishing 11 of 22.

Making his debut with the New England Patriots was Tim Tebow, who entered after back-up quarterback Ryan Mallett left the game with a head injury in the second quarter. Tebow seemed to do his best when he had the ball in his hands, but when he was asked to throw, he often missed his receivers or held the ball too long. He ended the night 4 of 12 for 55 yards.

In one of the highlights of the evening, former Tampa Bay rusher LeGarrett Blount completed a 51-yard touchdown after reversing his direction twice on the play, in his first game for New England. In the end he led the New England rushers with two touchdowns and 101 yards.



LORENA ALVAREZ :: THE PRINCETON SUMMER JOURNAL

Tom Brady warms up in Philadelphia prior to the Patriots' preseason opener. He finished 7 of 8 for 65 yards, with one touchdown pass.

Brady leads Patriots to win

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head coach. The Eagles had the home field advantage and implemented Kelly's new offensive style, but ultimately fell to the Patriots, 31-22.

After the Patriots took an early lead, the Eagles bounced back to tie the game, 7-7, with a 47-yard touchdown thrown by Michael Vick to wide receiver DeSean Jackson. Vick, who started the game, played in the first quarter and completed four out of five passes, for a total of 94 yards for the Eagles. The Patriots scored again, leading 14-7 at the end of the first quarter.

The Eagles started the second quarter with an 8-yard rush by running back Bryce Brown, evening the score at 14. The Eagles did not score again until the fourth quarter. The Patriots took a huge lead, scoring 17 straight points. Many Eagles fans left during the third quarter.

Near the end of the game, the Eagles tried to make a comeback. Matt Bark-

ley threw a 12-yard pass to wide receiver Greg Salas, who scored a touchdown at the beginning of the fourth quarter, leaving them only nine points behind the Patriots. Eagles fans danced and cheered, with the hope that the Eagles could win.

With 13 seconds left in the game, and the Patriots leading 31-22, the Eagles tried to score one last touchdown. G.J. Kinne threw a 35-yard completion to Salas, putting the Eagles just three yards away from a touchdown. Both teams took time outs, leaving two seconds on the clock. The Eagles ended the game exactly one yard away from a touchdown.

Five quarterbacks played for the Eagles during the game. One of them, Dennis Dixon, implemented Kelly's signature offensive style. This method is designed to reduce reset time between plays, and was a key part of his success as head coach at the University of Oregon.

Dixon, who graduated from Oregon, is certainly familiar with Kelly's method, since Kelly was his college coach.

In Philly, a battle of the quarterbacks

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from Riley Cooper's racist gaffe at a Kenny Chesney concert last month.

But the big question looming over the field: Who would win the battle to be the Eagles' starting quarterback between players Michael Vick and Nick Foles?

Though Philadelphia lost to New England, 31-22, Vick displayed a burning desire to showcase his skills early in the game that paid off with an impressive preseason debut.

The Patriots' potent offense was on display early, as running back Stevan Ridley

rushed up the middle for 62 yards on the second play of the game. Later in the drive, Ridley scored a one-yard touchdown 3:12 into the game to give New England a 7-0 lead. But six minutes later, Eagles quarterback Michael Vick tied the game with a striking 47-yard touchdown pass to DeSean Jackson.

"It just goes to show that when you are on the same page with your teammates and guys who put their time and effort into the game like you, good things can happen," Vick said, according to the Eagles' website.

After replacing Vick in the last half of the first quarter, Foles got off to a rough start, getting sacked and fumbling

the ball right out of the shotgun. Later in the game, he earned a first down with a 8-yard pass to Jason Avant. The drive ended with Bryce Brown scoring a touchdown.

Foles completed five of six passes for 43 yards with no touchdowns, while Vick completed four of five passes for 94 yards and one touchdown.

New England added a field goal and racked up two rushing touchdowns to take a 31-14 lead in the third quarter. Though Philadelphia scored again in the fourth, it wasn't enough to secure a win.

Kelly's "no-huddle" offense should have kept the opposing defense on its toes, but the sharpness of the Patriots would set the tone for the

rest of the night.

Kelly showed appreciation for both quarterbacks and said, "they both got us into the end zone, so I was pleased with how those guys played."

Mike Quick, former wide receiver of the Eagles and CBS sports analyst, said Vick will have to sustain his performance during the season to earn the starting position. "It doesn't stop with this preseason. Everyday you have to prove yourself," he said.

Kelly may not be any closer to making a decision about who will start as quarterback in the season opener. Still, it will be interesting to see how his offensive strategy positions the team in the NFC East this season.

Basketball coach hopes to rebound

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After graduation, he was drafted by the Atlanta Hawks in 1998, a chapter in his career that ultimately ended in disappointment. Henderson never appeared in a regular season game and, after playing briefly overseas, his career reached a premature end.

Though he considered going into business or law as his next step, Henderson instead decided to follow in the footsteps of his own Hall of Fame coach, Pete Carril. After 11 years as an assistant coach at Northwestern, Henderson accepted the head

coach role at Princeton. "I think this is the right place for me," he said.

Henderson knows that Carril's shoes are large ones to fill. "If I could be half as good as [Carril] was in influencing my players, then I'd be happy," he said.

In his role as head coach, Henderson said he strives to be "fair, but demanding and committed."

He prides himself in creating a family away from home for his players, and said he wants to impart an awareness of the broader community his players have joined.

Ultimately, he sees himself as a teacher first to his student-athletes. One of the most

rewarding parts of coaching is being able to build strong relationships with his players, relationships that last beyond their years on the team, he said.

Having ended his first two seasons just shy of success, Henderson is taking the summer to reflect on "the things we did well and what we could do better." The graduation of Ivy League Player of the Year Ian Hummer '13 will be a challenge, but with four starters returning from injury, Henderson has high hopes for the 2013-14 season.

It is just the next chapter in the long legacy he hopes to build at the helm of Princeton's basketball team.

High hopes for season

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who played in the NCAA Tournament during his last three seasons. In addition, Henderson brings valuable experience as a former assistant coach at Northwestern University, under former Princeton coach Bill Carmody.

In the upcoming season, Henderson plans to evaluate what went wrong in the crucial games against Yale and Brown that barred the Tigers from becoming champions. He said he is focused on developing a formidable team that will maintain its composure in pressure situations. Henderson enjoys "taking a group of guys from all over the country and making them a great team," he added.

Henderson described his current team as big and powerful, and explained ideal players "do well in school, just excel, and then of course get shots and rebounds."

He said that he looks for team players who are disciplined, have good habits, and an inner drive. Henderson looks at transcripts first because his players "[have to] be good students." Nothing is ever certain until the game ends, but Henderson is hoping that his Tigers are a force in New Jersey.

MLB players suspended in Biogenesis scandal

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up release, which included Rodriguez, according to the Thunder's general manager, Will Smith.

"Rodriguez is a great player and people are exaggerating the drug accusations that are being made," Pedro Santiago, a 59-year-old fan, said. "Rodriguez is not the only player who uses drugs, he was just one that was caught. People are just jealous because he is rich now and before he was so poor."

Smith estimated that there were 3,000 more fans at the game than at typical Thunder games. However, that did not mean that all the fans supported Rodriguez. While some fans cheered for Rodriguez the entire game, others thought his suspension was necessary in order to enforce MLB regulations.

"If you get a speeding ticket, you suffer the consequences whether you are A,

B or C," Antonio Perez, who traveled from Florida to support Rodriguez, said. "If he is found guilty, then he should suffer the consequences, but that does not change the fact that he is a great player."

Rodriguez formally appealed the suspension last week. "I'm not here to judge people," Joe Girardi, the Yankees manager, said, according to reports. "That's not my job. He's a player as long as he's in our clubhouse."

Girardi may not think Rodriguez should be judged by his actions, but some members of the public thought otherwise.

"Players should be role models, but sadly, that is not always true," Lauren Bosak, a 33-year-old from Lawrenceville, said. "The investigation of the athletes is very inconsistent. If he wants to take drugs and ruin his career, then he should face the consequences. If that means that he spends the rest of his life suspended from baseball, then so be it."



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Mitch Henderson '98 has coached the Princeton University basketball team for the past two seasons.

SPORTS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Henderson looks to rebound with Ivy crown

By Navil Perez
THORNTON, COLO.

In March 1998, Princeton men’s basketball player Mitch Henderson ’98 took his college basketball jersey off for the last time. After a brief professional playing career and an assistant coach role at Northwestern University, he eventually found his way back to his alma mater, becoming the 28th head coach of the Princeton Tigers men’s basketball team in 2011.

Back on the Jadwin court with clipboard in hand and whistle in tow, Henderson said he enjoys developing his players and setting strategy for the team.

During the 2012-13 season, Henderson helped the team build momentum that put them in first place and in contention for the Ivy League title entering the final week of the season. That opportunity slipped through their fingers when back-to-back losses to Yale and Brown effectively ended their quest for the title. The team finished with a 17-11 record overall, behind perennial rival Harvard (20-10).

Being that close to success wasn’t unfamiliar territory for Henderson. Having been a member of Princeton’s Ivy League championship basketball teams from 1996-98, Henderson understands the pressures of high-stakes games.

See **COACH** page 11

By Xavier Husser
NEW YORK, N.Y.

The 2013 Ivy League season started strong for the Princeton men’s basketball team, as the Tigers posted a 9-2 league record, before back-to-back road losses to Yale and Brown in early March. Finishing 10-4 in the league, Princeton lost its chance to add to its 26 Ivy League championship titles.

Coach Mitch Henderson ’98 is looking for redemption during the upcoming season. Neither Henderson nor any of the players blame each other for the losses because it was “everybody’s fault. We win as a team and lose as a team,” he said.

This season coach Henderson is hoping his team reclaims the Ivy crown and atones for the mistakes of 2012.

Henderson, a basketball legend himself at Princeton, seems to be a likely candidate for coaching the Tigers to victory, since he played for the Tigers from 1994 to 1998. Henderson played football, basketball and baseball in high school and was drafted by the New York Yankees in 1994. He won All-Ivy League honors as a basketball player and was a four-year starter

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LORENA ALVAREZ :: THE PRINCETON SUMMER JOURNAL

The Philadelphia Eagles fell to the New England Patriots, 31-22, on Friday evening in their preseason opener in Philadelphia.

Pats defeat Eagles, 31-22

By Lorena Alvarez
TUSTIN, CALIF.

PHILADELPHIA—The New England Patriots trounced the Philadelphia Eagles on Friday, 31-22, during their first preseason game, which was a wash with the

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anticipation that naturally comes from a game where one team has a new coach and dueling starting quarterbacks, while the other has a former star player facing charges of first-degree murder.

It was the Patriots’ first

game since former tight end Aaron Hernandez was arrested for murder. Chip Kelly, former head coach of the University of Oregon, made his debut as the Eagles’ head coach. And Kelly began the season with an unexpected bang, listing both Michael Vick and Nick Foles as the starting quarterback on his roster.

The Patriots came out of the gate with high intensity. Veteran starting quarterback Tom Brady led his team to a touchdown in the first drive of the game. Brady finished 7 of 8 for 65 yards, with one touch-

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Battle of the QBs in Philly

By Ashley Jones-Quaidoo
HYATTSVILLE, MD.

PHILADELPHIA—Several storylines dominated the build-up to Friday night’s preseason opener between the Philadelphia Eagles and New England Patriots: Philly coach Chip Kelly’s NFL debut, Aaron Hernandez’s arrest for a recent murder, the fallout

See **FOOTBALL** page 11

Eagles lose preseason game

By Lesley Le Platte
ATLANTA, GA.

PHILADELPHIA—The Philadelphia Eagles played the New England Patriots on Friday night in the first game of the NFL preseason for both teams. Chip Kelly led the Eagles for the first time as

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Mitch Henderson ’98, who won three Ivy League championships as a player at Princeton, is looking to capture his first Ivy crown as coach.

Rodriguez fills stands as Thunder rolls over Phils

By Bianca Uribe
NEW YORK, N.Y.

TRENTON—On Aug. 3, the Trenton Thunder played the Reading Fightin Phils in front of perhaps the most divided crowd ever. Unfortunately for the few diehard Thunder fans in attendance, the score of the game wasn’t the main event.

Alex Rodriguez, longtime third baseman for the New York Yankees, played for the Double-A Thunder in an effort to rehabilitate a hip injury. At the same time, unrelated to his hip injury, Rodriguez awaited a decision from Major League Baseball about a suspension related to his involvement in the Biogenesis scandal. Sports fans expected that Rodriguez would face a long suspension for use of performance-enhancing drugs, among other allegations, and that it could have been one of his last games ever.

The presence of Rodriguez filled the stands with proud supporters and angry critics. Fans came to Trenton from

at least as far as Florida to witness what was to be one of Rodriguez’s last games for a while. On Aug. 5, MLB announced the official suspension: 211 games. Rodriguez is filing an appeal.

Plenty of spectators in the crowd were extremely critical. “Alex Rodriguez is an [expletive], and he doesn’t deserve [to play],” shouted one red-faced teenager named Dom Lenza.

But some spectators said they genuinely believed in him. “I have followed him since childhood, and I just think that to bash him would just be wrong,” said Ryan Clutter, a 22-year-old fan.

Rodriguez occasionally held his hands behind his back or kicked the dirt, nervous habits that were highlighted by the bright lights and the small size of the stadium. His hopeful fans displayed their support by clapping loudly and shouting, “I love you A-Rod!” just before he went up to bat.

The one-time slugger walked four times.



LESLEY LE PLATTE :: THE PRINCETON SUMMER JOURNAL

Alex Rodriguez, the Yankees’ third-baseman, steps up to the plate on Aug. 3 in Trenton.

Scandal surrounds A-Rod

By Daisy Gomez
SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

TRENTON—On Aug. 5, New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez and 12 other professional baseball players were suspended by Major League Baseball for their involvement with banned performance-enhancing drugs. While the 12 other players received 50-game suspensions, Rodriguez made headlines for his 211-game suspension.

On Aug. 3, Rodriguez played for the Trenton Thunder, as part of a rehabilitation stint from off-season hip surgery.

Rodriguez had to face accusations of being involved in the case against the now-defunct rejuvenation clinic Biogenesis of America.

The Biogenesis investigation has created a scandal. In March, MLB sued six people connected with Biogenesis for providing MLB athletes with banned testosterone and human growth hormones. Rodriguez received punishment for his involvement not only from MLB, but also from his fans.

Seats at Arm & Hammer Park in Trenton sold out within 24 hours of the line-

See **RODRIGUEZ** page 11

Putting players on pedestals, only to watch them fall

By Jasmine White
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

FOR A moment, Riley Cooper got lost in all the celebrity. The money, the fame, adoration by millions all over the country—it appears that he found the glamor of it all seductive. But in recent weeks, it seems that Cooper has finally got-

ten a wakeup call: Fans leave just as easily as they emerge.

The Philadelphia Eagles player has been the center of controversy ever since a video of him at a Kenny Chesney concert surfaced where he threatened to jump a fence and “fight every n— [there].” He took to Twitter, following the video’s release, to apologize. Cooper had been drinking that night, and became angry when an African-American security

guard wouldn’t allow him backstage. He received a fine in an undisclosed amount and was excused for four days before returning to practice on Tuesday.

So now it’s time to point the finger. Who’s the bad guy in this case? Some would argue that it’s obviously Cooper. But what about all the people who had been building this guy up to make him think he was some sort of god? And at 25 years old,

with millions of dollars in his pocket and the world seemingly at his fingertips, what reason did he have not to believe it?

Football players are held up as American heroes, their egos filled with distortion every minute of their commercial lives. The rapidly expanding industry of exhorting young players with a few signed-off checks in exchange for a few signed-off lives only encourages this behavior. And this vicious

cycle among players, fans and team owners continually spins.

This is not to say that Cooper shouldn’t take responsibility for his actions. He’s an adult with the full capacity to think things through, but this incident also raises the question of whether fans should take a step back from putting their idols up on pedestals. Maybe then there wouldn’t be such disappointment when they inevitably fall.