Fake ID raids bust Loyola students

BY GRACE RUNKEL
grunkel@luc.edu

On Thursday, Nov. 20 the Illinois Secretary of State Police conducted two age-verification checks at bars in Rogers Park. By the end of the night, 45 Loyola students were caught in possession of fraudulent, or fake, IDs, according to investigator sergeant Thomas Ferraro.

The first check of the night was at the Pumping Company, located at 6157 N. Broadway, where 12 students were caught with fake IDs. However, when Ferraro and the three other Illinois Secretary of State police officers arrived at Bar 61, located at 6341 N. Broadway, they saw significantly more underage students. The officers caught 13 people with fake IDs, but Ferraro estimated twice as many underage drinkers were initially present.

“People were flying out the doors and there was only so much we could do,” he said. “Those are alarming numbers. That’s a busy night.”

Finding such a high number of fake identifications in one location is not common, but easier access to vendors and lax bouncers at different bars make underground students in bars more prevalent.

Ferraro and Loyola’s Associate Dean of Students Kenechukwu Mmeje said that, today, students have easier access to vendors that sell fraudulent IDs, and both link this to the unusual number of students seen at Bar 61. “Nowadays you can go to any host of websites and order in batch quantities fraudulent IDs. They’re mailed to you so there’s not much effort that’s required,” said Mmeje.

While the IDs can be convincing, Ferraro said his officers and trained bouncers can still distinguish between the real and fake IDs.

“There’s a huge amount coming out of China. They’re good, but they aren’t infallible,” Ferraro said. “We obviously know what we’re looking for.”

Hitting the right keys
Senior pianist set to release second album

BY ALEXANDRA JONKER
ajonker@luc.edu

In this age of digital music, our ears are constantly exposed to EDM and dubstep, making it hard to believe that any instrumental music is alive in the world today. But there is — you just have to know where to find it. Luckily, your search is short, because right here at Loyola, there’s senior international business major Kevin Koprowski.

Having trained as a jazz pianist since the third grade, his initial piano-playing trajectory was like most other kids’. He went through the usual frustrations that come with mastering a difficult art, wanting to quit piano altogether multiple times. But he had his reasons for sticking with the instrument.

“My creations are rooted deeply in my emotion and understanding of the world you and I live in,” he said. “Nothing is as real and authentic as when I sit down in front of those ivories with a blank page in my head. I live in the moment; therefore, I play in the moment.”

“My own compositions have been in the works ever since that first note,” he said. “I have always had an urge to express my thoughts and ideas in a certain rhythm — a rhythm in which words could never fully satisfy.”

Kevin Koprowski
international studies major, 21

In high school, when music became a serious aspiration, Koprowski released his first album, Stilettos, which gained him recognition in his Milwaukie community and helped him to earn first place in his high school’s talent show his senior year.

Recently, however, he has been working on his second release, set to come out in January. Titled EXIST, the album features all original pieces recorded live by Koprowski without any rehearsals, sheet music or specific plans — essentially freestyle. In fact, you will never find him with sheet music of any kind; Koprowski always tries to play spur of the moment. He does this with the incentive to better understand every moment and find life’s “hidden blessings,” creating what he describes as the soundtrack to his life.

“My creations are rooted deeply in my emotion and understanding of the world you and I live in,” he said. “Nothing is as real and authentic as when I sit down in front of those ivories with a blank page in my head. I live in the moment; therefore, I play in the moment.”

That authenticity is a large part of his creative process. He’ll usually play a few notes or chords and run with what sounds good to him at that time. This process can take as little as three minutes or as long as a half hour.
FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

It’s a Tuesday night and the only lights on at Loyola’s School of Communication come from the newsroom of The Phoenix. Inside, a handful of editors finish up the pages of yet another issue of the paper, scheduled to hit the stands the following day. They are students from various career paths, some in journalism, some in political science, some in biochemistry—they all represent student media.

This week they’re working on the last issue of the semester, the “season finale” that closes up one story and teases to the next one, to another semester of hard work. It’s been a semester packed with stories making headlines in Loyola, Chicago, and the world, and they are seasoned now in breaking down the complex facts to you, the readers who continue to pick up the paper winter nights. We’ve all done it together. We’ve walked the extra mile with asking the hard questions, explaining the complex stories happening around us. We’ve walked the extra mile with you, from the sunny late summer days to the bitter cold winter nights. We’ve all done it together.

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Borrowing UPasses may no longer be an option for students trying to save their friends and family a few dollars.

To ensure that free and reduced-fare cards are used by the rightful card owners, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) is performing card-verification checks before riders pass through turnstiles. CTA President Forrest Claypool said in a November press release the checks involve verifying that the photo on the card matches the face of the rider. “We take any incident of fraud seriously and are taking steps to protect innocent customers from being taken advantage of, as well as protecting all other fare-paying customers from having to subsidize improper use of these programs,” Claypool said in the release.

Free and reduced-fare card programs include seniors, people with disabilities and UPass users, according to the CTA. The checks are meant to reduce fraudulent use of train cards and guarantee that the people using the cards qualify for them.

Beginning in October, the CTA started checking cards with photo identification at all railway stations throughout Chicago and the suburbs. As a result of these checks, 1,800 fraudulent free and reduced-fare rides were collected, which amounted to an estimated revenue loss of $2.8 million dollars for the CTA.

The checks have been met with mixed reviews from Loyola students. While some understood the logic behind the checks, they were frustrated by the interruption in their commute.

Sophomore Maria Riegel said she knows of a lot of students who borrow the cards of other Loyola students when family and friends come to visit. It’s a trend among students, she said.

Riegel had her UPass checked at the Chicago Red Line station in the middle of November. Officers stopped her and asked her to show her UPass before passing through the turnstiles.

“I was really surprised that they were checking,” said Riegel. “I never thought they would actually check.”

Junior Brendan Creamer had his UPass checked before passing through the turnstiles of the Loyola Red Line stop.

“There were two officers who stopped me and asked to see my ID,” said the 21-year-old marketing major. “I was kind of pissed off and annoyed because I was rushing off to my 9:20 class, but it really only took like five seconds. Even though I’ve got my own UPass it’s still scary and intimidating.”

Jimmy Kurzawa, 20, said he hasn’t been stopped yet by the CTA.

“It’s annoying when you’re in a rush to catch the train,” said the 21-year-old marketing major. “I was kind of pissed off and annoyed because I was rushing off to my 9:20 class, but it really only took like five seconds. Even though I’ve got my own UPass it’s still scary and intimidating.”

Not all students agree with the checks, though. Emina Hadzik is frustrated with the new measure the CTA is taking.

“It’s absolute nonsense. CTA are only just now doing their jobs when people have been cheating the system all along,” said Hadzik, 19, referencing people she has seen jump over or under the turnstiles.

“For the amount of money we’re paying we shouldn’t have to deal with [UPass checks],” said the sophomore visual communications major. She added that it’s unfair that riders without photo identification aren’t being checked.

Reigel, however, said that as someone who lost her UPass last year, she supports the CTA verification checks.

She added that with those checks in place, it might have been possible for her card to have been found in the hands of another rider.
it was like, 'Hey, Loyola's near trendy places, like Wicker Park coffee companies had opened in Shore Campus –– in 2003. one block south of Loyola's Lake opened the doors of Metropo j Joe. With his son T ony, Dreyfuss addiction of anyone who's ever coffee shop that fuels the coffee two men behind Metropolis, the lis' repeat customers. buzz of coffee shop chatter, he is ly morning and late afternoon that he contributes to the ear people who are at the cafe for dents as they rush to finish their book at one of Metropolis Coffee –– pouring over a language text –– relative Japanese and Italian –– Spanish, Indonesian, languages, he said, and speaks four English, Dreyfuss knows 11 lan.

Though Dreyfuss is no lon-ger Metropolis' master roaster or working behind the counter at the register – a short-lived position because of his reputa-tion for long conversations with customers –– he's still involved in top-level decision making. But when Dreyfuss isn't us-ing his time to make some of the company's biggest decisions, he's doing what he might con-sider the next best thing: study-ing languages. In addition to English, Dreyfuss knows 11 lan-nguages, he said, and speaks four of them — Spanish, Indonesian, Japanese and Italian — relative-ly fluently. He also speaks Pol-ish, French, Russian, German, Arabic and Portuguese at vary-ing degrees of fluency. "I love not understanding a word. I think I learn a language, you have to be a clown," Drey-fuss said. "You have to not find it terrible to have people laughing at you and not immediately re-sponding with, 'what a fool I am. You have to want more of that.' "

His most recent challenges have been Turkish and Korean. "I'm learning Turkish right now because I want to go to Tur-key and I want to talk to people and laugh, and not just find where the bathroom is," he said, adding that he is currently in the process of teaching himself Korean for a business trip to South Korea. "I want to be able to at least read and know what I'm look-ing at," he said. "Knowing a few phrases is fun for me." Dreyfuss doesn't just learn languages for business, though. Often, he is drawn to a lan-guage simply by being around a person or a group of people who speak it. "I love learning languages," he said. "I enjoy the process of trying to figure stuff out. Languages bring a lot of that pleasure to me, of try-ing to figure things out. It's sort of like good confusion in a way." His first experience learning a language happened while he was in the Peace Corps avoiding the Vietnamese War, he said. He never took the language exam for the Peace Corps, which meant that he earned a zero in his "ability to learn language." "If there's one thing I can do in life, it's learning languages," he said, laughing. "So in their in-finite wisdom, they sent me to an English-speaking country." Or so they thought. He arrived to the island of Saint Lucia in the Caribbean to find that nobody spoke En-glish. They spoke Haitian-Creole, he said, which is similar to French-Creole. That was his first experience learning a new lan-guage through immersion. Dreyfuss and his wife opened the Wisconsin English Second Language Institute in Madison, Wisconsin, for foreign students, journalists, government workers, officials and anybody looking to learn the language. In 1998, after 16 years of ownership, they sold the school and moved to Seattle, where he took a position teaching Indonesian language and culture at the University of Washington. It was in Seattle that he befriended the master roaster of a local coffee shop and first began the art of cup-ping, or coffee tasting, he said. On a whim, the father and son team purchased a coffee roast-er at Coffee Fest, a coffee trade show in Seattle, and brought it to Chicago where they would open a coffee shop a few years later. Since Dreyfuss quit his teach-
Winter break is almost here, but first students must get through finals week. Luckily, there is still time to perfect study habits and avoid cramming in order to ace those final exams.

Are group study sessions a good idea?

Group study sessions can be a great way to review topics with your classmates. They are most effective when everyone has already studied on their own and can discuss the topics more in-depth. Just be careful not to get off topic or turn study time into social time. If you know you won’t be able to focus in a group, it might be best to study by yourself.

However, quizzing is one of the best ways to test your memory, according to the American Psychological Association. Pairing up with a friend from class or your roommates to review key concepts will help you make sure you remember information for your exam.

Where are the best places to study?

For finals week, the best place to study is somewhere you haven’t been going all semester. Altering your study space can help you improve memory and retention, according to the New York Times. Campus libraries and the information Commons will be busier than normal during the week of exams, so students looking for a calm environment should search elsewhere. Off-campus coffee shops or open classrooms are alternatives to the hectic IC.

Should I spend the whole week studying?

No. Over-studying for a test can almost be as bad as not studying at all. Study sessions that span over several hours actually cause someone’s “attentional resources” to plummet, according to a 2008 study by the University of Illinois. This means students stop processing their notes because they stop paying attention to them, said the study’s leader Alejandro Herrera. Two to three-hour study sessions are more effective than a day spent in the library.

How should I spend my study breaks?

Exercising is a great way to spend breaks. Moving around burns the bottled-up energy you have from a day of studying, and is a great stress reliever. Students can also attend the Finals Breakfast, during which professors serve breakfast to their students for free. This semester the breakfast is expected to take place on Dec. 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. throughout Damen Student Center and the Centennial Forum Student Union on the Lake Shore Campus and from 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Kasbeer Hall in the Corboy Law Center on the Water Tower Campus (WTC).

Citations are typically given on the street outside of the business, but due to the large number of students present and the cold weather in the November bust, Ferraro requested assistance from Loyola’s Campus Safety to transport the students somewhere indoors.

“It was freezing cold out. I wanted to get them to a warm, safe place off the street,” he said. Although Loyola’s Chief of Police and Director of Campus Safety Thomas Murray was notified by Ferraro earlier that day that checks would occur, transporting the students to Campus Safety’s offices was Loyola’s only involvement in the operation.

Generally, the university has no involvement in scheduling or carrying out raids in bars around Loyola’s campuses.

All 45 students caught in November were arrested and charged with a Class A misdemeanor: the unlawful possession of fraudulent IDs. With this charge, judges can set bail at $1,500 and require 10 percent of the payment to be made in cash.

However, none of the students charged that night were required to pay. By promising to appear in court, Ferraro said the students could avoid their bail.

“That’s a courtesy we extend to everyone we caught at the Pumping Company and Bar 63 that night,” he said.

Once in court, Ferraro said judges typically issue 40 hours of community service. If these hours are completed within three months, the charges can be dropped.

However, Loyola students must also face university consequences. Mmeje said students may have to pay a $250 fine each, depending on their prior offenses. Consequences like these are part of Loyola’s efforts to keep students safe, he said.

“When we talk about the safety of our students, obviously there are the larger environmental factors that we try to address, but also the decisions our students make on a personal level that impact their personal safety,” Mmeje said.

FAKE ID: 45 students arrested in Rogers Park checks continued from page 1

Getting caught with a fake ID is a Class A misdemeanor, so what does that mean?

1. If you’re caught with a fake ID — it doesn’t matter if you were trying to use it or not — you can face up to a one-year driver’s license suspension.

2. If you’re convicted of having or using a fake ID, you can spend one to three years in prison, pay a minimum fine of $500 and/or complete 40 hours of community service.

3. Fake ID possession or use charges come up when students apply to master’s programs, internship and jobs. It’s easy for potential employers to find the old charges.
As the weather gets colder, students start to walk a little faster on the way to class. However, there are some familiar faces on campus that are in no rush to get to their destination: the three wise men.

For more than 10 years, the trio has trekked westward from Lake Michigan to the Nativity in front of Mundelein Center, moving closer to their destination by just a few yards per week.

The three wise men and the Nativity aren’t the only signs of the holiday season on campus, though. Since mid-November, grounds workers with the Division of Facilities Department have worked to decorate the campus in time for Christmas.

Loyola’s director of Environmental Services Bill Curtin has taken the leading role in the decoration set-up for more than eight years and said the Nativity is still his favorite piece.

The decorations on campus have not changed much during Curtin’s time at Loyola. Except for the trees and garland on lamp posts, he said most of the decorations are reused every year.

Changes to the design are typically made whenever new buildings or projects are finished.

“There may be something added when new buildings are built. When new buildings come on we look at what would be appropriate for that location. There may be slight changes, but not many,” said Curtin.

Some of the changes this year include lights on trees at St. Ignatius Community Plaza and around the West Quad. These lights, like the others seen around campus, are LEDs. After a four-year transition, Curtin said all the Christmas lights have been replaced with energy-saving bulbs.

“They last a lot longer and they use very little electricity. They are very visible,” Curtin said.

Students such as sophomore Alekya Prathivadi have welcomed the decorations.

“I love Christmas lights on trees … I think they look really nice on campus,” said the 19-year-old biology major. “I do wish they would put [lights] up on more trees because I’ve only really seen them on half of the West Quad and the little strip on Kenmore, but even the few that they have look very nice.”

Other students appreciate the modesty of the decorations, including junior Rachyl Shanker.

“I think they’re at a good level,” the 20-year-old molecular biology major said. “They get everyone in the holiday spirit without excessively promoting one religion.”

The students who are most grateful for the decorations are those that will remain near campus during Christmas break, said senior Bradley Dabdoub.

“I really appreciate the fact that they put them up there. I know a lot of students don’t necessarily have somewhere else that they go over Christmas break. They hang around campus or have an apartment,” the 26-year-old international studies and economics double major said. “For them it means a lot because it kind of brings out the Christmas spirit on campus for people that aren’t going to go home.”

Come the first two weeks of January, the three wise men will make another journey. This time the destination will be 6317 N. Broadway — Loyola’s mailroom and warehouse. Afterwards, for 11 months all the decorations will sit in storage, waiting patiently to come out and deck Loyola’s halls once again.
Grand jury decision shows bias

Racial prejudice is alive and well in the justice system. To say the contrary would indicate you either ignorantly believe racism is a thing of the past or you’ve been living under a rock. Nothing amplifies racism and injustice more than what recently took place in Ferguson, Missouri, on Monday, Nov. 24. A grand jury, which had been deliberating for months, found no cause to indict Officer Darren Wilson for the killing of unarmed Michael Brown, an 18-year-old black teenager. An indictment is when a person is formally charged with a crime.

No cause.

If the grand jury could not find a single cause to charge Wilson, then the prosecution utterly failed at its job. While this is a state case, out of more than 160,000 federal cases prosecutors chose to pursue from 2009-2010, a grand jury decided not to indict only 11 times, according to a report by the Washington Post. The reason the decision not to indict happens so rarely is because the prosecutor and jurors only have to find “probable cause” that the defendant committed a crime. Probable cause doesn’t prove the person is guilty of the crime. It merely determines that the person could possibly have committed the crime. In this particular case, the grand jury had to find probable cause that Wilson shot Brown without a legitimate fear for his own life.

With that in mind, County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch completely butchered the grand jury hearings, either because of personal bias or sheer ineptitude. There is some inclination to believe the first, as several of McCulloch’s close relatives worked for the St. Louis Police Department. In fact, his own father was shot and killed in the line of duty by a black man who had stolen his gun, according to The Intercept, an online publication created by First Look Media. But despite the clear personal ties to the case, the requests from Brown’s family attorney for a special prosecutor to take over were denied. And so the butchery commenced. Instead of only providing evidence that Wilson committed a crime, which is entirely within the prosecutor’s rights in a grand jury setting, McCulloch decided to dump all the evidence on the jurors at once and let them decide on their own conclusion.

What’s more, the prosecution let Wilson take the stand for more than four hours with minimal cross-examination. This is particularly peculiar, as defendants don’t typically testify in grand jury proceedings. They are not allowed to have their attorney present and are therefore usually subject to harsh cross-examination from the prosecution. Instead, Wilson was free to give his version of the incident with minimal questioning from McCulloch and his two fellow prosecutors.

Benjamin Crump, one of the attorneys representing Brown’s family, said that “a first year law student would have done a better job” cross-examining Wilson than McCulloch did. While a first year law student might be an exaggeration, though not an extreme one, most competent practicing attorneys could have highlighted certain evidence that would indicate there was probable cause that Wilson shot Brown without fear for his own safety.

The photos taken of Wilson’s injuries at the hospital after the incident show extremely minimal bruising. The skin appears flushed in places, but that is all. This doesn’t seem to align with Wilson’s original claim that Brown “had punched and scratched him repeatedly, leaving swelling on his face and cuts on his neck,” as reported by The New York Times. The apparent lack of even moderate injuries in contrast to what Wilson claimed to be a potentially “fatal” attack would have been enough to constitute probable cause that Wilson didn’t have reason to fear for his life.

Though there was some validity to McCulloch’s claim that some of the testimonies from various witnesses conflicted with each other and that some witnesses changed their stories once they were under oath, 16 witnesses did say that Brown surrendered, with his hands raised in some sort of fashion, according to research by PBS Newshour. The prosecution instead decided to disprove much of the testimonies of these witnesses and highlighted the story of Witness No. 10 — one of only two people who explicitly denied Brown’s hands were raised — who agreed with Wilson that Brown was running full charge at him when he was firing his weapon. This is the prosecution attorney. Not the defense attorney. Yet McCulloch seemed to be indicting his own client, Brown.

If he were interested in indicting Wilson, McCulloch could have focused the grand jury only on the testimony of Dorian Johnson, who was with Brown through the entire incident. Johnson was adamant that it was Wilson who instigated the confrontation and grabbed Brown from inside the vehicle, according to the evidence released to the public. His version of the events tells the story of a police officer using intimidation tactics that needlessly escalated a situation, not of a police officer firing for survival. Johnson’s testimony would have been enough to constitute probable cause that Wilson didn’t have reason to fear for his life.

But the prosecution wasn’t interested in Johnson’s testimony.

The prosecution wasn’t interested in the fact that, despite Wilson’s claim that he “felt like a 1-year-old holding onto Hulk Hogan,” the two men were actually somewhat similar in size (Brown was 6’4”, 292 pounds; Wilson is 6’4”, 210 pounds).

It wasn’t interested in the fact that Wilson was more than 140 feet away from Brown when he struck the 18-year-old with the first volley of bullets, according to the evidence released. This was contrary to the distance of 35 feet the Ferguson Police Department initially claimed. It wasn’t interested in these facts that would constitute probable cause that Wilson didn’t have reason to fear for his life.

McCulloch and his fellow attorneys weren’t interested in these facts because they weren’t interested in indicting Wilson. The prosecution was, in fact, trying to prove the guilt of the person it was supposed to be protecting.

While stealing cigarettes and pushing the store owner were far from exemplary conduct, Brown’s actions on that August day were by no means punishable by death. Yet the prosecution’s unfathomable mishandling of the grand jury proceedings didn’t even allow an indictment of Wilson, making it impossible for an actual trial to take place, let alone justice for Brown’s needless and avoidable death.

The Phoenix Editorial Board believes that all this is the result of McCulloch’s unwavering support of the local police, which is a microcosm of the favorable view of policing by the justice system across the nation, despite its alarming violence.

In direct contrast to the idea that indictments are normally a trivial matter that was mentioned above, police are rarely charged in shooting incidents. In Dallas, there were 81 cases involving police shootings from 2008-2012. Only one officer was indicted, according to Ben CasseLMAN of FiftyThreeEight, a statistical analytics site.

That officers are not even being indicted, let alone convicted, when there were outrageous 1,217 deaths by police shooting from 2010-2012 according to a report by ProPublica, raises an eyebrow. That officers are not being indicted when 32 out of every one million black men are killed in police shootings in the U.S. while just one out of one million white men is killed in the same scenario, according to the same study, is indicative of the downright racial prejudice present in this nation’s justice system.

Unfortunately, Michael Brown won’t be even close to the last case where black people’s rights are deemed lesser than whites. Until racial prejudice no longer runs rampant in America’s courtrooms, the justice system in this country will remain broken.

Justice was not achieved in the case of Michael Brown, and The Phoenix Editorial Board stands with the peaceful protestors in Ferguson and across the nation.
Executive action a step in the right direction

BY MEGAN SHANNON
mshannon2@luc.edu

President Barack Obama’s executive action on immigration has sparked debate nationwide. Media and political critics have exploded over this action, allowing the content of the decision to hide behind the political drama.

Obama was seriously hindered in what action he could take, and yet the resulting changes are promising. Staying within his legal boundaries, Obama created an executive order that gives the power to change, and the current GOP-controlled Congress will not address that issue anytime soon. Additionally the next president, or any president farther down the line, could easily reverse this executive action. Obama’s executive action grants temporary relief for a broken immigration system, but it remains to be seen how long this little Band-Aid can cover a gaping wound.

Critics claim that Obama has misused his presidential power in what some consider an unconstitutional decision. In reality, Obama is simply increasing the scope of the practice of prosecutorial discretion, which was a common tool in the American immigration system long before this announcement. Prosecutorial discretion is the power to legally prosecute what is deemed most important, in this case as determined by Obama.

Essentially he is saying that undocumented people in the United States who obey the laws and pay taxes will be temporarily overlooked in prosecutions or deportations. Obama has charged Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to focus on prosecuting those who have committed crimes or not paid taxes while in the United States, claiming that this is the most efficient and beneficial use of American resources. This prioritization of deporting felons, not families, goes into effect immediately and also includes instructions for Customs and Border Protection and ICE to begin screening individuals in their custody who may qualify for this new provision.

In addition to refocusing prosecution, Obama has extended Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) by removing the eligibility age cap and extending the renewal period to three year increments. The date of entry requirement, however, has been pushed up from June 15, 2007 to Jan. 1, 2010.

While immigration advocates were hopeful that deferred action would be extended to the parents of DACA recipients, the executive action orders a new provision only available to certain parents of U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents. These parents must meet certain eligibility requirements, as well as pass a background check and pay all outstanding taxes. They will then be granted temporary status and allowed their chance to “play by the rules,” according to the White House website.

However, Obama has also promised to crack down on illegal immigration by continuing to deploy more resources and strengthen the enforcement at the southern border. Officers are also directed to focus their energies on individuals who have recently crossed the border, in order to stem the flow of people entering the country illegally.

Besides addressing undocumented immigrants, the executive action also took a stab at soothing big corporations and advocates of increased access for highly skilled immigrants. The new policies aim at improving the immigration process for science, technology, engineering and mathematics workers and other highly qualified workers seeking employment-based immigration. The policy memo that announced these particular changes calls this a “modernization” of the immigrant visa process, tasking U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services with several new policies that will be fully explained later.

One extremely beneficial change allows for college students present in the United States on student visas to extend their stay by an additional 12 months post-grad, while engaging in some sort of experience-related program or job. Positive changes are a step in the right direction; however, it remains to be seen how much backlash and resistance these new rules will meet. Can we trust our immigration system to enforce these new policies and use prosecutorial discretion to relieve the strain on families? I hope that the answer is yes and that the next two years show the nation the benefits of expanding immigration.

Megan Shannon is a contributing columnist

Accusations of pinkwashing are deceptive

BY NOGA BARPAL
nbarpal@luc.edu

It’s June 29, 2014 in Chicago, and the annual Chicago Pride Parade is in full swing. It’s a sea of color, cheers and laughter as 750,000 people join the celebration. After the parade, revelers flock to Boystown for an after party.

Now it’s time to move forward. It’s time to travel a couple weeks further back in time to June 13. The location is no longer Chicago, but the scene is nearly identical. We are now in Israel at Tel Aviv Pride Week. Once again, we are surrounded by drag queens, rainbow flags and sequined dresses. With more than 100,000 people in attendance, this is the largest gay pride parade in the Middle East.

But Israel doesn’t just host an annual parade. It offers a safe haven for the LGBTQIA community, a place where everyone is equal under the law and in the minds of the people. In fact, it is against the law to discriminate based on gender identity or sexual orientation in Israel.

LGBTQIA individuals openly serve in both the government and the military, where they are fully protected by the law. Furthermore, queer couples have full adoption and inheritance rights and, although Israel adheres to the strictest form of Jewish law by prohibiting gay marriage, the country recognizes common-law marriages and same-sex marriages performed abroad.

On Wednesday, Dec. 3 Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) is hosting an event called “The Politics of Being Fabulous in the Holy Land,” asserting that Israel uses its gay rights as a means to divert attention from other political issues (a term known as “pinkwashing”). If this doesn’t sound absurd to you already, let me present an analogy.

Claiming Israel uses gay rights to hide supposed human rights abuses is like saying that states in the U.S. only grant marriage equality to cover up their corrupt state legislatures. Yet no one would make that claim here in the United States, so why should it apply to Israel?

In reality, Israel is surrounded by Arab countries where openly gay people are subject to beatings, imprisonment and sometimes death. And when LGBTQIA individuals, including Palestinians, seek refuge, it is Israel that frees them from persecution.

Even within the ranks of progressive countries, Israel still holds one of the best track records for LGBTQIA rights. Why? Because Israel is striving toward equality of all peoples. Because Israel recognizes the value of every individual. Because it’s the right thing to do.

Noga Barpal is a contributing columnist
Bright lights and fluffy snow may be the most obvious indicators that Christmas is right around the corner, but you can’t overlook the retail tools that gain a large amount of attention in a busy city such as Chicago: window displays. The amount of time and care put into holiday-themed displays is not only unparalleled, but also successful, as a walk down Michigan Avenue transforms into a walk through the North Pole. The next time you’re downtown, don’t be afraid to peer into the festive displays with some excitement like you’re a child straight out of A Christmas Story.

BY ELLEN BAUCH | ebauch@luc.edu

1-2, 10: Dylan’s Candy Bar on Michigan Avenue boasts colorful, sugar-inspired decor.
3: To no one’s surprise, Frozen was the subject of choice for the window display at the Disney Store on Michigan Avenue.
4, 7-8, 12: Macy’s on State Street takes the prize for the most elaborate window displays, complete with animation.
6: Cartier on Michigan Avenue features an elegant holiday jewelry display.
9, 11: Anthropologie on Chicago Avenue appropriately shows an abundance of birds enjoying a winter atmosphere.
13: Cole Haan on Michigan Avenue displays a plethora of oversized, snowy wreaths.
Holiday travel can be hell. After finals, the last thing you want to deal with is Chicago’s long lines, travel delays and terrible weather. The city’s busiest airport, O’Hare International Airport, was recently rated the worst U.S. airport during the winter according to Hopper, a flight data site. Some 42 percent of O’Hare flights are delayed in the winter. With that in mind, The PHOENIX pulled from a mix of hard-won experiences, friends’ advice and tips from some Reditors to help you get home in one piece this winter break.

**Schedule Your Flight Before Noon If Possible**
Chicago’s notoriously bad weather causes a lot of flight delays, and delays only snowball. If you nab an early flight, you’re less likely to get stranded in the airport for hours on end.

**Arrive Early**
They’re not kidding about the two hours before your flight thing — especially if you’re flying Spirit. Around the holidays, lines at O’Hare are insane. If you’re taking the Blue Line out to O’Hare, make sure to get to the Loyola stop three and a half hours before your flight takes off.

**Get Picked Up in Departures**
If you’re having someone pick you up from O’Hare when you get back from break, agree to meet in the departures area rather than arrivals. Arrivals gets swamped with cars, and airport employees are constantly shepherding drivers out of there. Departures is much calmer and drivers can park for longer. This works better at night.

**Find the Torta**
Rick Bayless’ restaurant Tortas Frontera has locations in terminals 1, 3 and 5. The airport restaurant serves up a mean torta (a Mexican sandwich) and has power outlets at all the bar seats. Plus, it opens at 6 a.m.

**Get Drinks to Go**
If you’re 21 or older, you can sometimes ask for beer in a to-go cup at airport bars. You’re free to drink it throughout O’Hare — just don’t try to bring it on the plane with you. You’ll cause delays and nobody will like you.

**Get a Cheap Breakfast**
Potbelly’s at Midway serves breakfast for $3.99. That’s not a bad price for airport food, and you won’t feel as terrible as you would going to McDonald’s. Go ahead and slap some giardiniera on an egg, sausage and cheese sandwich. That’ll kickstart your morning.

**Stay to the Right**
If you stay to the far right in the security line, you’ll often get pushed into the pre-check line and fly through security. It doesn’t always work, but you’ll be standing in line anyway, so might as well try.

**Bring a Water Bottle**
Both Midway and O’Hare have easy water bottle refill stations, like Loyola’s. Bring your own and save yourself the $3 you’d spend on a plastic water bottle at one of the kiosks.

**Don’t Take Uber or Lyft**
While the services are allowed to drop passengers off at airports, they can’t pick them up there. If you want to take either Uber or Lyft, you have to take the Orange Line (or Blue if you’re at O’Hare) one stop toward the city and set that as your pickup location.

**Bring Your Power with You**
Buy a USB battery pack and use it as a portable charger for your phone. They’ll run you about $15 on Amazon or at Marshall’s, but if you’re stuck in Midway without an outlet in sight, you’ll at least be able to charge your phone.

**Take Advantage of Loyola’s New Shuttle Service**
For $20 you can take Loyola’s new Loyola Limited express service to and from Midway or O’Hare. The service is first-come, first-serve. You can reserve your ticket on loyalalimitedexpress.com. Your forearms will thank you for not taking the El.
BUY YOUR TICKET EARLY
Unlike plane tickets, bus ticket prices don’t really move up and down day-to-day. They only go up. The earlier you buy them, the cheaper they will be.

STAND AT THE END OF THE LINE
Once you see your bus at the corner of Jackson Boulevard and Canal Street, everyone will try to rush on. But if it’s easier to get your luggage once you arrive at your destination if you hang back a little before boarding the bus. That way, your luggage will be on top of the pile.

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH
Especially if you’re taking the bus to the nether regions of Minnesota, Iowa or Indiana, you’re going to want something to munch on. Eight hours is a long time without food. The buses often will pull over at a rest stop, but the only food available is likely to be a Wendy’s or a Burger King. You’re better off bringing some of your own food.

DON’T EXPECT TO SLEEP
It’s a bus, not a cruise liner. Odds are your seat is going to be uncomfortable, the woman sitting next to you will be blasting Rihanna and the 10-year-old behind you won’t stop kicking your chair. Bring a book, a movie or some soundproof headphones. It’s going to be a long ride.

EAT SAFE THE DAY BEFORE
Like the ham sandwich or grilled cheese kind of safe. You don’t want have anything that could upset your stomach. A cramped space and a small, smelly bathroom does not welcome any kind of stomach bug. You don’t need your fellow bus riders knowing all your secrets.

MEGABUS

AMTRAK

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WI-FI
Train rides tend to be long, so take advantage of the Wi-Fi to get work done or catch up on your favorite TV shows. It almost as if you never left your dorm room. Just don’t forget to bring a pair of earbuds.

FIND THE DINING CAR
Not every train will have one, but if there is a dining car, find it and eat there at least once. Eating while traveling across the country at a rapid pace will make you feel like you’ve reached the height of civilization.

BRING YOUR OWN BED
Neither the seats nor the beds are very comfortable. If you can, bring along a pillow and a blanket to help you get some shut eye before you get home.

STRETCH YOUR LEGS
Train seats have more room around them than plane or bus seats. Plus, you can walk around while the train is in motion. Major bonus for those who have a hard time sitting through a flight or bus trip.

DON’T BE LATE
The trains wait for no one. No. One.
**The work behind A Christmas Carol**

**BY LAINE HILLESLAND**

We know the story. Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* has been bringing us various “bah humbug”s for more than 150 years. The story has also been recurring at Goodman Theatre (170 N. Dearborn St.) for the last 35 years. The theater’s current production of *A Christmas Carol* is now playing on the Albert Stage until Dec. 28.

The play is based on the novel by the author, who was born 200 years ago on Feb. 7. The story is about Scrooge, a mean and stingy man, who is visited by three spirits, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim. A Christmas Carol has been recurring at Goodman and the Phoenix since 1984. However, actor Larry Yando, who plays the infamous Ebenezer Scrooge, will be performing the role for his eighth year in a row.

Along with Scrooge and the ghosts, A Christmas Carol wouldn’t be complete without a cast of children who bring the holiday spirit alive.

“The process for casting children is a little more extensive,” Belcuore said. “We always do an open call every year to allow kids from across the community to come down and audition for the play.”

Yet casting children requires a different approach. Belcuore said the challenge with children is that since they’re so young, it’s difficult to evaluate them. Belcuore instead has to look for natural performing abilities from the young actors.

“You can’t really apply the same set of criteria as an adult has,” he said. “You kind of have to look for an innate talent or an instinct for performing that you can spot and then trust that you can direct them and mold them into the role you need.”

On top of the challenge of casting children, Belcuore also had to determine his cast based off of vocal talent. This performance isn’t a full musical, but it does have music in it, which requires some singing and dancing abilities from the actors.

Belcuore has been working for Goodman for more than 11 years, as either the casting or artistic director for many of Goodman’s productions. His years working in theater have helped him form a lengthy process for spotting the talent he needs.

A lot of the process comes from remaining in contact with the director of each production and coming up with what they want each character to be like.

“If I don’t cast the play in terms of my own desires. I cast it in terms of the director’s desires,” Belcuore said. “I basically go on and peek at the director’s imagination … then I take good notes and assimilate that to my knowledge in the acting community.”

Whether it’s finding the perfect Scrooge or the best cast of children, Belcuore has a big task with casting most of Goodman’s productions. A Christmas Carol, however, gives him the opportunity to experiment with his cast of characters as well as to portray Dickens’ classic Christmas novel.

“What I think is essential in terms of telling the story well is [the qualities and energies] … that you sort of feel instinctually or [that are] necessary to tell the story well,” he said.

A Christmas Carol runs through Dec. 28 at Goodman Theatre (170 N. Dearborn St.). Tickets cost $31-101. Additional information is available at goodmantheatre.org.

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**Holiday Salad**

**BY ADDIE MARTANOVIC**

While numerous people are focused on eating delicious food this holiday season, they tend to throw the concept of nutritious out the window. However, just because we are celebrating with loved ones, it doesn’t necessarily mean we have to toss our healthy lifestyles behind us.

Of course, I will be reaching for a second serving of sweet potatoes and green beans, but who says they need to be filled with a ton of sugar and butter? During family parties and dinners, I try to focus on finding recipes that bring together some of my favorite fruits and vegetables that are simple to prepare, without compromising quality or flavor.

For this year’s Thanksgiving, I incorporated some of my favorite healthy dishes with my family’s regular creamy mashed potatoes and sugar-fried cranberry sauce. I ended up finding all of my recipes on Pinterest, including a vegan green bean casserole with a creamy cashew sauce and a whole grain stuffing filled with figs. When my family sat down to eat together, no one could tell that the stuffing was whole grain or the casserole was vegan. With just a few swaps, these dishes left my family happily stuffed. I used vegetable stock, organic dried fruits and olive oil in these dishes instead of butter and cream.

Out of the three dishes I made, the roasted vegetable salad (originally from chef Elizabeth Stark of BrooklynSupper.net) was the biggest hit. This salad is easy to prepare for students who are on a limited budget or short on time. Within about a half-hour, you can have a beautiful arrangement of vegetables that serves around four to five people, depending on everyone’s appetite. No matter what the holiday is, this dish will pair well with any meal.

### Roasted vegetable salad with toasted pumpkin seeds (adapted from BrooklynSupper.net)

- olive oil, salt and pepper
- 1 bunch (around 7 to 9) carrots, peeled
- 1 bunch (at least 7) beets
- 1 bunch rainbow swiss chard
- 1/3 cup raw pumpkin seeds
- Instructions:
  - Preheat your oven to 425 degrees. Drizzle 1-2 teaspoons of olive oil, salt and pepper. Heat until the seeds are in the oven, pour the sunflower seeds into a saucepan with a teaspoon of olive oil. Heat until the seeds start to pop, remove from the heat and set aside to cool.
  - Lastly, sprinkle the pumpkin seeds, add a touch of salt and pepper, and dig in!

With the right amount of olive oil and sea salt, this colorful salad is perfect without any dressing—it would take away from the flavor of the tender vegetables.

Serve this up for your family at the next holiday get together and you’ll be sure to warn them with a nutritious dish that doesn’t sacrifice taste.
Alex Clare greets fans after great performance

BY PHIL DAVIS
idavis1@luc.edu

It was a cold, blistery night (even for Chicago) when fans began lining up at the Metro (3730 N. Clark St.) on Nov. 18. I can’t speak for anyone else but I know one of the first thoughts in my mind was “what the heck am I doing here, I’m going to freeze to death.” Luckily the line quickly started to shuffle into the venue and the people piled in. Once inside, any doubts I had were quickly squashed by Alex Clare. The British singer-songwriter whose music is influenced by electronic dance and rock, quickly came on stage with his band and then delivered a loud and heart-pounding show to fans.

Clare, whose hit “Too Close” invaded radio waves back in 2012, delivered a thrilling Chicago show. While currently touring in support of his sophomore album Three Hearts, which dropped earlier this year, the artist was a favorite even among fans of songs from both Three Hearts and his debut album In the Lap of the Hour (2011).

The show began at a moderate pace with “Never Let You Go” from Three Hearts. The recorded version of the song features a strong blend of drums, keyboard and trumpets. Unfortunately, Alex Clare’s band did not include a trumpeter at the live show, and along with many of the electronic sounds, were produced onstage by a DJ. Any instance of an instrument is replaced with a recording of course disappointing, but at the same time there are limitations with a small traveling band. Either way, it wasn’t too much of a drawback.

Regardless, the band and Clare sounded great together. “Never Let You Go” is a not a bad song, but it did not do much to get the crowd amped up early on in the show. It is fairly upbeat and has a positive sound to it, but a song such as “Up All Night” from In the Lap of the Hour would’ve received a better response to open up with due to its electrifying guitar riffs at the beginning of the song.

However, Clare’s drummer and keyboardist were phenomenal — especially the keyboardist, who had a setup of about four or five keyboards that he switched between throughout the setlist. Each of the keyboards produced different sounds, so he would use a different one depending on the song.

Clare’s powerful voice shone through the band’s music most of the time, but every so often his voice was drowned out by his band whenever the music got too loud. This was definitely a drawback because Clare has a fantastic voice. During the peak moments of some of the songs when I wanted to hear his voice, all I heard was the band. After “Never Let You Go,” Clare performed “Huminbird,” also from his first album. It was then that the moderately sized crowd became noticeably more energized. This was most likely because the song is more electronic-based, featuring a heavy bass line with some keyboards on top, which seemed to make the crowd want to dance.

In the Lap of the Hour garnered a lot more attention from critics due to its unique sound when compared to Clare’s more recent release Three Hearts. Clare’s debut album was a strong blend of rock vocals with electronic music, whereas his new release has almost no electronic elements. The crowd responded more to songs from his first album because it was the one that made most people fall in love with Clare’s music in the first place.

Three Hearts isn’t a bad album; it just sounds very different with its purely rock-based sound. The songs are filled with drums and guitar instead of synthesizers and dubstep. With that in mind, praise should be given to Clare. Even though the songs from his two albums sound very different, he and his band still managed to perform a cohesive and well-rounded show.

Though the DJ produced a lot of the electronic elements at the show, many of the electronic elements were also reproduced with live instruments. For example, the bassist performed many of the bass lines for the electronic songs. These had the same melodic as the original songs, but the bass was a deeper or pronounced as on the original songs.

Clare’s band replaced other electronic elements with guitar. This combined sound produced a cool vibe, especially during the songs “I Love You,” “Up All Night” and “Relax My Be loved,” all of which are from In the Lap of the Hour. This rendered sound provided a new take on the songs while still remaining true to the style of the original studio recording.

For the encore, Clare performed “Too Close,” his biggest hit. Almost everyone in the crowd who was already a fan was looking forward to this song all night, and sure enough, he delivered big time.

From the second the song began, the crowd was hyped up. The dubstep elements got the concert-goers dancing, and Clare’s infectious vocals had many of the fans singing at the top of their lungs. “Too Close” was the best possible song to have chosen for the finale of an already great show.

The show ended after the encore. Clare quickly thanked the audience and made a fast exit to the side of the stage, which seemed a bit abrupt. The fans were still cheering, but he did not take any extra time to soak it in like most artists do at the end of a show.

It wasn’t until I was making my way out of the venue that I realized why he did so. Clare had rushed from the stage to the exit in order to greet every fan on their way out and wish them a good night. He was even willing to sign autographs and take pictures to me, that is, the mark of a true artist. Clare took the time to genuinely show his appreciation for his fans and to build a personal relationship with them.

After giving a top notch performance filled with amazing musicianship and sincere kindness, Alex Clare gets my utmost respect and admiration, both for his music and his personality. Someone would’ve had to have a really horrible day to walk out of The Metro that night with negative feelings. If anyone wasn’t already a fan, they sure became one after such an incredible show.

Rapper Vic Mensa performed in front of a large crowd at the Metro (3730 N. Clark St.) last Friday.

Vic Mensa holds hometown show

BY TIM NAGLE
tnagle@luc.edu

Over the past few years, the Chicago music scene has seen a wave of young hip-hop artists transcend from local stardom to the national stage. One of the brightest up-and-coming artists is 21-year-old Vic Mensa, who played a sold-out hometown show at the Metro (3730 N. Clark St.) on Friday, Nov. 28.

Mensa’s soul and acid jazz-influenced sound, similar to that of Chance the Rapper and Mick Jenkins, has created a lot of buzz in Chicago. Another genre that has taken hip-hop by storm is the drill wave. Drill music, created by South Side rappers such as Lil Herb, SD and Freo Santana, raps gangster-inspired lyrics over trap and electronic style beats.

While the two styles of hip-hop differ from each other, they both have produced some of the biggest rising artists in hip-hop.

Mensa’s headlining performance was one of the most hyped shows scheduled in Chicago this fall. The South Side native was originally the lead singer of the jazz and blues group Kids These Days, which formed when the members attended Whitney Young High School in 2009. The group broke up in 2013 and Mensa embarked on his solo career as a rapper. His debut mixtape Immolate landed him a spot on the 2014 freshmen list from hip-hop magazine XXL. Fellow Chicago rappers Chance the Rapper, Lil Bibby and Lil Durk joined Mensa on the list of some of the best newcomers in the genre.

Mensa’s diverse musical background has made him into the well-rounded artist he is today. His style is hard to categorize because he constantly crosses genres. He combines singing and rapping over soul, jazz, blues and house beats.

In his song “Orange Soda,” Mensa shows one of his many talents by confidently rapping over a soothing blues beat. He shows another side of his musical ability when he harmonically sings over deep-house, electronic beats, such as with the Disclosure-sounding instrumental on “Down On My Luck.”
Loyola’s own jazz pianist, web designer, mural painter

Continued from page 1

“It is quite simple how I create a new song,” Koprowski said. “I simply play a chord or a pattern of notes that sounds foreign to me, and I run with it. I run as far as I can… because I know that as long as the black and white keys work alongside one another in unison, there is bound to be a beautiful and colorful result.”

In addition to his original compositions, Koprowski also has a number of recorded piano covers. Popular songs such as “Let It Go,” “Radioactive” and a Bon Iver/Bob Marley mashup are some of his favorites to perform.

On any given day, you might find this young musician in a Mundelein practice room or one of the beautiful small chapels on campus, pounding away on a piano. But he also dedicates time to graffiti art, which he has been practicing for eight years. He admits that his notebooks are “full of more cartoons and graffiti murals than class notes.”

Senior Kevin Koprowski has been playing the jazz piano since the third grade. Stopping by Felice’s, you might also catch a glimpse of Koprowski. He holds the title of vice president of marketing for the store. He is responsible for the design of the website, pizza boxes and the soon-to-be-installed shuttle bus advertisements. Adding to his portfolio is the new mural he painted for the Chainlinks’ storefront.

“The opportunities that I have been given through Loyola Limited, [the student-run company that owns Chainlinks and Felice’s] have been such blessings that I can’t help but reinvest my artistic talents into [them],” Koprowski said.

As for the future, Koprowski plans to pursue what he feels is his purpose: playing piano. He hopes to get his name out by beginning to frequent piano bars and lounges across Chicago after his graduation in May. Big-picture aspirations include international cruise ship entertaining to put his international business degree to use and musical festival production.

His last album, Stillness, and dozens of additional songs are all available on his SoundCloud (https://soundcloud.com/kevin-koprowski). You can also type in “Kevin Koprowski” on YouTube to watch his works of art come to life.

Send your resume and cover letter to Esther Castillejo at estherdcast@gmail.com
Shake Shack

Courtesy of shakeshack.com

Shake Shack’s menu features a variety of burgers, hot dogs, french fries and desserts. The restaurant also features frozen custard, shack-made lemonade and dog treats such as “Pooch-cago.”

BY REGINA MERRILL
rmerrill@luc.edu

Shake Shack’s menu features a variety of burgers, hot dogs, french fries and desserts. The restaurant also features frozen custard, shack-made lemonade and dog treats such as “Pooch-ini.”

BY KRISTEN TORRES
ktorres1@luc.edu

The semester is coming to a close, and there’s only one plausible way to celebrate its end: moving and grooving to an awesome band (or three), of course.

Whether Chicago-based or from across the pond, talented music acts are gracing our city before we head back to our hometowns for the holidays to ring in the new year. Catch one of these shows, relax and let the relief wash over you, because another semester is almost over.

28 North at the Red Line Tap (7006 N. Glenwood Ave.) Dec. 11 | $7 advance, $10 day of | Doors open at 8 p.m.

The Wild Family at Subterranean (1201 W. North Ave.) Dec. 12 | $10 | Doors open at 8 p.m.

The Bribes at The Hideout (1354 W. Wabansia Ave.) Dec. 19 | $10 | Doors open at 8 p.m.

American Football at The Bottom Lounge (1375 W. Lake St.) Dec. 30 | $25 | Doors open at 8 p.m.

The three-piece band made up of Mike Kinsella (vocals), Steve Holmes (guitar) and Steven La-mos (drums), gained fame for its melancholic melodies and fragile rhythmic percussion that became characteristic of its indie rock sound. The trio has released one self-titled album since it first got together in 1998, and has rarely toured over the past 16 years. But the hiatus is about to end — the band makes its Windy City debut at the end of December.

JEFF the brotherhood at The Empty Bottle (1035 N. Westmore Ave.) Dec. 1 | $25 | Doors open at 9 p.m.

Come party with psychedelic garage-rock band JEFF the brotherhood and ring in the new year with the unique Tennessee duo. Brothers Jake and Jamin Orrall are playing at The Empty Bottle and taking the stage with their new, self-produced EP of covers, titled Dig the Classics (2014). The high-energy punk band has gained critical acclaim from outlets such as Rolling Stone, Spin and Pitchfork for its dedication to a hard rock and full-throttle approach to live performances.

BY REGINA MERRILL

Because my Facebook feed was cluttered with posts about the opening of the popular burger chain Shake Shack in Chicago, I decided that I should see what all the fuss was about. The chain started in New York in 2004, but the Chicago location (66 E. Ohio St.) just opened in River North on Nov. 4. I went there the week-end after it opened, and the line was still halfway down the block. Hoping that it would be worth the wait, my friends and I reluctantly joined the line.

To our delight, Shake Shack was clearly prepared to handle a big crowd. We were pleasantly surprised to find that the line moved quickly — it was about 20 minutes from the time we got there until when we placed our order. After we ordered, we were each given buzzers to notify us when our food was ready, which turned out to be just 10 minutes later.

Shake Shack keeps its menu relatively simple when it comes to burgers. Aside from a classic ham-burger ($3.95) or cheeseburger ($4.95), it offers two special items: the smoke shack burger ($6.45), which has bacon, chopped cherry peppers and the chain’s signature Shack sauce, and the “shroom burger ($6.90). I chose the “shroom burger because a portobello mushroom stuffed with two types of cheese (muenster and cheddar) then fried and topped with lettuce, tomato and shack sauce sounded too good to pass up. If you want to get all of that on top of a beef patty, it’ll cost you $9.15. When I ordered, the cashier warned me to be careful when I first bit into it, because they deep fry the cheese-stuffed mushroom, so the cheese can get pretty hot.

Fries do not come included with the burgers, so I ordered the classic crinkle cut fries ($2.90) to go along with mine. You can also order cheese fries for an extra dol-lar, which one of my friends did, but he noted the fries were good enough to stand on their own.

When I received my order, I listened to the cashier’s warning and carefully bit into my burger, which thankfully did not burn my mouth. The two types of cheese really stood out, the smoothness of the cheddar and the sharp flavor of the muenster made an excellent combination.

My only complaint was that the shack sauce, which seems to be some sort of spiced mayonnaise, was overpowering by the cheese, so I couldn’t really tell that it was on my burger.

The general consensus of my group was that the burgers were a good size, not so large as to be difficult to hold, but big enough to be satisfying. Everyone also agreed that what made Shake Shack better than an average burger joint was the quality of the concrete concoction you can come away with. In whatever milkshake or concrete concoction you can come up with.

What I appreciated about Shake Shack is that the restaurant makes an effort to integrate local Chicago culture into its menu. It features a “Shack-cago” dog ($4.00), Shake Shack’s take on the classic Chicago dog. It also has the salted caramel custard ($4.30 for a single) which comes in five different flavors: chocolate in it: chocolate custard mixed with fudge sauce, chocolate truffle cookie dough (which tasted much more like fudgy brownie batter, but that’s not a complaint), Voge’s black salt caramel chocolate and chocolate sprinkles. The frozen custard menu offers chocolate, va-nilla and a flavor of the day to served in whatever milkshake or concrete concoction you can come up with.

Dig the Classics

The semester is coming to a close, and there’s only one plausible way to celebrate its end: moving and grooving to an awesome band (or three), of course.

Whether Chicago-based or from across the pond, talented music acts are gracing our city before we head back to our hometowns for the holidays to ring in the new year. Catch one of these shows, relax and let the relief wash over you, because another semester is almost over.

28 North at the Red Line Tap (7006 N. Glenwood Ave.) Dec. 11 | $7 advance, $10 day of | Doors open at 8 p.m.

The Wild Family at Subterranean (1201 W. North Ave.) Dec. 12 | $10 | Doors open at 8 p.m.

The Bribes at The Hideout (1354 W. Wabansia Ave.) Dec. 19 | $10 | Doors open at 8 p.m.

American Football at The Bottom Lounge (1375 W. Lake St.) Dec. 30 | $25 | Doors open at 8 p.m.

If you’ve yet to see the elusive soft-rock band American Football live, then now is your chance. The three-piece band made up of Mike Kinsella (vocals), Steve Holmes (guitar) and Steven La-mos (drums), gained fame for its melancholic melodies and fragile rhythmic percussion that became characteristic of its indie rock sound. The trio has released one self-titled album since it first got together in 1998, and has rarely toured over the past 16 years. But the hiatus is about to end — the band makes its Windy City debut at the end of December.
Surfing YouTube’s educational channels

BY MATT BOEY
mboey@luc.edu

Changing a tire? Twentieth Century was a D-Day? There’s a YouTube channel for that, along with anything else you can imagine. Although it hosts some of the most absurd content on the Internet, YouTube also has enough educational and informative content to rival Wikipedia. Including digital tutors and self-help guides, many of its videos can be great sources for brushing up on exam material, exploring new and potential fields of study or even getting advice for dealing with the various responsibilities of adulthood. With that in mind, here are a few suggestions to get started:

Crash Course

One of the most subscribed to educational YouTube channels (with more than 2.4 million subscribers), “Crash Course” has videos for seemingly everything scholarly related. The channel started with a grant from Google in 2012, and is run by the brother-duo duo of Hank and John Green, the latter of whom is the author of The Fault in Our Stars. The videos are condensed, information-heavy lectures that cover a variety of humanities and sciences, from world history to psychology and chemistry.

Each video cap at around 10 to 15 minutes and gives a fairly in-depth treatment of the topic in question. With their expansive library of videos continually growing, this channel is a great tool for reviewing for class, or introducing yourself to a new subject.

WiseCrack

For a hilarious analysis of classic literature, look no further than the channel “WiseCrack,” home to the show Joust. Hosted by Virginia comedian Greg Edwards under the character name Sparky Sparks Ph.D., the show discusses novels such as 1984, Drakea and The Gospel of Wush in a comedic fashion that breaks down complicated books into “street” lingo. Each video consists of a summary and an insightful analysis, expertly combining both tongue-in-cheek comedy and education.

How To Adult

Struggling to transition to adulthood? You’re not alone. There is digital help from a not-so-c력을 named channel “How To Adult.” Produced by the Green brothers of “Crash Course” and hosted by Internet personalities Emma Mills and Mike Martin, this channel sets out to fulfill its title by giving tips and providing steps to complete tasks that many young adults struggle with or have not done before. These tasks include filing taxes, changing a tire, opening a bank account or managing your credit/debit card. Though not all videos may seem to be relevant now, they are handy “dummies” guides to those simple questions that you may be too embarrassed to ask.

Science Channels

The world is full of scientific nerds, and YouTube is no exception. There are many channels that deal with a variety of topics. Here are some thought leaders, or “philosopher channels” that deal with a variety of scientific topics and questions, both hypothetical and practical.

These videos deal with everything from breaking the speed of light, whether or not you should run in the rain to avoid being wet or how social media changes the way our brains work. These types of channels include Vauice, **AskAPhysic** is, **SciShow**, **MinutePhysics** and **Veritasium**, amongst many others. From these sites, you should be able to answer any crazy question you have ever had about the possibilities or the achievements of science.

Mental Floss

For all your mindless trivia info, look no further than the database of funny and seemingly useless information that is the channel “Mental Floss.” With new videos every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the channel formats each video as a list, covering a variety of topics such as common misconceptions, facts about Mr. Rogers, bizarre college classes and idiom origins. Hosted by a myriad of Internet personalities such as Hannah Hart, John Green and Elliot Morgan, this channel is a go-to source for any trivia aficionado or hard core trivia team.

At times a black hole of cat videos and Internet trolls, YouTube is also the best place to study Stephen Hawking and aggressive psychology. It’s a mass public classroom for the digital world with enrollment being only a click away.
Old game needs new players

BY BRIDGET MURPHY
bmurphy3@luc.edu

BY BRIDGET MURPHY
bmurphy3@luc.edu

I’m not sexist but it’s nearly impossible to listen to a woman talk about football on ESPN.

I’m not sexist, but women please stop tweeting about football, we don’t tweet about cooking.

I’m not sexist, but I don’t really think these male Twitter users know what the word “sexism” means. Sexism is defined as prejudice, stereotyping or discrimination against someone on the basis of gender. Both of these tweets are sexist.

Though these tweets are blatantly sexist, women in sports and sports journalism find themselves facing much more subtle microaggressions and structural barriers to finding lasting success in the profession.

In many industries, strides have been made to aid women in breaking the glass ceiling. The sports world — particularly sports journalism — has fallen behind in promoting success for women in the field.

NPR did a segment on women in sports journalism when ESPN columnist Jane McManus was invited to the ESPN roundtable discussion about NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell’s press conference concerning former Ravens player Ray Rice. At this press conference, Rice was suspended indefinitely from the NFL after a video was released that showed him beating his then-fiancee. McManus had extensively covered domestic abuse in her time as a columnist for ESPNW, but she was still surprised she was given a seat at the table to discuss the decision, she told NPR.

“There was a seat at the table for me, and I was aware that that was a big deal to have a seat at the table and to be involved in that conversation,” she said.

Also in the NPR segment were clips from Fox Sports reporter Katie Nolan, who made a YouTube video in response to Goodell’s decision.

“We women in sports television are allowed to read headlines, pass questions on behalf of the public, be a part of the conversation. It’s time for this business to change, or at least who’s in the conversation.”

Diversity in the conversation is something that can only add to sports reporting rather than detract from it.

“It’s not an admission of inequality to say that women see things differently sometimes,” said Sally Jenkins, sports reporter for the Washington Post. “We have different sensibilities; we have different experiences. This lame sort of sameness is boring. It doesn’t serve your audience. It doesn’t lead to provocative questions. It leads to … blind spots.”

These blind spots may end up hurting the NFL’s bottom line.

According to Businessweek and Equity.com, female viewership of the NFL is growing faster than male viewership. In a way, this means that continued growth for the NFL depends on maintaining this increase in women fans.

But how can it expect to do this when thus far the only women that fans see as a part of the NFL are cheerleaders, who struggle to make even a living wage?

Though after the Rice scandal ESPN “raised visibility of female reporters,” according to NPR, women are scarcely seen outside of “supporting roles” for their male colleagues.

Microaggressions and structural barriers aren’t only found at ESPN, though.

I won’t bore you with the details of my journey to where I am now, because that isn’t important. What is important is what I will do for The Phoenix and its readers now and in the future.

I like to think of myself as an examiner — someone who asks questions on behalf of the public until the truth is evident.

I like to think of myself as open-minded — someone who will take anything and every thing into consideration before passing judgment.

I like to think of myself as ruthless — someone who will only accept the best work from himself and those around him.

With all that said, a lot of people like to think many things about themselves. I’ll let you be the real judge about me so you can unveil who I really am in the coming days, weeks, months and hopefully years.

All I can do is convince you that I am worthy of filling the enormous shoes that Sports Editor Bridget Murphy will be leaving when she goes to Rome, where she’ll be studying abroad next semester.

Channeling my inner Yoda when it comes to fulfilling this seemingly insurmountable task, there is one thing that comes to mind: “Do or do not. There is no try.”

If there’s one thing that I’m certain of, it’s that I will be taking Yoda’s advice to heart and committing myself fully to replacing the magnificent Bridget.

“Murphy,” as we call her, has been as stable an editor as The Phoenix could have hoped for. She was a mentor when someone needed mentoring, a supporter when things weren’t going the right way and a reliable person who was always true to her word. All of that makes her one and only flaw: being a Detroit sports fan.

As difficult as it will be to fill such a large hole that Bridget will leave in the staff, we’ll have no time to miss her. Ranging from Esther Castillo, our editor-in-chief, down to me, the new guy with the rare name, we expect nothing short of excellence.
I felt like with college athletics, athletics, like I had said before, really wanted to stay involved with. I really felt like college athletics was experienced the professional side and I wanted to go down. I had experienced the professional side and I wanted to go down. I had experienced the professional side and I wanted to go down. I had experienced the professional side and I wanted to go down. I had experienced the professional side and I wanted to go down. I had experienced the professional side and I wanted to go down. I had experienced the professional side and I wanted to go down. I had experienced the professional side and I wanted to go down. I had experienced the professional side and I wanted to go down. I had experienced the professional side and I wanted to go down. I had experienced the professional side and I wanted to go down. I had experienced the professional side and I wanted to go down. I had experienced the professional side and I wanted to go down. 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Promising season comes up just short

BY MADELINE KENNEY
mkenney1@luc.edu

Loyola's men's soccer team had a winning record (8-6-5) since its NCAA tournament appearance in 2008, when it finished its season with a 14-6-6 record.

This past season marked the first time Loyola's men's soccer team had a winning record (8-6-5) since its NCAA tournament appearance in 2008, when it finished its season with a 14-6-6 record.

This season was also the first time the Ramblers went unbeaten at home (6-0-2) since their 2005-2006 season. According to junior Daniel Hare and freshman Elliot Collier, this season was built on a solid foundation.

"I think that we felt a lot more comfortable this season," she said. "Last year we compared it to Missouri State who had a really good season and we had really good leaders and good soccer players. Our goalie, Tim Dobrowolski, did really well this year as well.

By Emily Brown and Bridget Murphy
ebrown10@luc.edu, bmurphy3@luc.edu

The men's soccer team is looking to build on this year's success as it moves into its third year in the Missouri Valley Conference. The team has a young core of players and is focused on improving as a unit.

"I think that we learned a lot throughout the season," Reardon said. "I think it didn't go numbers-wise as well as we wanted it to, but we have a lot of our team back in the middle and working on skills we didn't have before. So overcoming those injuries was a challenge, but all-in-all we did well."

"Zach Brown, one of our seniors, tore his ACL in the spring, and another senior, Andrew Raymond, had a concussion that put him out for the beginning of the season," said Bement. "Then Ryan Howe, one of our captains and starters, was out after he tore his ACL six games into the season. So overcoming those injuries was a challenge, but all-in-all we did well."

"Some of our goals were a winning record, being unbeaten at home and winning a significant number of games," said Jones. "We ended the season with a winning record. We didn't lose a single home game, even some of the best teams from the MVC couldn't beat us at home. And we beat No. 20 Northwestern, which anytime you beat a Big Ten conference team and a top-25 team, it is a significant win."

The men's soccer team is graduating three seniors: Bresser, right side hitter Laura Purcell and outside hitter Mary Kate Styer. However, the Ramblers are welcoming a large freshman class next fall.

"As a personal goal, that was [my] and the team's goal," said Bresser. "I know she's going to be a challenge, but … we have a lot of our team back.

"I think team-wise that just shows how much we have a lot of our team back and how we were able to get back to back," she said. "Fortunately, our guys on the bench stepped up and contributed on the field." Some freshmen who stepped up to the plate were Collier, Boddy Krausel and Kyle Thomson. The three first-years received MVC All-Freshman team status, and Thomson also received the MVC Freshman of the Year award.

Hare agreed with Bement that the loss of Howe, a junior middlefielder, affected the team immensely.

"Howe's injury was difficult for us because [he] is one of our captains and is a leader on and off the field," Hare said. "When he went down, I think everyone on the team including the coaches took a step back and wondered how we were going to be able to bounce back from this."

"Then Ryan Howe, one of our captains and starters, was out after he tore his ACL six games into the season. So overcoming those injuries was a challenge, but all-in-all we did well."

"And we beat No. 20 Northwestern, which anytime you beat a Big Ten conference team and a top-25 team, it is a significant win."

BY MADELINE KENNEY
mkenney1@luc.edu

Loyola's women's volleyball season came to a close after the team lost to the University of Northern Iowa 3-1 on Nov. 22. The Ramblers finished their season 9-19 in their second year in the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC).

"I think it didn't go numbers-wise as well as we wanted it to, but I definitely think that we learned a lot throughout the process," said sophomore outside hitter Morgan Reardon. "I think we learned a lot about each other as a team and things we needed to work on to have to work on going into this off-season.

In their second year in the MVC, the Ramblers again missed making the conference tournament. However, Reardon said she feels as though this season was a step forward for the team and a beginning to a better conference.

"I think that we felt a lot more comfortable this season," she said. "Last year we were kind of feeling out who were the good teams, who's going to be the teams that we should beat every time and that we should beat every time. So I think it gave us an opportunity this year to focus more on ourselves rather than our opponent."

Reardon led the Ramblers and remained among the top three players in the MVC in kills and points per game the entire season.

"I'm excited for next year," said Hare. "I think our building is set apart by its strong defensive presence on the field."
DECEMBER 26TH

FLOSSTRADAMUS HDYNATION TOUR

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26TH
ARAGON BALLROOM - CHICAGO

1106 W. LAWRENCE, CHICAGO, IL - 18+ EVENT
DOORS AT 8:00PM - TICKETS AT CLUBTIX.COM

ARAGON BALLROOM // 1106 W. LAWRENCE / CHICAGO, IL // 18+ EVENTS

DECEMBER 27TH

Nightmare After Christmas

SUNDAY DECEMBER 27TH

ARAGON BALROOM

1106 W. LAWRENCE, CHICAGO, IL

18+ EVENT - TICKETS AT CLUBTIX.COM

DECEMBER 30TH

NEW YEAR'S RUN

Zeds Dead

SEVEN LIONS

LOUPICK

NEW YEAR'S EVE RUN
DECEMBER 30TH

ARAGON BALLROOM

1106 W. LAWRENCE, CHICAGO, IL

18+ EVENT - TICKETS AT REACTIONNYE.COM

DECEMBER 31ST

Zeds Dead

NEW YEAR'S EVE
DECEMBER 31ST

ARAGON BALLROOM

1106 W. LAWRENCE, CHICAGO, IL

18+ EVENT - TICKETS AT REACTIONNYE.COM