

THE CATALYST

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"IGNITING THE MIND"

FREE

Politicizing Beyoncé



By Joey Marinaro

Driver, roll up the partition please. This month, the Women's Center, the English Department, the American Studies Department, PRIDE, and Women in Progress presented a lecture and discussion entitled "Politicizing Beyoncé," hosted by Kevin Allred, a pop culture critic and adjunct professor at Rutgers University. Allred is working on a book based on politicizing Beyoncé, but for now has a website on it, www.politicizingbeyonce.com.

He has written many articles about pop culture through the critical lens of social justice. He has also appeared frequently on MSNBC's "So POPular," a web series hosted by author Janet Mock that uses Allred's style of critical analysis.

In the discussion, Professor Allred chose two videos from Beyoncé's self-titled visual album *BEYONCÉ* that was released, as a surprise, in December of 2013. Can you name any other star who would graciously give everyone in the world a surprise present for the holidays? Beyoncé's "stanning" aside, agreed that *BEYONCÉ* was the beginning of a new era, a diva – she was, for the first time, outwardly politicizing herself.

If you haven't heard it by now, you might want to crawl out from the dark,

suffocating rock you've been living under. Both sonically and visually, *BEYONCÉ* is laced with ideas about gender, sexuality, and race. In the discussion, Professor Allred chose the videos for "Jealous" and "Partition" to open up a discussion about Beyoncé and her ideas about gender, sexuality, and relationships.

To preface the discussion, Allred gave us a reference point in the form of text written by former MSNBC correspondent Melissa Harris Perry in her book "Sister Citi-

zen":

In one study, subjects were placed in a crooked chair in a crooked room and then asked to align themselves vertically. Some

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Despite the Results, Women Made History This Election

By Marilyn Bonilla

Although the ceremony of the glass ceiling was not able to "shatter" during the night of the election since Hillary Clinton did not win the presidency, there were breakthroughs by women who took office this election. Turns out, there is something to celebrate.

Ilhan Omar is the first Muslim refugee elected in office and the first Somali-American lawmaker in the United States. According to an article from npr.com, Omar stated, "This really was a victory for that 8-year-old in that

Election Aftermath Where Do We Go From Here?

By Karla Arroyo

"It is our task together to educate each other so that we may have a place where all of us will be able to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," said President Calvin O. Butts, III at "The Presidential Election and Beyond" discussion on November 15th.

The 2016 presidential election was controversial. The results instilled a lot of mixed feelings within the student body, faculty, and administration. The most common feeling was fear, which was proven by a few students' tears.

Strong Affirmation

Dr. Butts provided a strong affirmation of the college's mission statement. His overall message was that we should not be fearful. "I'm deeply concerned about some of the things that have been said about women, Latinos, Hispanics, immigrants, Muslims...but yet, don't we understand that there is something even higher than the office and the president?" he said. "There are certain values that are higher than the presidency, and no matter who the president is, we strive for those values. We have the right to assemble, we have the right to free speech, we have the right to practice our religion."

He also stressed the importance of education, stating, "You cannot main-

tain a civil society without a well-educated public."

With over 100 people in attendance, the seats filled up quickly. After Dr. Butts spoke, he opened the floor to students, faculty and administration and allowed them to ask any questions concerning the election and the current state of affairs in our country.

Student Question

SUNY Old Westbury student Teddy Dacius asked Dr. Butts about the price of federal spending, specifically asking how much does the U.S. spend on the military at the moment as opposed to education. Dr. Butts made a reference to former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower and mentioned how Eisenhower talked about the price of a tank, battleship and jet plane and said that any one tank, battleship or jet plane could pay for a new school. "You take several of them, you could probably pay the salaries of the faculty at Old Westbury," said Dr. Butts. "You're right to examine the war spending of this nation and what it really takes to secure our nation."

Noting that "we are a diverse community," he said that the SUNY Old Westbury community "strives to understand the other." He said that people should not be afraid to raise their voices and that he respects those "who speak truth to power."

He emphasized, "Whether you come from Long Beach or Washington Heights, the doors of our university are open to you."

Resolution Submitted to Faculty Senate

Though it does not seem to be under the authority of the college president to implement sanctuary policies, the following resolution was submitted to the faculty senate on December 2nd and will be voted upon at the senate's

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Student Escape Corner “Living Clean and Sober”

By Michelle Weinfurt

The Student Escape Corner is back at it again this semester with a new radio show. “Living Clean and Sober” focuses on educating the younger generation on the effects of drugs and alcohol, while encouraging students to make good choices.

Hosts Blanca Schneider and co-host Earl Thompson work together harmoniously to lighten the subjects that can be considered as heavy content. Schneider is a credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse counselor. She supervises the Stony Brook Graduate Social Work. Students, interns, and collaborates with other school units that provide work-

shops on the reality of drugs and alcohol addiction, domestic violence, and time-management.

Frequently, peer educators, student affairs, faculty members, and AA join the show to give multiple perspectives. In October, University Police Chief Steven Sienna and Vice President of Student Affairs Wayne Edwards went on-air to discuss how sexting and cyberbullying can affect our youth. The purpose was not to tell students what to do with their time or with their bodies, but to remind them of the possible consequences that sexting can bring.

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OLD WESTBURY PICKED UP A 79-69 HOME WIN SATURDAY IN A REMATCH OF THE 2016 SKYLINE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

OW PANTHERS MOURN THE PASSING OF ASSISTANT WOMEN’S SOCCER COACH JIMMY KIRIAKOS

OW PANTHERS WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TANGLES WITH SAGE IN REMATCH OF 2016 SKYLINE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

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Where Do We Go From Here?

next meeting. The resolution was approved by the departments of American Studies, Biology, English, History and Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law, and Public Health.

Nearly Complete Excerpt From Proposed Resolution

Whereas, Old Westbury faculty declare their commitment to the college's historic social justice mission, and seek action to protect the human rights of all members of our community, especially the most vulnerable.

Whereas, A guiding belief at SUNY Old Westbury is that students and educators belong to a diverse community which advances knowledge and undertakes social justice in an inclusive environment.

Whereas, a formal statement from Dr. Butts, in writing, affirming this declaration of Old Westbury as a sanctuary campus will provide much needed comfort for members of our community who face imminent discrimination, violence, and deportation.

Be it resolved that, the president's office circulate a public statement that declares SUNY Old Westbury a sanctuary campus, by virtue of which our institution reaffirms its support and protection to those in our community who have been particularly threatened and are increasingly vulnerable to changes in federal policies: immigrants, especially those who are undocumented, people of color, Muslims, LGBTQ groups, refugees, people with disabilities, and women.

Be it further resolved that the SUNY Old Westbury administration immediately develop and implement a protocol for the protection of our community by taking the following steps:

- * Refusing to comply with immigration authorities regarding deportations or raids.

- * Restricting University Police from inquiring about immigration status and addresses and preventing collaboration with Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE).

- * Preventing law enforcement agencies from conducting raids on campus without a warrant.

- * Collaborating with students, staff and faculty to raise awareness about how to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable community members.

- * Suggesting legal counsel to community members under threat of detention and/or deportation.

- * Identifying sources of student aid and loans for undocumented community members.

- * Ensuring privacy by refusing to release the immigration status and addresses of students, faculty, and staff.

- * Assigning a specific office and specific administrators who will assist our DACA students and other students who lack the privilege of citizenship.

- * Identifying mental health professionals and community advocacy organizations who have experience and competency in working with marginalized groups and trauma in relation to family separation, deportation, and discrimination.

- * Providing educational forums and the circulation of informational materials that raise the awareness of our campus community around these issues.

Be it further resolved that these measures affirm our ongoing sense of obligation to protect the values of SUNY Old Westbury, to ensure access to higher education, and to maintain our responsibility to our community. We cannot afford to be silent or complacent under the grave threats to SUNY Old Westbury's mission of justice and inclusion.

Be it further resolved that the President of the SUNY Old Westbury Faculty Senate hand deliver this resolution to the President's Office, as soon as possible following its passage in the Faculty Senate.

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Politicizing Beyoncé

perceived themselves as straight only in relation to their surroundings. To researchers' surprise, some people could be tilted as much as 35 degrees and report that they were perfectly straight, simply because they were aligned with images that were equally tilted. But not everyone did this: some managed to get themselves more or less upright regardless of how crooked the surrounding images were.

When they confront race and gender stereotypes, black women are standing in a crooked room, and they have to figure out which way is up. Bombarded with warped images of their humanity, some black women tilt and bend themselves to fit the distortion.

What in the world does that have to do with a song about Beyoncé getting her freak on with her husband, Jay-Z, in the back of limousine? Well, it actually has *everything* to do with it. In the video for "Partition," a song that explicitly describes certain sexual relations between Mr. & Mrs. Carter (and even references other specific "relations" between a certain ex-President and his mistress), Beyoncé is pictured sitting at a table trying to get the attention of someone sitting across from her, who is more interested in a newspaper than the beautiful, sultry goddess sitting in front of him. After making numerous attempts to draw attention to herself, Beyoncé drifts off to an imaginary land where she is a performer at a popular (and very real) cabaret venue in Paris called "Crazy Horse." She is presenting the idea of her needing to hyper-sexualize herself in order to gain the attention of the man sitting across from her. After the song is complete, we return back to the table where once again, Queen Bey still can't get this dusty man to notice her. We soon realize that the concept of "Partition" was nothing but an imagination; Beyoncé trying to gain her balance in the "crooked room."

The next song on the visual album, "Jealous" – which was also the second choice of critique and discussion by Professor Allred. Beyoncé, clearly irritated at the lack of attention her man is showing her, storms out of the room as the beat for "Jealous" starts to drop. It is in both this song and music video, that Beyoncé is sharing the same political view expressed by Melissa Harris Perry. In the song, Beyoncé sings:

"Sometimes, I wanna walk in your shoes, do the type of things that I never ever do. So, I take one look in the mirror,

and I say to myself, 'Baby girl you can't survive like this.'"

In this line, Beyoncé is smashing the idea that she was previously fantasizing about in "Partition." She is accepting that she cannot survive in this "crooked room" where she needs to bend herself to stand correctly, which is parallel of her hyper-sexualizing to get the attention of her significant other.

These two songs aren't the only ones on the self-titled visual album that scream politics – you've most definitely heard "Flawless" which features an iconic excerpt from author and speaker Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie where she smashes patriarchy by disowning the ideas that women should compete with each other for the attention of men and that a woman's sole aspiration in life should be to marry. Beyoncé also performed this song a couple of times on live television with the word "FEMINIST" in bold, white letters, which could have left an impact on the various demographics watching at home.

Beyoncé's politics do not end there either – her latest effort, *Lemonade*, had many political messages – including a music video that featured the mothers of many of the victims of police brutality between 2014-2015 – who she also brought with her to the VMAs in 2016. There is also of course the visual album's first single, "Formation" that is one of the most pro-black songs of the last decade, in a time where racial tensions are at the forefront of our country. Aside from music, Beyoncé has also been vocal on social media about political issues including the Black Lives Matter movement against police brutality, the Flint, Michigan water crisis, and this year's election. She also has a foundation called *BeyGood*, which just this year donated \$82,000 to Flint, Michigan.

Beyoncé's work is a vessel for discussing socio-political issues.



Find Kevin Allred on twitter at @kevinallred or at Kevin-allred.com

SUNY Old Westbury Alumna and Writer, Chantese Wilkinson

By Nathalie Ligonde

"We always tell people, 'you have to go out and work for what you want,' but we never tell them how to do it. The educated understand it but what about the ones who didn't get the education?" said 26-years-old Chantese Wilkinson, SUNY Old Westbury alumna. Chantese got her English degree at OW and is now the author of a



Children's book, "Penny for a Boy." Along with her wife Jeanette Wilkinson, Chantese wanted to provide scholarships for kids to get an education by giving money to a school. She then realized that they would have "no control over who wins, no control on how the money is spent and no control over whether freshman could get it or not." Instead of funding a school, they decided to start their own company. Chantese added, "I want them to have a wider scale so that they become

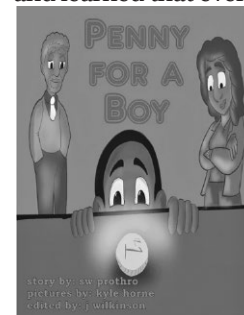
these great people that you want to be seen at 18."

Chantese started a publishing company named SWP Artists LLC which is a minority, women owned, small business (MWOSB) based in Buffalo, NY and Long Island, NY. SWP Artists LLC's objective is to offer artists of all ages and cultural backgrounds the opportunity to reach a wider audience. Their mission is to provide "high quality stories with focus on multicultural protagonist" as stated on the SWP Artists LLC website. Their vision is to hopefully use the profits from publishing their books in order to create scholarships for students entering junior high and high school.

Asked if as an English major this is the career path she dreamt of, Shantese responded, "Definitely! I wanted to be a writer since I was ten. I was actually terrified for

about eight years to call myself a writer. Every story that I have, is in my head. It started getting daunting that I would never make it, because I had no idea that there was a joke about "Oh you're a writer? Ok you're broke." I don't get out much, and I was in St. John's studying marketing. I had a formula that I would do writing on the side and Marketing full-time." She continued her story by saying, "I left St. Johns because I couldn't afford the tuition. Then I transferred to Old Westbury and joined as a math major because I figured I was still going to do something with math. Then I got forced into the English department. They literally followed me around to tell me I did not belong in the math department and to join the English department."

When asked how she stays motivated to keep fighting for her goals, Shantese said, "I have always been upset because I thought that there weren't enough people doing or thinking. Then I came out with this book and learned that every person has a story that they wish



they could tell. Every person I tell why I did this is empowered and bolden. When I hear people now who sound like I sounded two years ago, bitter, I'm just like "all you have to do is say something." I meet all these people, I keep writing stories and they keep loving them. That kind of emboldens me. It's amazing."

Chantese advises young people who don't know their passion and have no idea what they want in life by saying, "You have to work on finding your passion and once you do, you have to stick to it. First comes the passion but then comes changing your personality. Trust me, changing is not the most important part. A lot of people think it's what is necessary to grow up but it's not."

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Despite the Results, Women Made History This Election

mum wage, closing the opportunity gap, and environmental justice.

Kamala Harris is the first female, first black, and first Asian American that was elected as California's Attorney General.

Harris earned her bachelor's degree in Howard University in 1986. She went on to earn her law degree in UC Hastings College of Law. Harris became deputy district attorney for Alameda County District, in which she prosecuted child rape, murder, and robbery cases. Harris also managed the Career Criminal Unit in San Francisco District.

Harris is part of the Democratic Party. Her stance on political issues include pro-choice, equal opportunity for all, ensure marriage equality, solutions for climate change, and pro-gun control.

Catherine Cortez Masto becomes the first Latina woman in the United States Senate.

Masto served as Assistant County Manager for Clark County Nevada, a federal criminal prosecutor for United States Attorney Office, and Chief of Staff for Governor Bob Miller.

Masto is a Democrat from Nevada. Masto is in support for Protecting Financial Aid for Students and Taxpayers Act and health care reform.

Kate Brown is the first openly LGBT elected US governor.

In 2004 Brown was the first woman to be Oregon's State Majority Leader and Secretary of State in 2008. Brown worked in juvenile and family law attorney, as well as co-founded Oregon's Women's Health and Wellness Alliance. Brown has

successfully raised minimum wage, guarantee paid sick leave for workers, increase education funding, and put Oregon in the forefront of the clean energy movement.

Tammy Duckworth is the first female disabled veteran elected in the House of Representatives. Duckworth is an Iraq War Veteran and was Assistant Secretary of Veteran Affairs. Duckworth was deployed to Iraq in 2004 as a Black Hawk helicopter pilot for Illinois Army national guard. Duckworth is also recognized as one of the first women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Duckworth believes in strengthening national security, advocating for The Eighth District, improving government accountability and cutting waste, advocating for veterans and troops, as well as helping seniors and

Americans with disabilities.

Primalia Jaypal became the first Indian-American woman in Congress. Jaypal is an immigrant from India. She came to the US when she was 16-years-old. Jaypal worked in Wall Street and claims, according to pramilaforcongress.com "know exactly what needs to be done to protect consumers and punish those who crashed our economy." She has been state senator for Washington, D.C.. "I've lived the American Dream, and I've devoted my life to fighting for others to have the opportunities they need to achieve their own American Dream," states Jaypal on her website. Jaypal believes in pay raise, sick leave, equal pay for equal work, expanding social security and medicare, clean energy, and expand the middle class.

**Ilhan Omar-
Minnesota House Representative**



Image from AllAfrica.com

**Kamala Harris-
United States Senator**



Image from HuffingtonPost.com

**Catherine Cortez Masto-
United States Senator**



Image from Slate.com

**Kate Brown-
Oregon State Governor**



Image from npr.com

**Tammy Duckworth-
United States Senator**



Image from wonkette.com

**Primalia Jaypal- United
States House of Representatives,
Washington's 7th District**



Image from Peoplesworld.org

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO BE SUCCESSFUL

New and Improved Ways to Pursue External Scholarships

By Dayna McNeil

Are you a student who is interested in applying for fellowships or scholarships? Interested in excelling? Are you a student who is thinking about life after graduation? Graduate school? If you answered yes to any of those questions, take a look at the new Fellowships and Scholarships page on SUNY Old Westbury's website which has a lists of national and international prestigious awards.

Students can utilize *Fellowship Finder*. *Fellowship Finder* is The Illinois Database of Grants and Fellowships for Graduate Students which students can use to find scholarships they are eligible for. "Fellowships and scholarships have always been around... but now there is a centralized location where students can go to search if they are interested in a certain type of fellowship [in addition to]

graduate fellowships, [or] internships in their area," said Assistant Dean for School of Arts and Sciences Cristina Notaro,

Fellowship Finder and the website chart, that lists fellowships and scholarships, are easily accessible. Both tools will assist students in finding national and/or international fellowships and/or scholarships. There is a fellowship and/or scholarship geared toward many disciplines! Some competitive national and international awards include yet are not limited to: Fulbright US Student, Marshall, Public Policy and International Affairs, National Science Foundation, Humanity in Action, Boren, and Beinecke. Some may even allow you to study and research abroad.

Students who are interested in pursuing a fellowship or scholarship provided by *Fellowship Finder* should contact

Assistant Dean Notaro. Assistant Dean Notaro is very willing and eager to help students who are interested and serious about learning the process of applying to a fellowship or scholarship. She is able to help students identify opportunities and develop applications and application materials, and advise them on the scholarship process.

Even though these resources can be used to benefit students, this database which is new to SUNY Old Westbury can be used to help faculty as well. Faculty can be even more engaged with students and their success in school along with applying for an award. "This is a place where [faculty] can refer students to. This is not just for students but for everyone at the college," said Assistant Dean Norato.

"[Students] should be thinking about

these things, they are qualified. [Scholarships and fellowships] are highly competitive but even if you don't get it, the process of doing it is beneficial! This can open up doors. There is no reason why Old Westbury students should not be applying!" said Assistant Dean Norato.

If you are interested in applying for a fellowship or scholarship, head to the campus website: www.oldwestbury.edu/schools/arts-sciences/scholarships and contact Assistant Dean Notaro! Under the Fellowships and Scholarships page, advice for applicants, faculty and staff resources, and how to prepare to apply can be found.

Happy hunting!

SUNY OLD WESTBURY WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMUTER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

By Nathalie Ligonde

"I am here to support the commuting students' needs and create a valuable co-curricular experience," said Nicole Thomas, the new Director of Commuter Programs and Services.

The first project that Thomas worked on after joining the school in November was creating a survey for commuters. She said, "I feel like I need to know who I'm servicing before I decide what I'm going to do for them."

Asked how she can improve the commuters' program so commuters can have "the college experience," Thomas answered, "For the first three weeks I've been here, I spent that time just trying to settle in, learn about the commuter student's community and what has been done prior to my coming here.. I'm still trying to figure out what exactly commuter students want and need.

"I'm here and that my office is here to support them. I want them to know about

what's going on, get them to stay on campus and feel connected to the school and be happy here." Thomas also said that she wants to find out what commuters are really interested in. For example, whether they would like to go on an off-campus trip to a Broadway show, or professional development/career type work shops.

Many commuters don't want to stay on campus. Thomas said, "I've heard that some commuters would rather stay in their car rather than hang out on campus." She said that is something she really wants to change.

Thomas added. "There is plenty of space on campus for commuters to hang out and be comfortable." She listed the library and the Student Union and its game room lounge and a general lounge with couches and TV's. The Student Union also has the Center of Student Leadership and Involvement (CSLI), the

cafeteria in the Campus Center and the Student Union, and Dunkin' Donuts in the New Academic Building.

Thomas concluded by saying, "To be a happy commuter you don't have to be here five days a week. What matters is the time that you are here, you are getting the college experience. You're engaged, feel supported, and welcomed."

Thomas noted, "We have a total of 3,682 commuting students enrolled in courses for the Fall 2016 semester:

- 2,124 students commuting from Nassau County.
- 1,005 students from Suffolk County.
- 329 from Queens.
- 85 from Brooklyn.
- 26 from Manhattan.
- 47 from the Bronx.
- 6 from Staten Island.
- 60 students are commuting from other areas including Westchester.



Why Are Weekends at OW a Ghost Town?

By Keya Rice

Every student knows that Thursdays are the beginning of the weekend and every residential student knows that Thursday is the day you pack your bag to leave campus. Now this desire to leave the campus on weekends is not shared by all residents but a large majority of students make a hasty exit on weekends. Some students have jobs that limit the time that can be spent on campus during the weekends, some students have obligations to fulfill in their own neighborhoods and homes, while some students just leave because they're bored. Whatever the reason, it is evident that on weekends SUNY Old Westbury is a ghost town.

I must admit that on the last three to Waking up with glee because you know it's Thursday is the Old Westbury creed. Every student knows that Thursdays are the beginning of the weekend and every residential student knows that Thursday is the day you pack your bag to leave campus. Now this desire to leave the campus on weekends is not shared by all residents but a large majority of students make a hasty exit on weekends. Some students have jobs that limit the time that can be spent on campus during the weekends, some students have obligations to fulfill in their own neighborhoods and homes, while some students just leave because they're bored. Whatever the reason, it is evident that on weekends SUNY Old Westbury is a ghost town.

I must admit that on the last three to four Thursdays in November the campus has been lively. There have been concerts, comedy shows, art exhibits and student performances, however Thurs-

days are not the problem, it's what happens Friday, Saturday, and Sunday that's the issue. Although Thursdays are part of weekends at Old Westbury they are more so like a prequel to a bigger story. Many students are dissatisfied with the lack of activities and limited dining options on the weekends.

Twenty-year-old junior Erica Taveras, said, "Everything is closed there's nothing to do." Taveras, like many other residents, balance work, school, and relationships, which does play a large role in why she is not able to stay on weekends. However, she like numerous other students, don't feel enticed to spend any of their down time on the campus during weekends because there's simply nothing to do.

You're probably thinking, that saying "there's nothing to do at SUNY Old Westbury during the weekends" is a little exaggerated, but "this campus caters to commuters," said twenty-one-year-old Junior Crystal Hylton, who is bothered by the school's inability to provide events during the weekends.

Several students who know less than a handful of people who stay on campus during the weekends and that's because they have to.

Michelle Weinfurt, a nineteen-year-old sophomore, stated that the only people she knows who stay on campus are residents who live too far to go back home, to places like Arizona and Las Vegas. Although a portion of Weinfurt's time on the weekends is spent working at a Home Depot, not too far away from the campus, she chooses not to come back and stay because she does not know many others who do stay.

Weinfurt, said because of this it's hard to make friends. Everyone is busy with school during the weekdays and on the weekends, everyone is gone.

Most students have never even attended or heard about any events happening on the weekends, and the ones that they do hear about are restricted just to small things happening in their residence halls, said Junior Crystal Hylton.

Vice President of Student Affairs Wayne Edwards said that students must take in consideration how big events on the weekends can negatively affect the budget. He also stated that after a tedious week of school and work, going home on the weekends is an enticing and easily achievable option.

Dr. Edwards does make some considerable points in basically saying it's a two-way street, but after talking to several students it is clear that excluding consideration for the budget, many of them don't stay because they feel that on the weekends the campus has nothing to offer.

Taveras, like some residents, state that she would consider staying on the weekends if she felt like there were more things to do.

Eighteen-year-old sophomore Ceara Dixon states that she has attended a few events on the weekends, to name one, a painting program, where she said many students attended. However, she along with other students did admit that most events are mainly done during the week.

Dr. Edwards mentioned that he's visited campuses all across the country, and he's never been to one where the

students are completely satisfied with the level of extracurricular activities the schools provide.

However, for the weekend events that are provided, Dr. Edwards states that students are not attending these events in numbers that staff would like to see, and it could be in that events are not communicated and passed along to students. It could be a communication issue because what students don't hear about or know about they cannot attend.

Twenty-one-year-old senior David Alternord who was a resident last semester stated that a reason he didn't stay on weekends was the limited dining options. On most weekends the most available dining option is the cafeteria. Dining areas, such as, the Student Union have limited hours or may not be open if it's a holiday weekend.

It seems that there are several reasons as to why most students are not interested in staying on campus during the weekends. It could be as Dr. Edwards stated, that leaving is just an easy option, but it seems much deeper than that. Maybe communication is key and students can reach out to student government or other departments that deal with these matters and come to a consensus. Or maybe the weekends are just a dry time on campus and something needs to be done that's out of the student's control. Whatever the solution, it's just another Ghost Town weekend at Old Westbury.

An Open Letter to Wounded America

By Karla Arroyo

"Yes! She won California! We're good," are the exact words I said to my friend on election night after Hillary Clinton won the state of California and its 55 electoral votes (because electoral votes are all that matters nowadays, right?) and I say that very sarcastically.

A few hours later, after very roller-coaster-ride-like election results for each state, here we have it- Donald J. Trump is the new President-elect of the United(?) States of America.

I couldn't believe it. I thought I was in a nightmare of some sort. It was 2:30am and while some results were still anticipated, I was simultaneously hanging onto a thin string of hope. The next morning I woke up and realized that string was cut, and I, along with the rest of my peers, family members, professors and supervisors hit rock bottom....

If there's one thing you need to know about rock bottom, is that the only way is UP.

Here's my take on it- I completely understand the pain, the rage, and the confusion, because I, myself have undergone those emotions ever since Trump won the election. But here's the fact: DONALD J. TRUMP is going to be our new president effective January 20, 2017. As weird as it is to even type that, the only thing we can really hope for is that he actually does "good" as a president and takes a very practical and fair approach with every move he makes.

If there's anything that America hates more than the black man, it's a woman.

I am deeply saddened to have witnessed a white woman and a white man go head-to-head throughout their whole campaigning process and the debates. This election goes to show that no matter how many years of experience a woman has in a certain field (and in her case, she was even First Lady of the United States from 1993-2001), she will still lose to a man with no experience. A reality TV star at that. If you watched Clinton's concession speech, you can hear the pain and angst in her voice.

"I know how disappointed you feel because I feel it too, and so do tens of millions of Americans who invested their hopes and dreams in this effort. This is painful and it will be for a long time, but I want you to remember this. Our campaign was never about one person or even one election; it was about the country we love and about building an America that's hopeful, inclusive, and big-hearted. We have seen that our nation is more deeply divided than we thought. But I still believe in America and I always will. And if you do, then we must accept this result and then look to the future. Donald Trump is going to be our president. We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead." -Hillary Clinton

I thank you, Hillary, for being brave enough to run for president despite the social stigma that surrounds your womanhood. You are a creator, and you fought until the very end and I appreciate your professionalism even though a man attacked you. I hope I live the day where we see a female president, and even if that means it won't be you, just know that you opened up a platform to make women fight even harder for what they believe in. No dream is too big or too small.

We are undergoing a serious turning point in America.

When I was in middle school I became more familiar with what racism was, and I never thought it was something that would still exist in modern day. Let alone, I never thought it would be something I should be worried about. They say history repeats itself, and it's starting to feel like the Jim Crow South. Crazy how I didn't even have to time travel or even travel to the South to witness this firsthand. The horrible acts of discrimination towards our innocent people truly make my heart ache and it is also disgusting to see. I hope that my loved ones never have to go through such discrimination and I also hope that those who have undergone it, never have to go through it again.

Dear Fellow White People

By Laura DeMarzo

While finally coming out of our turkey induced comas, celebrating another holiday with questionable origins (to say the least)—where some of us bit our tongues until we almost tasted blood or even threw down with our family members verbally over differing politics— I have a plea Dear fellow white people: You have to wake up.

Let me preface this rant by explaining what I'm sure you all need to hear: no, I'm not speaking to ALL of you. But the fact that I have to offer that exception proves my point. During the holiday season you're bound to have these agonizing discussions. Albeit at family gathers, an irate face book post or the offensive comments you may hear when we're among one another, its more likely than not you've heard one or more of the following:

"White privilege?! I've worked all my life", "I don't like the things Trump says, but he's for the people!", "It's time they get over slavery, the fight for civil rights is over, we're all equal now!"

To that I say, yes you may have worked all of your life, though your skin color could have played a major role in the job you got and the connections you have. This is institutional racism, fellow Caucasian.

Ahh, you don't like Trump's bigotry but are excited about the economic plans of someone who has no experience in public office but starred in a semi-successful reality show. Funny how we get to cherry pick which policy plans we like above human rights. The groups he's aiming his vitriol at (like immigrants, refugees, Mexicans, the Black Lives Matter movement) don't have that option. But are we in the twllighzone?! Where ANY policy trumps (pun intended) human rights??

The last bit, about "getting over" the theft of black citizens from Africa—after which the America we know was built on their back—is something I come across from millennial's parents or grandparents. While interviewing author, journalist\ and activist Touré, he stated the reason these comments are made: The water-hosing, Jim Crowe laws days are over (somewhat) and people assume that the only racism that exists is interpersonal racism. Meaning you may not see someone hurling racial epithets at people of color anymore.

But, as mentioned above, there has been an epidemic of institutional racism in this country that rears its ugly head during police interactions, -job interviews, arrest rates and the general break down of the black household, where black men are more likely to be arrested than their white peers (see: implicit bias) and according to a Bureau of Justice Statistic study the five year recidivism rate was 76.6%,

The probation and parole system

seem to set up ex-convicts to fail.

If you don't believe the statistics and the existence of institutional racism, fret not, good ole' fashion racism is now coming back in style. Two weeks ago Ku Klux Klan fliers were found on cars in Patchogue according to PIX 11 and other local news affiliates. KKK fliers in New York in 2016, people. So, it's not so much that Trump is truly a racist, its that he opened the gates for open separatism to be okay.

Let's examine that myth that he only uneducated white voters came out for Trump. The idea that its only these backwoods, racists coming out for Trump is a fallacy. Forty-three percent of the electorate with a college degree voted for the republican candidate. Welcome to the era of the elite white supremacist. Just take note of how Richard B. Spencer greeted attendees at an alt-right conference in Washington D.C. According to a video shared by *The Atlantic*, the suited-up-supremacist yells "Hail Trump, hail our people," speaks of whites being more evolved than other races and refers to liberal media as the Nazi's did: "Lugenpresse." You can even look at Trump's horrifying team, alt-right media outlet Breitbart's own Steve Bannon, who has made disparaging remarks about women and the Jewish population.

In these times we need to be allies to the minorities being attacked. Fellow white people this means shelving your feelings at times, because even the well intentioned fail in their efforts.

Let's take an example of a white person with dreads: Seemingly it;s just a hair style. But many of these white people are deemed earthy and artistic, on the other hand, corporations have come down on black workers with the same hair style. So while were thinking were acting in solidarity, were appropriating and its unfair. You must take pause in these trying times, educate yourself because it isn't anyone else's job to do so.

In closing, I redirect back to the people who were able to shop around and choose which policies of Trump they liked while still feeling as if they weren't racist, sexist, ableist, xenophobic or just willfully misinformed. The people that have been attacked verbally or physically due to the climate your candidate and now President elect has created, (simply because he found a nerve that struck amongst the closeted bigots) are not afforded this luxury.

The thought that you figuratively throw your hands in the air because your group isn't yet being attacked, is consent. By staying silent you consent to these hate crimes, of the mind or of the body. In the future when you or your children look back at these hateful times, which side will you say you were on?

On The Border

By Vianelly Betancourt

From the beginning of his campaign, President-elect Donald J. Trump has made many controversial statements and promises. On June 16, 2015, the day Trump announced his candidacy, he boldly stated that he "will build a great wall, great wall on our southern border" and that he will build it very "inexpensively" and that Mexico would pay for it. Now as president-elect the real question is will this wall be built, how does he plan to do it, and how will Trump's immigration laws affect millions of undocumented immigrants in our country?

In his interview with *60 minutes* after his victory, Trump reaffirmed that he is indeed still interested in building the wall and that in some areas the wall will be fenced only. "What we are going to do is get the people that are criminal and have criminal records, gang members, drug dealers, where a lot of these people, probably two million, it could be even three million, we are getting them out of our country or we are going to incarcerate. But we're getting them out of our country, they're here illegally," said Trump regarding his plan to deport millions of undocumented immigrants.

Before being elected Trump and the President of Mexico Pena Nieto met to discuss the wall. Later that day, Nieto tweeted, "At the start of the conversation with Donald Trump, I made it clear that Mexico will not pay for the wall."

The border which is 2,000 miles long is set to only have the wall cover 1,000 miles and has given estimates that it will be approximately 30 to 50 ft high. Trump has called the fence we currently have a "joke."

Trump's wall would negatively affect the trade between Mexico and the U.S with a loss of an estimated \$583.6 billion according to the Office of the U.S Trade Representative. Mexican towns that depend on U.S. tourist would be affected as well as shoppers that spend billions in buying and reselling goods from both sides of the border. Experts said the border wall and the deportation plan could easily cost hundreds of billions of dollars and that the plan is overall unrealistic. The deportation of the millions of undocumented immigrants will leave the nation in a labor shortage which will raise worker wages but also increase the cost of living and interest rates.

"Millions of immigrants come to this country in hopes of a better life and more opportunity, after Trump's win it's a terrifying feeling to be uncertain of you or your families future," said a student and daughter of undocumented parents who chose to remain anonymous.

After Trump's surprising and unlikely win, as a nation, we are left confused and afraid, resilience is needed now more than ever.

Is It Okay To Give A Gift Card During The Holidays?

By Paige Kerr

Gift cards are considered to be the “lazy gift”, you know, the kind of gift you give to somebody who you either don’t know very well; and can’t be bothered to know, or because you find shopping to be an unnecessary hassle that you do not wish to deal with. But is giving a gift card to your loved ones truly a bad idea? Or is its reputation simply misleading?

My opinion on the topic of gift cards differs greatly from the popular opinion. I feel gift cards are the perfect gift to get for any one of your family members or friends. I see it as the chance to let your loved ones pick out something they would truly enjoy, on behalf of you. And as someone who is terrible at picking out gifts for others, gift cards gets a thumbs up from me.

So how do you pick the perfect gift card for everyone? The answer is simple, what do they like and/or where do they shop? If you cannot answer either question than text that person right now and make plans to hang out at the mall, whatever store they spend the most time in, is the place where you should purchase a gift card. Fairly simple.

Another means of figuring out where to buy a gift card from is by examining their personality, as well as their closet. If you are shopping for a girly girl, than odds are Forever 21 is a good place to start. In the same way, if a girl is more sporty/athletic than Champs may be a

better option. In the same aspect, if you find yourself shopping for a guy who is more on the preppy side, I personally would recommend a gift card to Hollister or American Eagle. And as I said above, if the person is more of a sporty/athletic than giving him a card to Champs, should be good.

The dreaded question of how much? I personally find this aspect to be more daunting than figuring out which store. Some people may look at the amount you give them as a sign of how much you care for this person, and although love cannot be measured in dollar bills, this decision can be a hard one to make. In my personally, completely unprofessional opinion, I say the minimum amount should be \$20, of course if you disagree feel free to give however much you would like. But I feel if you are giving a gift card to a family member or friend, there should be at least \$20 on it. Now the maximum amount completely depends on the person. Personally I would not go above \$35, but that’s just me. The answer to the question of how much money to put on said gift card, varies from person to person.

So is a gift card an acceptable gift? I believe so and hopefully with the tips I listed above, other people will consider this seemingly minimally gift, a great one.



New Years Resolution: Real or Hogwash?

By Paige Kerr

“Those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”

George Bernard Shaw

The season of “new year, new me” is upon us but do people really change when the new year rolls around?

Every year millions of people around the world come up with a New Year’s resolution, most of the time regarding a physical change such as eating healthier or hitting the gym more; hence helping gyms reach their peak income in the month of January. But how many people truly stick to their resolution? And how many give in to temptation only a few days later?

I believe this whole “New Year’s resolution” and “new year, new me” is hogwash. First off, if people want to change an aspect of their life why do they have to wait till the beginning of the year to do so? I’m all for changing your life for the better, if you think eating healthier or going to the gym more will have a positive effect on your life than do it, but don’t decide to make this change solely based on the fact 2017 is right around the corner. A change of lifestyle such as that can only successful work when one wants to change, not because it’s almost January 1st and they feel compelled to.

And also why do most New Year’s res-



olution revolve around physically changing ourselves? I do not understand the connection. Nor can I wrap my mind around how the coming of a new year became associated with changing how we look. Is society to blame for this?

Society is always telling us we must improve our bodies if we want to “fit in”, especially if you are a woman living in the United States of America. From magazine covers to television shows, the image of the show called “perfect woman” is everywhere. Are these misleading photos of how a woman’s body should look to blame?

According to Statistic Brain, the top ten New Year’s resolutions are as followed “1. Lose Weight, 2. Getting Organized, 3. Spend Less, Save More, 4. Enjoy Life to The

Fullest, 5. Staying Fit and Healthy, 6. Learn Something Exciting, 7. Quit Smoking, 8. Help Others in Their Dreams, 9. Fall in Love, 10. Spend More Time with Family.” And of course the first one comes as no surprise.

On the same website, Statistic Brain has a chart which shows the amount of time people tend to keep their resolution for. The percentage of individual whom



maintained it through the first week is 75%, which is the highest group. Following is the past two weeks with a rate of 71%, going onto past one month with only 64% and lastly the past six months with a whopping 46%. Proving that people stop caring about whatever their goal once was.

Another main factor is age. According to the same source, age plays a major role in whether an individual achieves their resolution. The percentage of people in their twenties who achieve their resolution each year is about 39% while people whom are 50 or over only have a 14% rate of achieving theirs. These numbers make sense but with a high of 39%, it’s clear to see the mass majority of people, regardless of their age, fails in succeeding their new year’s goal.

One cannot make a lifestyle change purely because the new year is coming around. You have to want it, you have to crave the change in order to stick with it, in order to beat what the statistics say.

Do you have a New Year’s resolution for 2017? And if so, are you doing it because you want to? Or because you feel pressured to do so?



Tips On How To Ace Your Finals

By Paige Kerr

With the semester coming to an end, the upcoming winter break is on every SUNY OW student’s mind. Off for a whole month, free to do whatever we want, but wait something stands in our way of the one month vacation, finals. How to ensure final week will be a breeze?

The first tip is to not be lazy, personally by the time December rolls around my brain is dying for a break. And being a senior with severe senioritis doesn’t help. But in order to ace your test one must power through this obstacle. And study their butt off.

Another tip is to record the lectures. Most professor will not mind, but if you are worried you can always ask. Recording

the professor on any smart device will not only help if you miss something the professor said, but studies show people remember things better when they hear it over and over again. So when the dreaded final rolls around, not only will you have your notes to study from, but you will have the lecture at your disposal.

Like most things in the world, there’s an app to help students study. It’s called ‘Flashcards + by Chegg’. This app allows users to put in the information they need to know and use this app like you would a normal flash card. A bonus with this app is there’s an option for it to be read to you, and like I stated in the above tip, that really helps. I personally use this app whenever I

have a test or quiz and I love it.

Pulling a late night study-session? Coffee will be your best friend. The caffeine in coffee will help wake you up as well as help you focus. Whether you are writing a paper, studying for a multiple choice test or cramming for an essay test, coffee is the key. And with Dunkin Donuts and hopefully a renovated Starbucks at student’s disposal, this tip is truly a simple one.

Put down the phone. We live in a generation that revolves around smart phones. With access to essentially anything in the palm of our hands, the temptation can be hard to resist. But that one text, one call, one FaceTime, can lead to a number of distractions that will take you

away from your studying. As hard as it may be, one must put down their phone and focus on what’s important. That funny story can wait to be told later.

And lastly remember to take breaks between studying. Cramming all the information in at once will only lead to anxiety. As well as give your mind some time to take all this new knowledge in. So take frequent breaks and give your mind some rest.

I hope these tips help some of you out. And just think it this way, won’t you be able to relax and enjoy your vacation more knowing you passed your classes? I think so.

DIFFERENT WAYS TO STAY WARM THIS WINTER

By Paige Kerr

It's no secret that there's a chill in the air, this winter weather is calling for layers. But with so many clothing options how can one make a decision of which method of layer is right for them?



Sweaters

Sweaters are warm and fuzzy, perfect to survive this chilly winter. But they often give off a preppy vibe depending on the sweater itself and how one styles it. And while sweaters are a bit dresser than the typical hooded sweatshirt, they are not over the top to the point one cannot sport it on a daily basis.

Sweatshirt

Sweatshirts have a reputation of being "lazy day wear". Meaning one will throw on a sweatshirt purely with the mindset of staying warm, while sacrificing looking cute to do so. And while I will admit I am an avid sweatshirt girl, I do agree that a sweatshirt will give off a more lazy vibe oppose to the prior clothing item.

Bomber Jacket

Bomber jackets are so on trend right now. They are cute, they are fun and most importantly they will keep you warm. But what's the reason that I refuse to buy one? They are non-washable. I'm not saying all bombers are because I simply do not know that as a fact. But the bomber jackets that I seen at both Forever 21 and TJMAX said "hand wash" on the label and as a lazy college student that doesn't work for me. But nonetheless if someone is less lazy than me and is willing to hand-wash their clothes than a bomber jacket is a super cute item to throw over any outfit.



Leather Jacket

Leather jackets will never go out of style. They give off a badass look while also keeping an individual super warm. So what's the downside? Leather jackets are expensive. A true genuine leather jacket cost between \$300-500 depending on the style and where one purchases it. And while trendy stores such as Forever 21, Charlotte Russe, and Rue 21 have come out with faux leather alternative, they are not nearly as warm as the real thing.

Denim Jacket

Denim jackets are another article of clothing that I feel will never go out of style. Denim jackets pair well with basically anything from a simple OOTD consisting of a camisole and leggings to a more dressy bodycon dress, a denim jacket will help jazz up any outfit. Unfortunately, a typical denim jacket, will not keep you warm in this brutal New York weather. But paired under a winter jacket, a denim jacket looks super cute.

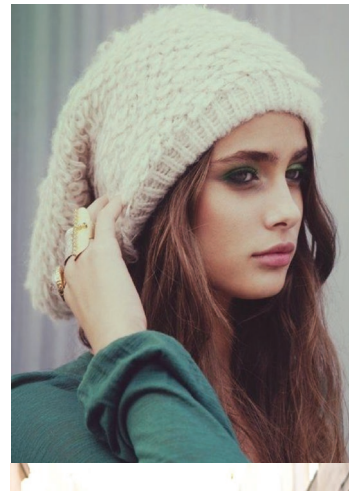
Fur Jacket

Fur jackets are part of the 90's trend that has made a comeback. And while I would not recommend for anyone to go out and buy real fur, I am an advocate for a faux fur coat. They are insanely warm as well as super stylish. Also with celebrities such as Emma Roberts who's seen sporting this look almost every episode of "Scream Queens", this trend is only one the rise. And I mean who doesn't want to look like Chanel Oberlin?

MUST-HAVES FOR DECEMBER

By Paige Kerr

If the end of November is by any means an indicator, then this December is going to be brutal. So what are the must-haves that every college student needs to survive the snowy time?



The first must-have is a good jacket. Personally, I love (the) North Face, they are so warm and cozy, but any warm jacket will do. While our campus is not as big as some other colleges, an individual can still catch a cold walking from the Student Union to the Campus Center, not to mention feel like you'll freeze to death in the meantime. So, a warm jacket is a necessity.

The second must-have are Uggs. For anyone who has experienced cold feet both inside and outside the class, you know what I mean. It is extremely uncomfortable and completely avoidable by wearing Uggs or cold-weather boots of any kind (the fuzzier the better). They will keep an individual warm as well as look super cute.

The third must-have essential are gloves. For me, I hate gloves—the normal ones at least. They annoy me, they get in the way, etc, but a good alternative to normal gloves are fingerless ones. Your fingers are free to text, which is important for every college student, while still keeping your hand warm.

The fourth must-have is a cute beanie. We've all heard the scientific findings that most of our body's heat may escape our heads. So it's simple, you don't want to freeze, then cover your head. And while the cute aspect is not a necessity, it kind of is. And with a wide variety of beanies on the market, this all-important accessory is truly a must.

The fifth must-have is a scarf. This accessory will not only "jazz up" an individual's outfit but also keeps your neck warm. Like the previous item, scarfs come in many different styles, so it is easy to change up how you look by simply changing your scarf. Looking cute and staying warm, it's a win-win.

Are "Ugly Sweaters" Truly Ugly?

By Paige Kerr

You know the sweaters I'm talking about, the ones with Santa constructed with puff balls, or a dog in a Santa hat, but does the title of "ugly sweater" really fit this trend?

In my opinion, ugly sweaters are actually cute. I'm truly a sucker for a bright red sweater with reindeers on them, it's cute in a corny type of way. And while I understand that these ugly Christmas sweaters are not "everybody's cup of tea." The name is truly misleading.

Everyone has a different opinion about these festive unisex sweaters, some people

would rather go around in a dirty, holey shirt than throw on a Christmas sweater while others will go out and pay full price to be one of the first people to sport it. So why is there such a divide? The answer is simple. Someone's opinion on this holiday trend depends solely on their style; if an individual is more into basic tees and chill clothing than the mere thought of a Christmas sweater will make them gag, but for someone who is more "out there" with their style or like to make a statement, an ugly sweater is perfect.

So where can an ugly sweater be worn? I feel the answer is anywhere. A sweater with little Rudolph on it can be worn as an everyday piece or to a holiday party. During this time of year a lot of people will host a party called an "Ugly Sweater Party". When one receives an invitation to this, they must sport their "ugliest"/most out there sweater to said event. Dare I say the only time one tries to "out ugly" others.

Who are they targeted towards? I feel it's easy to say ugly sweaters are a "girly thing" and a guy would be caught

dead wearing one, but that is not the case. Most Christmas sweaters are actually unisex so both genders have an equal opportunity to sport a fuzzy polar bear. And sweaters like these are in no means girly, and that is coming from a girly girl. I definitely would not put ugly sweaters in the same category as a pink bow sweater (yes I used to have one). Anyway, I feel this trend applies to both boys and girl, men and women, of all genders and age groups.

Are you interested in buying one? Ugly sweaters can be found at any department

store but the cutest ones are sold at Kohls. The ones I seen run for \$60 a pop and while that is definitely on the pricey side, especially for a college student, Kohls is always having sales and sending out coupons which will help ease the pain of buying said sweater.

Ugly Christmas sweaters are one of those clothing items that you either love or hate, the only sure fact I can state is that this controversy trend makes a comeback every year, and I for one, am so happy that it does.

REVIEW

Solange Declaring Her Seat At The Table

By Ashnelle Hall

Solange Knowles is marching to the beat of her own drum and is opening discourse about socio-political issues with her Album *A Seat At The Table* (ASATT).

The album debuted September 30th and upon its release ASATT has taken off to a great start. It landed itself at No.1 on Billboard's 200 chart- making this Knowles' first number one album ever and the most controversial one yet.

In recent years there has been vari-



Solange performing at SNL. Image from BET.com

ous instances of police brutality, hate crimes, and increase in mass incarceration that has been targeting minorities. Solange is very aware of her influence and responsibility in the industry therefore she has taken it upon herself to use her album as an opportunity to take a stance on said issues.

In an interview with *The Fader* Solange states "I wanted the album to have those moments of grief, and being able to be angry and express rage...I also wanted it to make people feel empowered and [that] in the midst of all of this we can still dream, and uplift, and laugh like we always have." She does this eloquently by talking about her feeling wearing of the ways of the world ("Weary"), guilt ("Cranes In The Sky") and addressing police brutality in Ferguson and Baltimore- which was in reference to Freddie Grey and Michael Brown ("Rise").

Not only does Solange address social issues, she also explores the black identity. She does this by creating conversation about black culture ("Don't Touch My

Hair"), mental health ("Mad feat. Lil Wayne"), and Black girl magic ("Interlude: I got So Much Magic, You Can Have It").

Knowles has written and co-produced every song on her album, which shows that she is very involved in her musical process. This socially conscience album took four years to make and Knowles has traveled far and wide to make sure she curates the right sound. She has traveled to New Orleans, Long Island, New Iberia, and parts of Africa in order to meet with many talented producers such as Raphael Saadiq, Sampha, and Bryndon Cook.

On November 5th Solange made her Saturday Night Live debut supporting ASATT. She performed "Cranes In The Sky" wearing a very ethereal hairstyle. Knowles' hair was created by artist Shani Crowe. Crowe took fifty hours to create the 2,000 Swarovski crystal beads encrusted halo for Solange which essentially paid off because it took Solange's performance to another level of reflection.

ASATT has created a new framework for her listeners. A new way of thinking of



Image from BET.com

not only oneself but one's place in society. I have had this album on heavy rotation since the day it came out and I can't get her songs out of my head. I hope that people can listen to this album and hear the multifaceted message that is embedded in Solange's work and appreciate the melodic sounds as well.

REVIEW

Moonlight

By Nathalie Ligonde

Barry Jenkins literally lends you his eyes and shows the public how he sees the world with his new movie *Moonlight*. This exaptational emotional film will make you see the world in a different light as it answers questions without many words. There is nothing like this storyline as it demonstrates one character at the three crucial stages of his life; a nine-year-old, a teenager and an adult.

Chiron also know as "Little" (Alex Hibbert) by his bullies was a nine-year-old always running from Paula (Naomi Harris), his single mother, a nurse who will do anything for her next fix. He also runs from his bullies whom he refuses to fight back. "Little" found a father figure in Juan (Mahershala Ali) who takes him under his wing along with his girlfriend Teresa (Janelle Monáe). At nine "Little" started questioning whether he was gay and Juan told him, "You'll know."

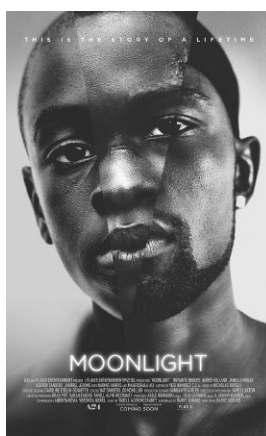
At 16, Chiron (now Ashton Sanders) it still struggling with a crack addict mother and seems to be closer to Teresa than ever. Juan just disappears and at no point in the movie do they point out the reason for it but you can make your own conclusion. It's more obvious in school that Chiron might be gay and the bullying is unbearable.

In one scene, Chiron talks to his

friend Kevin about the pain that life brings him and turns out the Kevin is Bisexual. Kevin who hangs out with bullies/gangbangers gets Chiron in trouble as he unleashed an anger in Chiron that landed him in prison.

Chiron is now know as "Black" (Trevaunte Rhodes) and is completely transformed as he embodies everything Juan stood for. A drug dealer with grills, a nice home, a good car and gold everywhere. Ten years later he gets a call from Kevin (now André Holland) that brings him straight back home. Chiron now a drug dealer and Kevin now a cook have a captivating dinner.

Moonlight will not fail you from the beginning to the end. The photography and imaging in this film makes each unspoken word loud and clear. It is artistic even poetic. The actors are spectacular as they draw you in and keep you on the edge of your seat as they speak, move, and portray raw emotions. This movie is absolutely worth one hour and fifty minutes.



Chic-fil-A

By Vianelly Betancourt

Chick-fil-A known for its conservative traditional values, delicious chicken sandwiches, and their staple Chick-fil-A sauce, opened its third Long Island location in Hicksville last month. "Lines have been long, customers have waited over an hour during the first week of opening," said Monica Gomez, student at SUNY Old Westbury and crew member at Chick-fil-A

Chick-fil-A EO Dan T. Cathy, son of founder of Chick-fil-A, S. Truett Cathy, made some controversial statements opposing same-sex marriage in June 2012. He told the Baptist Press back in 2012 that he and his business is "very much supportive of what the biblical definition of family unit" and he expressed his gratitude in God that "we live in a country where we can share our values and operate on biblical principles."

When asked if his views on the LGBT community had changed in 2014 Cathy stated that although his views hadn't changed, he "shouldn't have mixed his personal views with his business." Regardless of

the commentary made by Cathy back in 2012, sales have not been affected, and



Image from Selfdeprecate.com

since then have increased revenue by millions. "Their customer service is known to be impeccable, we are trained very closely on how to treat customers and I think it plays a key role in the business success" said Gomez.

With Chick-fil-A expanding to states up North like New York will they be able to adapt to the diverse and liberal views the North is known for?

Happy Consumerism... I mean... Holidays!

By Naomi Corporan

Well everyone, Christmas is here! You know what that means? Food and presents! What else? Who wouldn't want to stuff their face with meat, sweets, and alcohol, then receive a new overpriced laptop, or an animal skin bag with a designer name on it? Isn't that what the holidays are all about anyway? Eating and getting new stuff?

Ok seriously, Even if you do not celebrate Christmas, we live in a very materialistic society and it is rare for people to take a step back and ask what Willie asked Marcus in *Bad Santa*: "Look at all that s***. Do you really need all that s***?" Every

spend their time off with people they wouldn't if it wasn't a holiday. One of the most prominent things about these holidays is the fact that animals are exploited during them and around them.

If you are a vegan, and someone invites you to a dinner or gathering, you will likely have to witness some terrible things going down people's throats. Yes, non-vegans, I am talking about animals. Even if you BYOT (Bring Your Own Tofurky) the conversations you will have to deal with explaining why you do not want to eat their "food" are not fun. Often people are not looking to improve their health on holidays. Ironically, you see so many people trying to get a gym membership or go on a diet after Christmas. People typing into Google, "How to get skinny after Xmas?" meanwhile they are feasting on dead corpses. There is nothing healthy or ethical about that. Saying grace before that meal is just blasphemy.

A better holiday should be something that is less based on a pyramid scheme and more of time of peace. The focus should be around



Image from Caglecartoons.com

single year during this time, we look around and see the same thing. Advertisements with red, green, silver, and gold telling us we need to buy a new this and eat this new that with a side of jingles and bells. As society seems to be getting more "woke" these days, maybe it is time to start thinking about why exactly why we are doing all of this when we could be doing something a lot better.

People work and work and work, and then they get a random holiday off to do something else. Often what people chose to do is something that destroys their health, the health of other animals, and the planet. It makes no sense. They spend the money they worked for on silly things, then

health and wellness rather than exploitation and money. A connection to the things you are eating or for most people things, you are killing to eat. A connection to people that actually matter in your life. People should not spend their holidays doing unpleasant things that they have to get drunk to get through.

Hang on to the Iphone you already have, put the turkey leg down, open your eyes and question things. Don't go into debt from buying gifts for people you hate, or eat too much animal product laden crap. It may be cliché but the Holidays should be about spending time with people you actually care about. It is the Holidays after all.

Horoscopes for the Month of December

Compiled by Dayna McNeil



Aries
Mar. 21 - April 20

Probably best to get as much work done before December gets going as you can as you may feel rather lazy and not very motivated (as far as work is concerned) to deal with mundane affairs. You will feel light-hearted, and your ability to get on well with everyone is superb – time to put bad feelings in the past and take all relationships forward. There is a spirit of reconciliation in your chart, and you can be instrumental in bringing ‘warring factions’ within your family or friends together.



Taurus
Apr. 21 - May 21

This will be a very sentimental Christmas where you will seek to make a link to the past. You may perhaps remember or recreate a Christmas experience from your childhood or perhaps share with your partner or your children a Christmas experience from your past – something that means something to you. There is an emphasis this holiday season on passing on something of lasting value i.e. family heirlooms, albums or even stories that can enrich the present with memories of those who may not still be with you.



Gemini
May 22 - June 21

You will have lots on the go and quite a few exciting last minute events to attend. Feeling in the mood for novelty, you may be the force behind your family doing something totally different or unconventional this festive season. You have a feeling of freedom and confidence about you as if you have finally shaken off the lingering doubts that came and went this year. You are rather a party animal, and no party will be complete without you – you may take center stage at events with your stories and humor.



Cancer
June 22 - July 22

This mental clarity and perspective you have right now will help to bring a neat and sound resolution to matters of business and pleasure for the year end. The year end is set to be busy, exciting and filled with plans and optimism for the New Year. You are ending the year in an upbeat mood with a renewed sense of achievement and power stemming from your achievements this year. December 2016 will be very busy for you, and you must not overcommit ahead of time. The best December activities are the spontaneous ones which come about unexpectedly, so do not worry if your calendar looks a little bare, plenty will be cropping up.



Leo
July 23 - Aug 22

What is important in any walk of life is to not borrow from or lend to friends or family, and if you do manage money on behalf of others, keep what is theirs and yours separate. I would not lend out anything material that you value as you are not likely to get it back; if you are the borrower make sure you look after the item well as an accident beyond your control could cause it damage. Hedging your bets and having insurance (travel, card protection, house and contents) is very important right now as with Saturn squaring Neptune you can easily become a victim of an unforeseen circumstance, no matter how well prepared you are.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

In December 2016 you are mischievous, and your sense of humor is also in top gear. You are terrific raconteurs and during the holiday especially, when you see people you have not seen for a while; what a great time to use this talent to regale them with the events of your life this year. With a little extra time to spare, you are very much in the mood for games be it chess, crosswords, Sudoku or other mentally stimulating games. Virgos enjoy the stimulation of puzzles and word games – you may even find yourself hooked on some phone apps that allow you to learn new games.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

In December 2016 have faith in your own visions, beliefs and goals and stick to them. Be your own cheerleader and do not wait for approval nor support from others, go with your gut and go for it. Live your own truth and don't be challenged or coerced into conforming. 2015 has been all about your life path and rediscovering your power, but the work is not done yet. Live according to your own truth and remember that while ‘following your dreams’ is much talked about on X-factor and is not always practical, we all have many dreams and not all of them are impossible – in fact most are attainable to some degree, and it is always good to feel that they are being pursued in some way and not buried and forgotten.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Highly idealistic, you are driven to set yourself goals for the New Year which reflect the very best of who you are and what you can be. Doing things for others and making this Holiday Season special is important to you, you may even volunteer somewhere to help people who are ill, homeless or destitute this Christmas to have a better time and even a better start to next year. For you, this Christmas is not all about you and being materialistic, it is far more about company, nostalgia, sharing, caring and the joy of giving. Your desire to help others and to be part of something worthwhile is a driver in many of the things you do in December 2016.



Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

December 2016 is the month for a good rest and to relax – you really need a mental break over December to unwind as it has been a very busy and fast-paced year. While many businesses pick up pace over December meaning more not less work, if you can plan in advance, I would try and factor in some time off so you can have a breather at some point. Do not take on any ambitious party planning this December, leave that to your mom or your sister; go to their house and let them do all the work, you deserve a rest. Even if you cannot slow down as such and put your feet up, it is important to do things that are recreational and relaxing, and which allow you to switch off. There is the temptation to down the alcohol this Christmas, be careful to do everything in moderation.



Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Sixth sense is a big part of in this month (in business as mentioned below) and in keeping you safe – little inklings that come from nowhere can help you remember things just in time or make sudden changes in decision or destination, which can be very fortuitous. Relationships with siblings are important too. You may travel to help a sibling who has just had a baby, or maybe help out a sibling who is moving home or who just needs your support. That bond you have with a sibling is very important and almost spiritual now, and you can connect on a deeper level, via sacrifices you make for them.



Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You need to be careful about your purchases this Christmas – yes, we all get excited, but all that glitters ... you know the rest. Do be sure that you are not duped into what looks like an amazing offer, but which has hidden extras or hidden terms which you are not fully aware of – this is especially true for cell phone contracts, holidays, time share or broadband offers. Make sure that you can walk away and get a refund without incurring costs if you change your mind. Basically, think twice before you buy anything that is technical, comes with insurance or an onerous contract.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - Mar. 20

This is not the time to rush or force issues; things must be worked through, and it will take as long as it takes. Results can be achieved but not instantly. Hard work and effort will pay dividends, taking shortcuts will end up costing you and your reputation. You will reflect on your goals and how your ambitions and aims changed this year to reflect the evolution in your own personality; you must plan on how to take all your initiative forward, do not let things slip in 2017. December 2016 it is also a time to make fun goals to strive for next year, i.e. events to look forward to and reward yourself with.

PUZZLES

Election Day

Z V R S T A T E Y T R H T B S C Z C F E
 C F E N J E I K T E M D H W L W U O P X
 F G D O V Z I U P A B Y T R A P Y N L G
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 M R B I B I N L T E G C E N G A E N E L
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 K T E K S R J N E F Q D U L Z F F S U L
 P R I M A R Y P F F S S O P E F V A E Z

ABSENTEE	BALLOT	BLUE	STATE	RED
CLINTON	TRUMP	GREEN	PARTY	CAMPAIGN
CANDIDATE	CONSTITUTION	DEBATE	DELEGATE	
DEMOCRACY				
REPUBLICAN	INDEPENDENT	ISSUE	LANDSLIDE	MAJORITY
NOMINEE	PLATFORM	POLL	PRIMARY	PRESIDENT

Happy Holidays

Feliz Navidad	Frosty	Tradition
Santa Clause	Christmas Tree	Boxing Day
Tinsel	Snowfall	Christmas
Eggnog	New Year's Eve	Bells
Rudolph	Angel	Turkey
Kwanzaa	Gifts	Mistle Toe
Thanksgiving	Hanukkah	

1. thrsasicm _____
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Easy

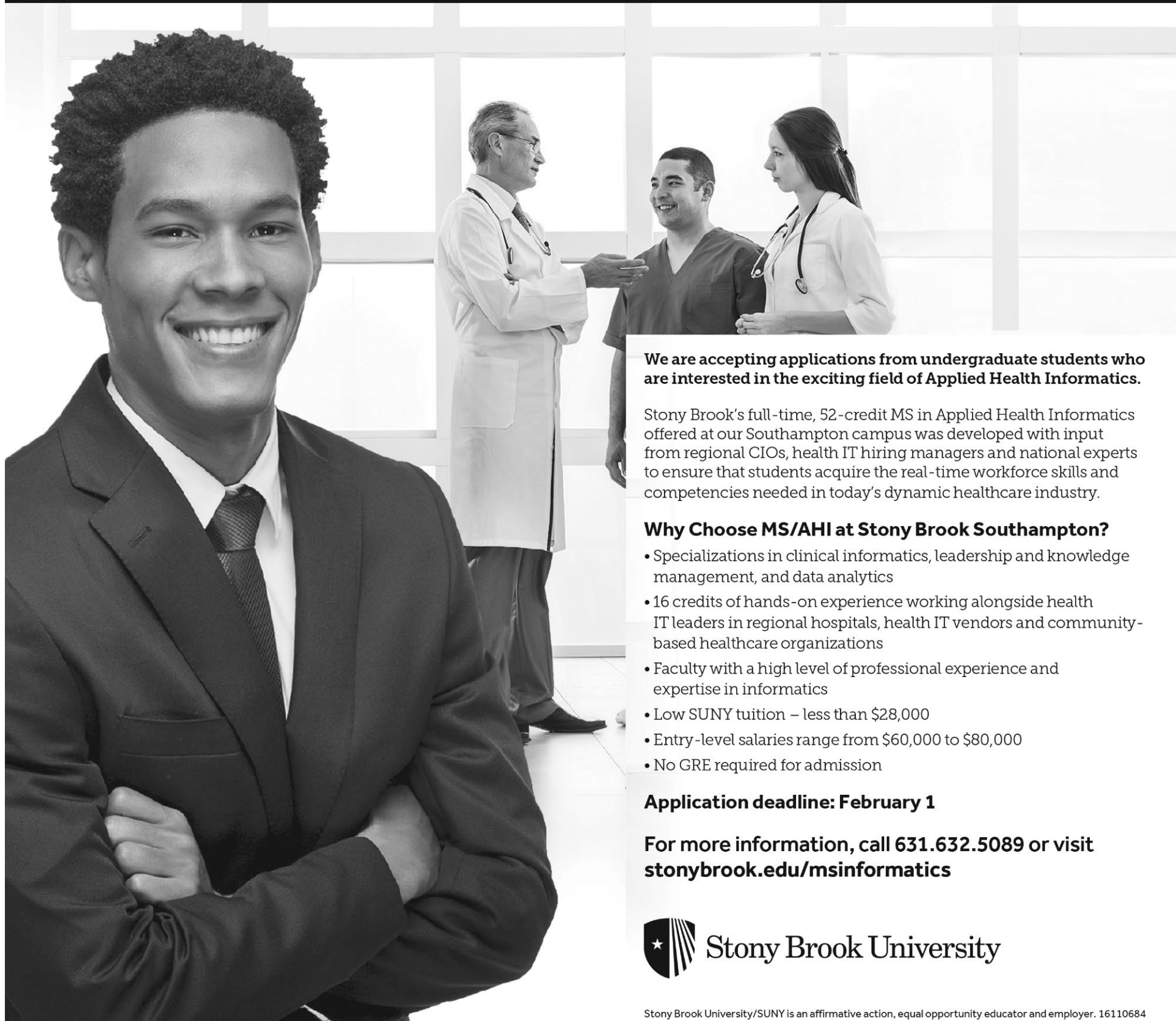
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4	3	8	7	6	1	5	2	9	
2	1	4	8	9	7	3	5	6	
3	8	9	2	5	6	4	7	1	
5	6	7	1	4	3	2	9	8	

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OLD WESTBURY PICKED UP A 79-69 HOME WIN SATURDAY IN A REMATCH OF THE 2016 SKYLINE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP



Panthers Men's Basketball tops St. Joseph's (Brooklyn) for Skyline win

By Harris Rappel

The Panthers secured a 79-69 victory at home Saturday against the St. Joseph's College (Brooklyn) Bears (1-5, 0-2 Skyline) in a rematch of the 2016 Skyline Conference Championship inside Clark Athletic Center.

Lylle Ryals opened the scoring 26 seconds in with a 3-point jumper followed by Bradley Eugene's jumper to give Old Westbury (1-5, 1-1 Skyline) an early 5-0 lead. Matt McQuillen answered with a triple at 12:23 to ignite the Bears' 14-9 run to grab a 24-16 advantage. Ryalls responded with a three ball of his own as part of Old Westbury's 11-0 run from 6:06 to 2:32 to go up 27-24. St. Joseph's used an 8-1 run over the next 1:18 to take a four-point lead before heading into the half with a 36-33 advantage.

St. Joseph's outscored Old

Westbury 10-5 in the opening moments of play in the second half to take a 46-38 lead with 17:22 left. Trailing 53-45, Ryalls connected from deep to ignite Old Westbury's 18-3 run from 13:21 to 7:06 to grab a seven-point lead. Ryalls sank a pair of free throws with 19 seconds left to extend the Panthers' lead to a game-high 12 points (79-67) as Old Westbury outscored St. Joseph's 10-4 in the final 2:47.

Jamail Stanley paced Old Westbury's with 24 points, 10 rebounds, three assists and two steals to collect his four-straight double-double. Ryalls made a career-high six 3-pointers to score 23 points (tied career-high) while totaling a personal-best two blocks. Preston Powell followed with a career-high 11 points on 3-of-6 shooting from 3-point land. Stanley Baker added nine points, eight

rebounds and two blocks.

Dimirti Sirakis scored 16 points (4-of-7 3FG) to lead three other Bears in double-digits. Kavan Meiner registered 10 points and 10 rebounds while Alec Willis collected 11 points and six assists. Joseph Idyahia chipped in with 13 points (3-of-5 3FG) off the bench.

In the end, Old Westbury connected on 39.1 percent (27-of-69) from the field, 35.3 percent (12-of-34) from three-point range and 72.2 percent (13-of-18) from the free-throw line. By comparison, St. Joseph's hit on 41.3 percent (26-of-63) from the floor, 47.6 percent (10-of-21) from beyond the arc and 70 percent (7-of-10) from the charity stripe. Old Westbury won the boards battle, 47-37, while scoring 17 second-chance points off 19 offensive rebounds. St. Joseph's held the advantage in

steals (6-4) and assists (20-15).

YORK COLLEGE CARDINALS UP NEXT FOR THE PANTHERS: Old Westbury remains at home next Saturday (Dec. 10) for a non-conference showdown with the York College Cardinals at 2 p.m. inside Clark Athletic Center.

Next Saturday, Old Westbury's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) will once again join forces with the United States Marine Corps for the sixth-consecutive year to host its first of three Toys for Tots games. Fans are invited to donate new, unwrapped toys that will later be distributed to children in need. Admission is \$3 or a new, unwrapped toy, and students are free with school ID. Fans can drop donations in the marked "Toys for Tots" bin at the entrance to Clark Athletic Center.

OW PANTHERS MOURN THE PASSING OF ASSISTANT WOMEN'S SOCCER COACH JIMMY KIRIAKOS



By Harris Rappel

SUNY Old Westbury is saddened to announce the sudden and unexpected loss of assistant women's soccer coach Jimmy Kiriakos, who passed away November 18. Kiriakos was 29.

Kiriakos, who was born April 29, 1987 in Massachusetts, opened his collegiate playing career at NCAA Division II Post University as a freshman during the 2006 season before transferring to compete at Division III New England College from

2009-11. During his time at NEC, Kiriakos totaled three goals and one assist in 51 games en route to earning second-team All-North Atlantic Conference (NAC) as a senior captain defender.

Prior to graduating with his bachelor's degree in sport and recreation management in 2012, Kiriakos played outfield for the NEC baseball team.

Kiriakos earned his National Soccer Coaches Association of

America (NSCAA) diploma in July 2016, and also holds United States Soccer Federation (USSF) D, E and F licenses.

"Coach Kiriakos was inspirational and knowledgeable about the game of soccer," said SUNY Old Westbury head women's soccer coach Betty Bohringer. "His contribution to this year's squad has not gone unnoticed, and his presence will definitely be missed as we continue forward. We all have a large hole in

our hearts as we all try to understand the devastating news of his passing. All that knew him and were influenced by his passion of the game will keep his memory alive," added Bohringer.

Kiriakos is survived by his mother, Sandy; father, Arthur; brother, Alex; and girlfriend, Colleen Mitchell.

OW PANTHERS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TANGLES WITH SAGE IN REMATCH OF 2016 SKYLINE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME



Photo by Chris Bergmann

By Harris Rappel

ALBANY, NY -- SUNY Old Westbury women's basketball team was unable to overcome an early deficit en route to falling 65-53 to The Sage Colleges Gators (3-4, 1-1 Skyline) in a rematch of the 2016 Skyline Conference Championship game Saturday afternoon in Albany, New York. The loss snapped Old Westbury's four-game winning streak to push its record to 4-1 on the season and 1-1 in conference play.

Following a layup by Jasmine Robinson 44 seconds in, Monique Joseph's putback gave the Panthers their only lead (4-2) of the game with 8:45 remaining. Emily Parslow's jumper sparked an 11-4 run to put Sage ahead 12-10. Old Westbury tied the game at 12 with 3:44 left in the opening period off a Ruth Vargas layup before Sage closed out the quarter with five unanswered points (17-12). Sage pushed its advantage to 12 in the second stanza with Parslow's jumper at 1:38. With 45 seconds left, Tyra Bellings' free throw sliced Old Westbury's deficit to seven (33-26). Parslow knocked down a pair of free-throws to send Sage into intermission with a 35-26 lead.

Kaitlyn Bowman's layup extended Sage's lead to a game-high 14 points (40-26) with 7:41 remaining in the third quarter. Vargas's layup ignited an 8-1 Panther run to cut the deficit to seven (41-34) before Bowman's layup sparked an 8-0 run to close the period to put the Gators ahead 49-35. Old Westbury pulled within eight (56-48) midway

through the final period off Imani Lariosa's 3-pointer. Genevieve Schoff then laid-in two points to give Sage the double-digit lead for good with 4:09 showing on the fourth-quarter clock.

Tori Bellings finished with 16 points (7-of-11 FG), three assists and three steals to lead Old Westbury. Vargas followed with 11 points, nine rebounds (five offensive) and three steals. Robinson chipped in with seven points, six assists and two steals while Joseph grabbed a season-high 13 rebounds (seven offensive).

Bowman led all scorers with 26 points (10-of-18 FG) to go with 13 rebounds (five offensive). Parslow poured in 14 points and dished-out six assists while Schoff grabbed a game-high 16 rebounds (six offensive) in addition to scoring 11 points.

In the end, Old Westbury connected on 30.1 percent (22-of-73) from the field, 21.1 percent (4-of-19) from three-point range and 62.5 percent (5-of-8) from the free-throw line. By comparison, Sage hit on 37.1 percent (23-of-62) from the floor, 18.8 percent (3-of-16) from beyond the arc and 69.6 percent (16-of-23) from the charity stripe. Sage won the boards battle, 53-33, while scoring 16 second-chance points off 20 offensive rebounds. Old Westbury held the advantage in steals (12-5) and blocks (4-2) while scoring 15 points off 24 Sage turnovers.

UNITED STATES MERCHANT

MARINE ACADEMY MARINERS UP NEXT FOR THE PANTHERS: Old Westbury returns home Saturday (Dec. 10) for a Skyline Conference Toys for Tots showdown against the United States Merchant Marine Academy Mariners at 12 p.m. inside Clark Athletic Center.

Next Saturday, Old Westbury's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) will once again join forces with the United States Marine

Corps for the sixth-consecutive year to host its first of three Toys for Tots games. Fans are invited to donate new, unwrapped toys that will later be distributed to children in need. Admission is \$3 or a new, unwrapped toy, and students are free with school ID. Fans can drop donations in the marked "Toys for Tots" bin at the entrance to Clark Athletic Center.

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VS. ST. JOSEPH'S (BROOKLYN)
DECEMBER 10
12 PM | WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. USMMA
2 PM | MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. YORK (N.Y.)

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