THE BROADCAST
BRESCIA UNIVERSITY
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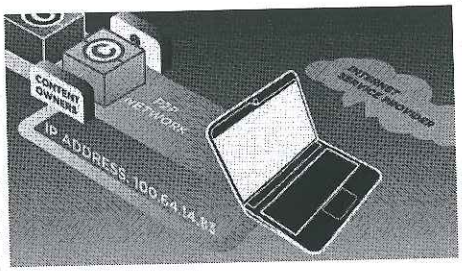
Copyright Alert System Facts

Lesley Henderson
Staff Reporter

The Copyright Alert System (CAS), according to the Center for Copyright Information, "is designed to help consumers understand when files may have been shared illegally on peer-to-peer networks through their Internet accounts."

CAS is also known as "The Six Strike System." Through CAS, copyright owners are able to see if their content is being shared illegally through Peer-to-Peer (P2P) file sharing systems or other file sharing systems. Using this system, copyright holders have the ability to monitor whether their content is being shared. If content is being shared without permission, copyright holders may contact Internet Service Providers (ISPs). The ISPs then contact the Internet subscription holder by sending Copyright Alerts.

These Copyright Alerts provide the subscriber with "the date, time zone, and title of the copyrighted content alleged to have been unlawfully distributed through a peer-to-peer or file sharing system on a subscribers account."



CAS allows subscribers up to six warnings with "an increasing degree of seriousness." According to the official FAQ page, there are generally "two Educational Alerts, two 'Acknowledgement' Alerts that require a response from the Subscriber, and two 'Mitigation' Alerts that impose minor consequences to emphasize the seriousness of the problem."

"Mitigation" Alerts result in Mitigation Measures, which are meant to stop Internet subscribers from further copyright infringement on their Internet connections. While the actions taken by ISPs may differ, according to the official FAQ page, the general actions include a temporary reduction of connection speed, redirection to a landing page until the primary account holder of your account contacts ISP, and redirection to a landing page where the primary account holder must review and respond to educational information.

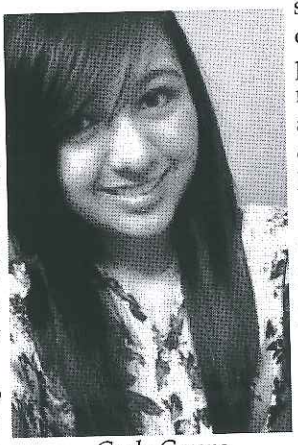
Termination of the subscriber's account will not be resorted to as a Mitigation Measure.

CAS has been in action for three weeks. The petition against CAS: https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/stop-cas-copyright-alert-system/KjBZN4mV.

BU Helps With Hispanic Health Fair

LuTisha Buckner
Staff Reporter

"Talking with the attendees made me feel like I was at home in Peru," said Dr. Martin Velez, assistant professor of Spanish. Brescia students and faculty, including Dr. Iris Moreno Brown and Eva Atkinson, director of Brescia's counseling center, provided translator assistance at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Henderson, KY, on February 24.


Carla Crespo

Students from Brescia who major in Spanish or are involved in the Spanish Club interacted with the attendees of the fair, which was held from 2:00 to 5 p.m.

The event offered health and dental screenings and information from more than 25 health organizations in the tri-state area. There also were door prizes, professional massages, activities for children, and lunch.

Velez, sponsor of the Spanish club, said, "I was happy to help with the fair. Some of the attendees did not speak Spanish, but an indigenous language, one of them called Mixteco," which he said is the third largest indigenous language with over 500,000 speakers.

Cynthia Leonardo

Brescia students who were translators included Patty and Carla Crespo and Cynthia Leonardo. Carla Crespo said, "It was my chance to give back to my community. The experiencing was really rewarding because the majority of the people don't have health insurance, and this was their only chance to have needs met by medical professionals."

Cynthia Leonardo said, "It was a great experience because it brought back memories of home of translating for family members. "

COLUMN-FEATURE-LETTER

Sequestration Affects Brescia

Dr. Delores Kiesler
Guest Columnist

The sequestration of the federal budget, which went into effect March 1, will significantly impact students and services at Brescia. Any programs, such as financial aid, work study, and Student Support Services, which receives funding from the U.S. Department of Education, will feel the effects this fall if not before.

The sequestration requires a 2% cut across the board for all government agencies, including education, which will be cut by 5% for academic year 2013-2014 and at least 2% on top of that for each of the next nine years. In addition, the interest rates on student loans have also increased because of the sequester.

The ramifications for Student Support Services include a 5% budget reduction beginning in fall 2013. This is on top of an 8% reduction last year, which eliminated funding for peer mentoring, Summer Bridge, the technology loan program, the SSS open houses, stress-release activities during exam weeks, and other budgeted items.

To make the additional 5% cut, SSS is looking at the remaining services including tutoring (no raises for tutors) and the number of hours staff are available for contact with the participants. However, these two areas do not save enough money to meet the 5% deduction, and SSS is waiting for further guidelines from the Department of Education on ways it will be allowed to reduce the budget.

Regarding financial aid, students can calculate the estimated effect sequestration would have on them individually by subtracting 5% from the current award. In addition, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants will most likely be reduced by $4,300 to $81,700.

Also work study grant money would likely be reduced by $3,841 to $72,975. And similar cuts will occur for both subsidized and unsubsidized loans

Students and staff have two months to write our senators and representatives as well as President Obama to explain how the sequester is affecting them and request that the sequester be reversed. An SSS staff member will be outside the dining hall at lunch the week after Spring Break with a petition to be signed, and there are individual letters available on the table in Room 240 of the Administration Building.

Letter to the Editor

I am a freshman at Brescia. I receive a PELL grant, which is protected from the sequester, but I also receive $300 of SEOG money and $1,300 in federal work study. In addition, I have a $3,500 subsidized loan and a $6,000 unsubsidized loans. I anticipate needing this same aid or even more for my time here at Brescia.

However, I understand that my work study and SEOG will be reduced by 5% if I am still eligible for these two programs; that is a reduction of $80 a year ($240 for my remaining three years). This may not seem like much, but it is the interest on my student loans that will really impact me.

With the new interest, my first year out of college, I will owe $587 of interest on my subsidized loans as opposed to the previous $476; my unsubsidized loan interest payment will be $4,458 rather than the previous $4,080. This is an increase in the interest payment on my two loans of $489 a year until I pay off the loans. And that does not include my total loans of over $38,000.

The average Brescia student who receives the PELL grant also takes out about $3,500 in subsidized loans and $6000 in unsubsidized loanseach year.

Contact your congressperson now!

Maggie Mae

BU Library Provides Quality Resources and Assistance

Emily Fabrizio
Editor

From AV materials to books, journals, and databases, the library offers "quality academic resources" that support Brescia's curriculum, according to Sr. Judith Nell Riney, director of library services. The library staff encourages students to use these certified resources, she said, to avoid confusion from sometimes questionable sources, such as Wikipedia.

Sister Judy said students are welcome to seek help from any staff on duty. "Students can also make an appointment to meet with a library staff member," she said, "to discuss research strategy and seek assistance in learning to use library resources."

Library assistance is also provided by an "Ask Us" tab available on the library's pages of Brescia's website and on libguides. Through this, patrons will find email addresses, phone numbers (for texting and calling), and chat windows.

Sister Judy said that, during hours the library is open, "Questions will be answered as soon as possible but not as immediately as when library staff are on duty."

Patty Alvey, library public services manager, said, "The service includes a knowledge base of questions already asked by other patrons" and questions the staff commonly receives. When a question is being typed into the search engine, she explained, keywords are identified, and similar answered questions will show up.

This service also is often updated with questions the staff receives. "Even when library staff are not logged in to Ask Us," Alvey said, "patrons can still find answers to their questions."

There is no limit, according to Sr. Judy, to a patron's use of the Ask Us service. "While our intent is to provide answers to questions related to library services and resources," she said, "we will be glad to forward unrelated questions to other departments on campus that deal with questions received."

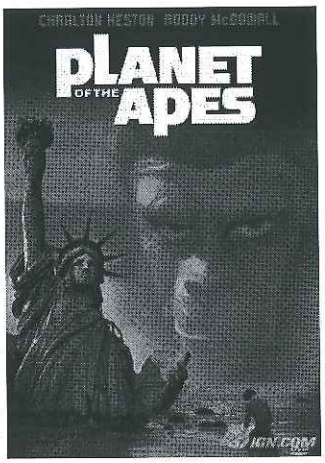
"Each year," Sr. Judy said, "the students and faculty tell us that our services and resources meet their research needs."

REVIEWS - COLUMN

Ceara's Cinematic Time Machine

Ceara Robin
Assisstant Editor

Often when people think of *The Planet of the Apes*, they think of the remake directed by Tim Burton. However, the original film (made in 1968) was written, directed, and performed with much more heart and poise than the remake could ever hope to achieve.



The film stars Charlton Heston, who is one of those actors who never disappoints no matter what role he is in. He manages to get across the character's personality very well despite a large portion of the movie in which his character is unable to speak. Another great performance comes from Linda Harrison, who manages to develop her character without uttering a single syllable.

The actors who play the apes are also phenomenal. Each ape has his or her unique personality despite them living in such a tight-knit community.

The story is the highlight of the movie, however. It makes the viewers question how we human beings treat animals by reversing the roles of humans and apes.

The main character, Taylor, (named Bright-Eyes by the apes) must find a way to reason with the apes or face a life of being experimented on--with the possibility of castration or a lobotomy. And even if he can find a way to reason with the apes, he still faces a terrifying world where he is no longer at the top of the food chain.

However, the greatest moment of the movie is the ending. This is where Heston gives his most powerful performance, and the ending will leave viewers speechless.

Inconsistent Characters Disappoint

Jamie Alvey
Staff Reporter

As a budding writer, I strive to keep everything consistent in my writing. I check for plot holes, character inconsistencies, you name it. And you'd think that television writers, screenwriters, and authors would try to do the same, but that this is not always the case.

My biggest gripe, however, is inconsistent character development. You know what I'm talking about: your favorite character has grown significantly over the course of his or her journey, but in the next book/movie/season it's all gone and you're left thinking, "Where did it go? I thought s/he had become a better person. What?"

One prominent example of this is the character Rachel Berry on the famous Fox TV show *Glee*. At the start of season one, Rachel is self-centered and selfish. The glory has to be hers and hers alone. But over the course of the season, she has several experiences that show her she is not the center of the universe. And in the last episode of the season she is a changed woman. She learned to become a team player the hard way and in the process endeared herself to us.

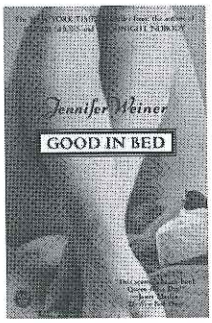
When season two started, I was looking forward to more character growth involving Rachel. To my surprise, however, the Rachel on the screen was not the Rachel at the end of season one; she was the Rachel from the beginning of season one. She was as carping, conniving, and nasty as ever. All her growth from season one had vanished. There are several more characters on the show that fall victim to inconsistent character development, but Rachel is a glaring instance.

We can only hope that more characters are not subjected to this. Please, I beg you; if you become a writer of any kind, strive for consistent character development. If you keep setting your characters back without a reasonable explanation, you might lose fans--or your life. (You know those fans can be scary.)

Book Review: *Good in Bed*

Destiny Debroy
Staff Reporter

Good In Bed, Jennifer Weiner's first novel, is about overcoming obstacles. The book, which debuted in 2001, focuses on Candace "Cannie" Shapiro, a witty, smart, and sarcastic journalist.



Cannie lives in Philadelphia with her rat terrier, Nifkin, and she has decided to end her relationship with her boyfriend of three years because they have grown apart. He retaliates, however, by writing a column for *Moxie* magazine titled "Loving a Larger Woman."

This infuriates Cannie, and she tells him their relationship is over for good. After a few weeks of not being able to find someone to date, however, she begins to wonder if she should convince her ex-boyfriend to take her back, but then she learns that he has moved on.

Despite having trouble with her weight and her mom's new lifestyle choice, Cannie manages to become a successful journalist and have a group of close friends: her best friend Samantha, food critic Andy, and actress Maxie.

The theme of the book is overcoming obstacles, and reading it gave me hope that if I keep trying I can accomplish my goals, like Cannie did.

Out of Context *Broadcast* Staff Quotes

"It takes more than that to get an erection."-Ceara

"There is a solution to that: it's called castration." -Jamie

"They're trying to protect them from the glitter and fabulousness." -Joy

"Oh, hey. Let's, like. have sex." -Lesley

SCOPES - BOOK REVIEW

Horoscopes

Lady Ophelia
Astrologist

ARIES You could easily get the wrong end of the stick this week and say or do something you regret. If you do make a mistake, don't make it worse by refusing to admit it. An apology now will save a lot of grief later.

TAURUS According to the planets, someone will try to mislead you this week. No matter how reliable you think your sources may be, make sure they know what they are talking about. Get a second opinion if necessary.

GEMINI Don't change your plans just because you are having second thoughts about a joint concern of some kind. Everyone has doubts occasionally – yes, even a Gemini – so sleep on it before making a final decision.

CANCER You may feel tied down by obligations, but there is not much you can do about it at the moment, so be patient. If you give others the impression you would rather be somewhere else, they may pile more work on you.

LEO If you are not careful, this week's cosmic influences could loosen your tongue and encourage you to say things that should be kept under wraps. Remember, knowledge is power, and the less others know about you the better.

VIRGO You may do something silly over the next week, but nothing bad will come of it. The best way to deal with embarrassing situations is to laugh at them – they're simply not worth losing sleep or friends over.

LIBRA You may be tempted to rush things this week, to get through your tasks in double quick time, but that would be a mistake. Take your time and make sure you do everything to your full ability. Expect the best of yourself.

SCORPIO You could be rather touchy this week, and for no good reason, but that's okay. Everyone who knows you realizes that once in a while you slip into a bit of a funk. And those who don't know you will soon learn.

SAGITTARIUS Things are going well for you now, but there is a danger you could be lulled into a false sense of security. On the money front, especially, you are advised to take nothing for granted. Don't give away anything for free.

CAPRICORN Why are you so worried? What can possibly go wrong? The Sun in your sign indicates that no matter what you do this week it will work out for the best, so get on with it and wipe that frown from your face.

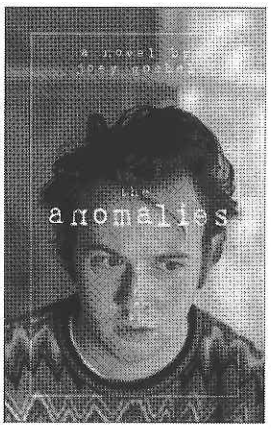
AQUARIUS When the sun moves into your birth sign at the end of next week, your energy will return, but between now and then you are advised to take things easy, mentally and emotionally as well as physically. Pace yourself.

PISCES You are in one of your daydream moods at the moment and there is nothing wrong with that, but watch out you don't lose touch with reality completely because there are people out there who will take advantage.

Book of the Week: Anomalies

Tiffany Cashman
Staff Reporter

The Anomalies, 2002 Brescia grad Joey Goebel's first novel, leaves the reader guessing for the majority of the book. Each chapter is narrated by a different character revealing new information and hilarious insights.



Opal is an 87 year old woman who acts like a 20 year old. Ember is an eight year old girl who could make a demon shudder. Aurora is a beautiful young woman who goes through different extreme phases as she tries to be noticed for her mind instead of her body. Luster is a black man who hates predictable people and thinks out loud. Ray, from the Middle East, has dragged his family to America in hopes of clearing his conscience for shooting an American soldier in Iraq, even if it ruins his marriage.

These five characters with dramatically different personalities somehow become close friends, and they form a band with a new form of music which Luster refers to as "power-pop new wave heavy metal punk rock," and he says the band "rocks to the fifth power possible." When Ember's parents go on vacation, the group moves into Ember's house for a month to really practice and finally begin chasing their dreams.

Goebel does a fantastic job bringing the characters to life even with exaggerated scenarios. With the wide variety of characters it's easy for the reader to relate to at least one of them.

The Anomalies is a quick, easy, entertaining-and-thought-provoking read.

Since writing *The Anomalies*, Goebel has written three more highly acclaimed novels that are published in numerous languages, and he has wrtitten a few screenplays. He also is a songwriter/musician. He lives in his hometown, Henderson, KY, with his wife and son.

History Major Stereotypes

We know the dates of every major event in world history.

We each have personal libraries.

We all wear glasses that make us look like owls.

You can never know too much about the Civil War.

We have infinite tangents we can branch off to during conversations.

COLUMN - REVIEW

Becoming a PC Gamer

Logan Stovall
Staff Reporter

I've always played video games on consoles. The idea of buying a box that is guaranteed to play any game made for it seemed like the best idea to me, not to mention that building a good gaming PC can cost over $1,000. A few weeks ago, however, I took it upon myself to build my first computer.

You can build an entry level PC for around $600, which will play most modern games. But I wanted to build a higher end machine that could graphically max out games at 1080p. After a lot of research, the two key components I chose for my computer were an AMD 8350 and a Gigabyte Radeon 7970.

My graphics card came with $120 worth of free games: *Bioshock Infinite* and *Crysis 3*. And I was immediately able to see the leap in graphics quality from the Xbox 360 to the PC with *Crysis 3* maxed out. I could also use my Xbox controller to play *Crysis*, which was cool because I'm not used to playing shooters with a keyboard and mouse.

The next discovery I made was Steam, an online distributor of digital games. It also has achievements and a friends list, and it offers ongoing sales; many games are up to 80% off. Steam has an annual summer sale, as well, in which a large quantity of games go on sale. Eventually, the amount of money I spent on my PC will be offset by the amount I have saved from game sales.

Another cool thing about being a PC gamer is the "openness" of the platform. People can modify games and add additional content to them. For example, new texture mods for games will improve the graphics. On one game I purchased through Steam, *Torchlight II*, a mod added new character classes and game content. And the games I purchase on PC overall have more value than their console counterparts.

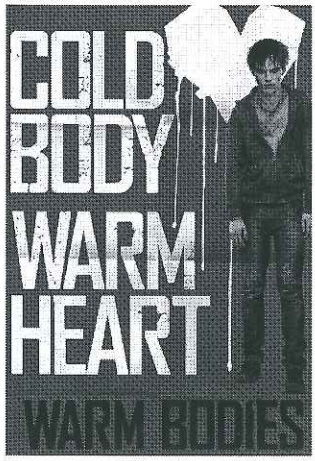
There are a few things to worry about, though, as a PC gamer. Obviously, PC's are capable of getting a virus. They are also more susceptible to instability and crashing when you compare them to a console. Overall, though, the benefits outweigh to negatives, and it feels good to finally be a PC gamer.

Movie Review: *Warm Bodies*

Ceara Robin
Assistant Editor

With the recent trend of directors turning vicious monsters into the equivalent fairy tale princesses (e.g. Twilight), I was skeptical about *Warm Bodies*. Thankfully, though, my suspicions were wrong.

Warm Bodies manages to poke fun at the trend *Twilight* has created while still telling a good story and presenting a romance that works. At first I thought, "That film was about a zombie falling in love with a human. How can that possibly work?" But the movie pulls it off well.



Unlike other films that ignore that the main character is, in fact, a monster, *Warm Bodies* tells the story of the zombie, R, falling for the human girl, Julie, with great pacing so that the romance doesn't seem rushed, and R has to overcome his own violent tendencies in order to keep Julie safe.

The movie also puts a twist on the zombie genre that I have never seen before. The zombies, naturally, enjoy eating the brains of humans more than anything else. The difference between this film and others, however, is the effect the brains have on the zombies. When a Warm Bodies zombie eats a human brain, it takes on some of the memories and feelings of the person, which contributes a great deal to the plot.

Another positive aspect of the movie is well-paced, hilarious, and believable story. With R as the narrator, the movie is told in a way that you would not expect, and it works to the film's advantage as we get to see, from his perspective, the struggles he has to go through to try to regain some of his humanity.

Any fan of comedy will love this film. However, it also works as a romance story, so both genders will be happy when they leave the theater.

Out of Context Dr. Craig Barrette Quotes

"They're probably celebrating their budget cut. No lunch for them tomorrow."

"All you had to do was pump it."

"Today, we just have castrated folks."

"It's cheaper to sleep with a prostitute than spend a while in a hotel."

"He prostituted his talent."

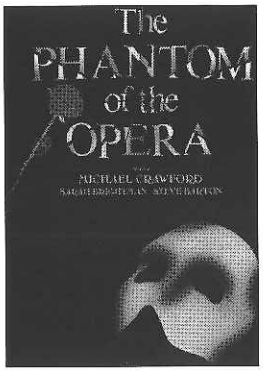
COLUMN-FEATURES

Show Tune of the Week: "All I Ask of You"

Jamie Alvey
Staff Reporter

My friend Jordan brought to my attention recently that I have failed to feature a song from Andrew Lloyd Webber's beloved *The Phantom of the Opera*. And it seems almost a sin to not feature a song from the grandiose musical that made opera cool again.

It didn't take me long to pick a song from *Phantom*. Back in my high school days, my friend Hannah and I used to belt the song "All I Ask of You" on the bus as if we were performing for an audience.



The song is one of my favorite duets from musical theatre, right up there with "Suddenly Seymour," "Don't Do Sadness/Blue Wind," and "As Long As You're Mine."

Granted, the song may seem a little cheesy, but it is sweet none-the-less. It's a duet between the beautiful soprano Christine Daaé and the Vicomte de Chagny Raoul.

The song takes places after a conversation involving the infamous Phantom and involves Raoul vowing to protect her and love her regardless of the Phantom and his machinations.

Unbeknownst to them, however, the Phantom hears every word of this sickeningly sweet and romantic exchange and is more than a little displeased with it.

Recording-wise, I recommend three different versions, the first being the original featuring the sublime Sarah Brightman and Steve Barton.

The next recording I recommend is the one performed in the film. I have, however, encountered a few people who are apprehensive about the film adaptation, but Emmy Rossum's voice is exceptional.

If you're looking for a newer version of the song, go to YouTube and search for the 25th anniversary performance featuring Sierra Boggess and Hadley Fraser. All actors involved put their own unique spins on the song, but the outcome is the same: beautiful and hopeful.

Zelda to Sub for Madame Roxxanne

Staff Report

Zelda Fitzgerald has spent years gallivanting across Europe with her husband, but she has decided to settle down in Owensboro. It seemed like her kind of town, she said, with its crazy night life and what not.

She is not to be confused with the schizophrenic wife of a certain author, but she has thrown herself down a flight of stairs before. Still, she insists her mental health is in tip top shape and that she has never heard voices in her head before.

Zelda has a penchant for wearing flapper clothing and other outrageous garb. In her spare time she enjoys dancing provocatively, painting male nudes, experimenting with cross pollination in pea plants, and writing long philosophical novels about her husband and his alcohol problem. Lately she has taken up playing the bagpipes and basket weaving.

When she was contacted by her friends at *The Broadcast* to give Madame Roxxanne a bit of a break from the strenuous task of giving love advice, Zelda said yes without another thought. "I will be great at this!" she said, clapping her hands in excitement. "After all, my husband and I have been married for three years or something like that, though it feels like longer."

Other than that, Zelda has no other qualifications for dispensing romantic advice, but we are sure she is capable of helping you with your love needs. After all, who would argue with a pea pollinating, bagpipe playing flapper?

Not I.

Senior Profile: Lee Ann Wells

Tiffany Cashman
Staff Reporter

Lee Ann Wells will graduate in May with a degree in integrated studies, emphasis in English and education. During her time at Brescia, she has been a member of the Brescia band and choir and KCSC (Kentucky Catholic Student Coalition). She also was vice president of St. Angela's Messengers, and she has worked in the Brescia Library.

Wells said she has no definite plans after graduation but is thinking about continuing her education in library science. "At the moment I'm just tired of school," she said. "I just want to get through the semester first, and then I'll figure it out."

In her free time, Wells works with her church youth group, leads children's liturgy of the word, and works in child care at Saint Stephen's during Sunday mass.

Wells said she enjoys reading, writing, photography, and singing. "I love music," she said, "just not the newer stuff." She also babysits and has a Yorkie-Poo (Yorkie-Poodle) named Cujo and a cat named Aragon.

A die-hard Harry Potter fan, Wells said, "Everyone says Hogwarts is my home. Brescia is my Hogwarts." She said she role plays on Facebook every evening. "During the summer I feel like Harry, sometimes," she said. "I can't wait to get back. I don't know what I'm gonna do next year."

Wells said her favorite class at Brescia is public speaking. "It was fun with Belinda Thompson," she said.

Something on campus or in the world irking you? Send your own articles to *The Broadcast* at broadcast@brescia.edu.

SPORTS

The Sports Roundup

Tyler Edmunds
Sports Editor

The Broadcast congratulates senior track team member Matt Lowe for his outstanding performance on March 2 that earned him the All-American Award in the 5k race in the indoor track at the NAIA Indoor Nationals.

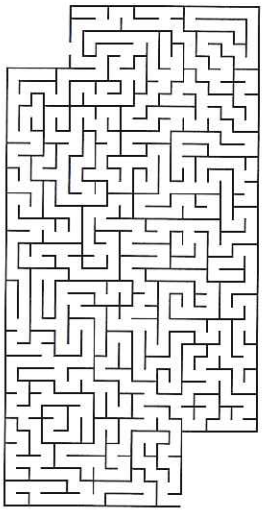
Lowe placed seventh in the final race of his indoor track collegiate career, and he will continue his track season on March 30 at Washington University in St. Louis.

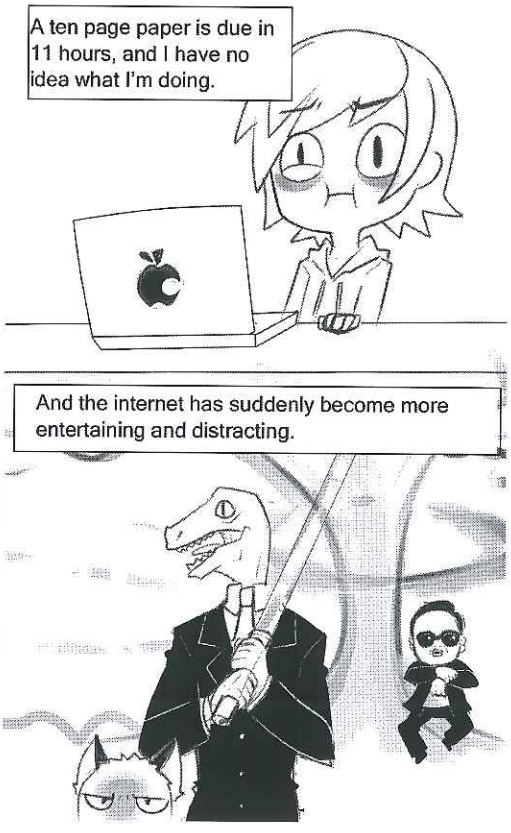
The men's baseball team hosted St. Catharine College and Dakota State University on March 4 in a double header. In the first game against St. Catharine, the Bearcats fell 10-1. The team had three hits with one error. Sophomore Cody Morris led the Bearcats with two hits, and sophomore Logan Rascoe contributed with a double.

In the second game of the weekend double header, the Bearcats bounced back and defeated Dakota State University 7-5. The team had eight hits and zero errors, and set a new school record with eight stolen bases.

Junior Alex Hegge led the Bearcats with two hits and three RBIs. Junior Hank Stewart contributed with one hit and two RBIs. Morris took the win on the mound, throwing five and one-third innings, with seven strikeouts. The Bearcats' record is 4-9, and they will return to the diamond on March 19 at Lindsey Wilson College.

In softball, the Lady Bearcats will host St. Catharine College at the Brescia Sports Complex. Be sure to support your Bearcats and Lady Bearcats whenever you can!





Mathematics Major Stereotypes

We can have entire conversations with numbers.

We have calculators stashed everywhere.

We have at least one white board in our bedroom.

We talk faster when we realize you don't understand what we're talking about.

Theoretically we can make anything happen with our minds.

The Broadcast is published weekly by and for the students of Brescia University, 717 Frederica St. Owensboro, KY 42301.

Editor: Emily Fabrizio

Assistant Editor:
Ceara Robin

Sports Editor: Tyler Edmunds

Reporters:
Jamie Alvey, LuTisha Buckner, Tiffany Cashman, Destiny Debroy, Haley Finke, Lesley Henderson, Alexxis Ross-Logan, Sara Rossio, Logan Stovall.

Scoper:
Katt Downs

Faculty Advisor:
David Bartholomy

Phone: 686-(4225)
Mail Box: 103
broadcast@brescia.edu
The Broadcast invites any student or faculty interested in helping to join us on Thursday nights in *The Broadcast* Office 222A.

Our Mission:
to convince you that "Dammit, Barrette" is a thing.

Sports Calendar

Softball

3/18 vs. Mid-Continent

3/22 vs. St. Catherine

3/23 vs. Point Park

Baseball

3/22 vs. Berea

3/23 vs. Berea

Men's Tennis

3/23 @ STLC

3/23 @ Bethel

AFTER HOURS

Perceptive [part one]

by Emily Fabrizio

Emily Fabrizio is a sophomore English major and strives to be a book editor and published author. She also is quite fond of Oscar Wilde and puppies.

Prelude: Jules Adair was imprisoned in a cold, dark dungeon-like room. Beneath her eyes were dark rings. Her usually curly auburn hair was a disheveled heap. Wall-rooted chains were cuffed around her wrists and ankles, confining her to maybe ten feet of space, so she sat—almost motionless, her chest gradually expanding and contracting with each breath—on the damp floor and hugged her knees to her chest.

She sensed impending doom—a painful death.

Prologue: Evangelia, Jules's cousin, had convinced her to go to a psychic reading, and although she was skeptical, Jules agreed to go to the small downtown-shop.

Stopping in the entryway, she looked around. The walls were midnight blue with small white lights twinkling like stars on a summer night. In the center of the dark room was a small round table draped with a celestial cloth upon which stood a clouded crystal ball. The shop was exactly what someone would expect, which caused Jules's excitement to dwindle. *Maybe she's a fraud,* she thought. *All psychic mediums are frauds.*

A middle-aged woman emerged from the shadows, hovered over the crystal ball and caressed it, her eyes fixed on whatever she saw in the sphere. Soon, her gaze fell upon Jules, who felt exposed, as if her clothes had been zapped off her body, so she crossed her arms over her chest and cowered behind Evangelia.

"Rubylocks," the woman said, "your aura is quite luminous." Mischievously, her eyes widened as she stared intently at Jules over the orb, and the corners of her mouth curled upward. "Come sit, m'dear. I have much to share with you."

Evangelia pushed her cousin in front of her and whispered, "Go."

"I am Madame Qiana," the seer said dramatically. "And you, darlings, are Jules and Evangelia." As Jules sat on one of the barrel chairs, the seer mused, "You are destined for great things."

Jules bit her lip to keep from laughing aloud. She didn't know why her cousin took this seriously. Then Evangelia elbowed her cousin in the ribs, and with a yelp, Jules snapped, "Ow! What do you want?!"

"I'm aware of your doubts," the seer said, "and I'd like you to rid yourself of them." She placed her hands on either side of the crystal ball and locked her gaze with Jules'. "Your aura is luminous," she said. "You're surrounded by gold—the color of spiritual energies. With some practice, you will be able to control Spirit, too, much like your cousin and I can."

"Spirit?" Jules asked.

"Spirit can be wielded by only those who inherit the ability," Qiana replied. "Over the next fortnight, your powers will fully develop, and you will be able to see the future and others' auras."

But—there's no way, Jules thought.

"On the eve of your eighteenth birthday," Qiana continued, "you will foresee an inevitable betrayal, but I cannot reveal specifics." As if she were dismissing the subject, she waved her hand. "Beware of the succubus. Bond with the dream eater; he will be your closest and most useful ally."

Chapter One: A week had passed since Jules' encounter with Madame Qiana.

She awoke early one morning as sunlight streamed through her bedroom window. She was still unsure whether to heed the seer's words or dismiss them as the ravings of a mental institution escapee. Evangelia had told her to not take the words lightly, but she wasn't the most credible person; she was often at the center of the high school's rumor mill and encouraged the spread of rumors.

Jules lay in bed and stared at the ceiling. A few glow-in-the-dark plastic stars lingered there, and she imagined her bedroom's ceiling being like the one in the psychic shop. The star-like lights would be much more useful than cheap kid decorations that didn't charge anymore. She thought maybe she could get some bedcovers like the tablecloth at the shop. Then, with a growl of frustration, she rolled onto her stomach and screamed into her pillow. How could a week-old event be influencing her in any way?

"Jules," her mother sang from the hallway, "you'd better leave soon. You know how morning traffic gets."

Jules imagined her mother waking Hayden and Aeryn, her younger fraternal twin siblings, by knocking on their respective doors. That was her ritual, and Jules couldn't imagine her quiet, harmless, suburban mother harboring any secrets, especially of their family being seers. Her stay-at-home-mom was quite the gossiper. She met with a book club weekly, and she'd pass on to Jules' father whatever mildly juicy news one of them had shared. Thus, Jules believed her mother was the person least likely to keep a secret.

"The twins had a meeting, so Evangelia drove them to school," her mother said. "Have a good day, dear!" she said, and as she walked away, Jules listened to the shuffling of her slippers against the hardwood floor.

To be continued next issue