

THE

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Penn State Goes "All In" At Town Hall Meeting

"Do It For The Vine" One Last Time

Dakota Access Pipeline versus Standing Rock

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Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Nico Regoli

Managing and Online Editor: Isabella Bordonaro

Staff Writer & Reporter: Aleigha DiDonato

Staff Writer & Reporter: Monica Fiore

Staff Writer & Reporter: Jay Wu

Staff Writer & Reporter: Kierstin Flickinger

Staff Writer & Reporter: Nathan Traini

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Contributing Writer: Sam Elliot

Contributing Writer: Nicole Ruffner

Contributing Writer: Scott Sinclair

Faculty Advisor: Abhinav Aima

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CAMPUS LIFE

Penn State Goes “All In” At Town Hall Meeting

By Isabella Bordonaro
Managing and Online Editor

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - Penn State held a Town Hall meeting Tuesday, November 15, to allow students from all campuses to meet with a panel of six Board of Trustee members, discussing the new “All In” diversity campaign.

At Penn State New Kensington, students were able to meet in the Art Gallery, and watch the Town Hall from University Park via live stream. The Board of Trustee members were meant to discuss diversity and inclusion at Penn State, and how they personally deal with it in their own lives.



LiveStream of the Town Hall, viewed by students in the Art Gallery, Photo courtesy of Isabella Bordonaro

Shannon Josefoski, SGA Club President and student at PSNK, planned the viewing event for New Kensington. According to Josefoski, “it was important for our students to see a different perspective of diversity and inclusion,” she said. “I was hoping that those who attended would hear the questions being asked and see the students asking them, and reflect on experiences in their own lives.”

Two other students in attendance, Raven Brunner and Jayleen Chagolla, were there together to represent PSNK’s new Diversity Club. Raven Brunner, a Communications major, is the President of the new club. When asked why she attended the event, she stated, “I’ve been talking to Lauren Blum and Shannon Josefoski about issues around our campus regarding diversity, and people being uneducated on other cultures.” Brunner added, “I am also President of Diversity Club and felt this meeting would be very beneficial in figuring out what to do next.”

As the meeting ensued, students said they felt that the conversation was not going to be very fruitful.

“I believed the questions presented by the students were very well informed and grasped the overall problems that had to be brought into light,” stated Chagolla. “However, the corresponding answers from the board members seemed to be repetitive and avoid the questions at hand, which honestly made no progress for change and what the meeting was meant for.”

Josefoski had similar feelings on the answers from the board. “I would have liked to have more of a response from the board rather than just the politically correct response. Very few of their responses actually answered the question directly,” she said.

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The point of this town hall was to continue to raise awareness of the new “All In” initiative that was meant to foster inclusion of all diverse peoples over all Penn State campuses. After the initial kickoff received an enthusiastic response from University Park students, students here have felt that not much has been accomplished since then.

“There hasn’t been much done after the big kickoff and that’s disappointing to see. I think they got such a big boost of energy and response from the students, but they let it fall by the wayside,” Josefoski stated.

According to Chagolla, the lack of action with “All In” is the responsibility of the students.

“Although the intentions and overall methods of the ‘All In’ initiative delve into the important issues of campus life, the lack of participation and interest of students defaults what the initiative is attempting to develop,” she explained.

As for how this campus can be inclusive and “All In” Brunner said she feels that, “everybody has been working really hard at PSNK to provide events and information about diversity on campus. They’ve also supported Diversity Club very well and gave us a lot of valuable resources.” “As of now, it relies on the students to participate and be engaged in these events and meetings in order to become an all-inclusive and diverse community because there’s been issues of masked prejudice and racism here and it can’t be solved until the community wants to solve them,” she added.



CAMPUS LIFE

Penn State New Kensington Welcomes A Brand New Chef

By Jay Wu

Staff Writer and Reporter

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.,- When the fall semester commenced, Café 780 had hours that were short and affected student engagement.

In a short amount of time, the café now has extended hours and hired a brand new chef named Landis Crawford.

According to Crawford, he was adopted from Honduras when he was less than a year old. "My adoptive parents, Edward and Janis Crawford are from Howland, Ohio, which is a suburb of Warren, Ohio," he stated.

Also, he said that AVI Headquarters, which Café 780 has correlations with, was from Warren, Ohio. "I have known about AVI for as long as I can remember with the first knowledge of them," he explained.

Before having an interest in the culinary field, he attended Youngstown State University. After that, he has had a plethora of jobs in the culinary field. "I have always held jobs in the culinary field, starting as a dishwasher at a local diner in Warren and another in Cortland, Ohio before deciding that it was really a field that could keep up with my personality and speed," Crawford stated.

Also, he worked with his mother at the Gordon D. James Career Center in Lordstown, Ohio. According to Crawford, they offered a culinary program and in 2008, he decided to attend the Pennsylvania culinary institute called Le Cordon Bleu in Pittsburgh, PA.

In September 6, 2016, Crawford started working at Penn State New Kensington. He has become fascinated with the employees that he has met along with the students and environment that he has witnessed. "I am very fortunate to have inherited a very good and knowledgeable crew that have the experience to run the café," he said.

Crawford has been working at the campus for a couple months now and has made an effort to improve the cafe in order for students to become more involved with the cafe. "As far as changes to the café, the culinary field is ever-changing and improving," Crawford explained.

He also went on to state that searching for a balance between students and healthy food options can't be ignored. "The biggest topics moving forward are healthy food options which means, just like creating a great meal is finding balance in healthy options and the stable foods that can't be vacant from campus life," he said.



Photo Courtesy of Jay Wu

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With Landis Crawford working at the campus since September, students have had a good response to the new chef. Ben Lesko, a senior IST major, stated, "I think that Landis is very involved with the students and think that he is really into his job," he said.

Billy Carney, a senior Psychology major, stated, "He seems like a very good guy and he is always trying new things," he explained.

When it comes to new culinary dishes that Crawford has prepared for the students at PSNK, the students have developed an interest on how it is prepared and how it tastes. According to Lesko, "I think he has put a lot more healthy choices and has took that idea to our advantage," he said.

According to Carney, he has heard a plethora of optimistic reviews of his culinary styles. "It is high quality and looks good," he explained.

Culinary styles are another method that students witness in a good chef like Landis Crawford. Lesko stated that Crawford has a variety of styles when it arrives to cooking for the students at the campus. "We have so much diversity because people like different things so, I think his style is perfect," said Lesko.

Carney stated his opinion on Crawford's cooking as experimental and likes to exceed student expectations.

When trying new culinary dishes that Crawford has prepared for the students, some have a particular dish that they really adored. Lesko explains that his favorite dish was a special pork roast that contained mashed potatoes. "It was a very well balanced meal and tastes really good," he said.

Carney stated that his favorite dishes by Crawford were the gourmet sandwiches that he prepared.

With on-campus events always ensuing, students appreciate how Crawford is always engaged with the students and really entailed with the lifestyle that the campus has to offer. According to Lesko, "I think he is really involved with the events that we have been having on campus and has been giving them tips on how to do things," he stated.

According to Carney, the individuals that have interacted with Crawford really like him along with the faculty. "He is popular with the students and faculty," he stated.

Café 780 in Penn State New Kensington has many meal options available for students and a plethora of changes may be implemented in order to search the needs for students who have a special diet or restrictions. So far, Landis Crawford has completed a successful job and Penn State New Kensington welcomes him to Café 780.

Have feedback for the Nittany Pride? Leave a comment on the online version of our stories at nittanypride.wordpress.com or email us directly at nittanypridenews@gmail.com.

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Food for Thought

By Millie Brassler

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.- Penn State New Kensington professor of English 179, Andrea Adolph, has explored the literature of food and how it currently trends in American food writing as well as examining the historical and contemporary aspect of food environmental sustainability. Her research focuses on multiple backgrounds and various approaches, according to the students that have enjoyed her classes.

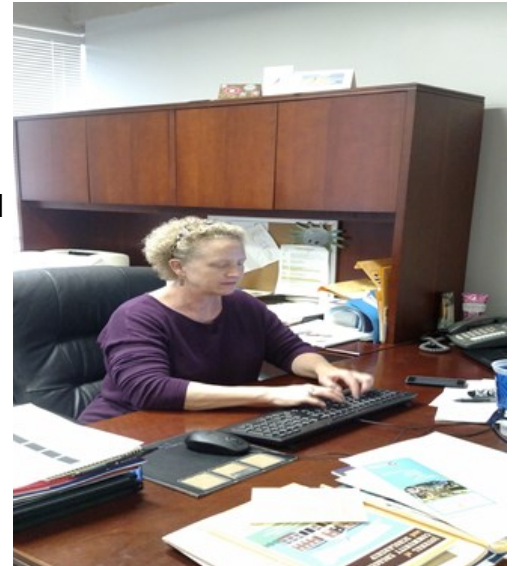
With her passion for teaching, Adolph helps others to learn how to examine American food and the environment. With her background, she explores the gender roles and different aspects of women's relationships and food. She tries to connect the dots that link other aspects of culture, which perhaps we don't do very often, and to consider that at food rationing during World War II in England.

Adolph teaches her lessons based off of the book the "Bite to Eat Place" and an anthology of contemporary food poetry and poetic prose that examine how the use of food was published in 1995. She has a couple of poems in the book, written by her co-editors from Canada also in addition to U.S. like Margaret Atwood and Brenda Hillman.

Adolph teaches about food from all different angles and sometimes simply uses food as a metaphor to discuss other issues all over the world. The students learned to read and analyze poems that help them to think about this and one of them is "Images of Fruit," a metaphoric story of Adam and Eve from Genesis in the Bible. It talks about either temptation, sexuality or problems that are different ways of using that fruit in the story to think about bigger issues. "Think about what it means to be human and how humans express themselves," she said.

One of Adolph's students, Ryan W. Long, explained his thoughts on the subject.

"There are several poems and articles that we've read so far," said Long in an email. "I would have to say, my favorite poem so far is probably 'Pears,' by Linda Pastan."



Dr. Andrea Adolph

Photo courtesy of Millie Brassler

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“This poem was biblically related, and I like that. Although it was a short poem, there were a few things that made you really think about the creation story of Adam and Eve. Attending class and talking about food for an hour and 15 minutes, always makes me very hungry when I leave,” he added.

Adolph not only teaches poems about food, but she also teaches students to think about the way you eat. She is using a book called “Food Rules” by Michael Pollan, who has written about eating more sustainable food in a way that's not only healthy, but sustainable for the environment too. She gives the opportunity to think about why people don't want to eat meat or chicken or why they want to eat artificially flavored food, which might not be healthy. “They would change their ways and understand these bigger global issues,” said Adolph.

Adolph's passion enables the students to understand subjects about food, literature poems, culture, etc.

“Don't be afraid to read poems to think about literature,” Adolph said. She wants the students to feel confident in their own abilities to read and think, and also to consider other people's experiences and what is important to them in their life and their world. She hopes to use the literature as the way to challenge them to think about other things and other kinds of people.

“Students love her,” Long said. “ Yes, I do like the class. I have learned several things about food that I never knew about before. My knowledge of food has been increased since taking the class. When I first walked into the class, honestly, I expected just to talk about food, food, food! That was not the case. Dr. Adolph has found a way to integrate different stories, class activities, poems, etc. to make things more interesting.”

Another student from her class, Jayleen Chagolla said, “what I love from Dr. Andrea's class is that we delve and take a different approach into aspects of food and would be able to get an understanding other food cultures, all while I share my own.”



ENTERTAINMENT

“Do It For the Vine” One Last Time: Video App to Be Discontinued

By Monica Fiore
Staff Writer and Reporter

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - As the saying, “do it for the vine” was once made popular on the video app that carries its name, “doing it for the vine” is no more.

October 27 was a sad day for fellow users of *Vine*, a video app which allows you to create short videos up to six seconds long called “vines”, as it was announced by the Twitter and Vine team on Medium that the app would soon be discontinued.



The Vine logo (Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons).

Created in January 2013 by Dom Hofmann, Rus Yusupov, and Colin Kroll, *Vine* serves a purpose for many. Many, such as Ryan Hubbell and Us the Duo, use the app to showcase their musical talents. Others, such as Thomas Sanders, Alx James, and Anthony Troli, use the app for comedy purposes. *Vine* not only allows you to make your own videos, but also lets you view others and also “revine” them, meaning those “vines” will be posted to your profile for other people to see.

The well known social media app and website *Twitter* purchased *Vine* in late 2012 for \$30 million. Hofmann stepped down as the lead general manager in January 2014 and his job was taken over by former chief technical officer and second co-founder, Colin Kroll, until his departure from that role in April that same year. Yusupov, the third co-founder, was let go by *Twitter* in October 2015. Yusupov was the creative director of *Vine* until his job was taken over by Jason Mante, *Vine*’s head of user experience.

To express their emotions about the discontinuation announcement, many *Vine* users have made farewell videos and have written farewell statements.

“Thank you, *Vine*, for changing my life,” “viner” Gabbie Hanna tweeted on October 27. “For giving me friends, my confidence, and my career. I love you forever.”

Another “viner”, Alx James, tweeted the same day, “Honestly, *Vine* made SO many dreams come true for me...It’s so sad to see it finally go.”

Along with famous “viners”, Penn State students have also expressed how they feel about *Vine*’s shutdown.

“I would use *Vine* as a means of watching funny videos others would post,” said freshman Tony Michelotti. “I am sad to see *Vine* go a little because it was an app I used to pass the time.”

The reason *Vine*’s discontinuation is saddening is because for so many, *Vine* is where they got their start.

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Thomas Sanders got his start on the app by posting funny videos of himself playing characters such as the “Dad” character, or walking up to random strangers and narrating what they are doing. Sanders won Ryan Seacrest’s “Favorite *Vine* Celebrity” in 2014.

Comedian, Lance Stewart, became “*Vine* famous” by posting videos of himself pulling pranks on strangers and his family members. One prank he did continuously is scaring his grandmother, such as with an airhorn or jumping out and scaring her. Other “*Vine* celebrities” who got their comedic start on the app include Christian DelGrosso, Curtis Lepore, Nash Grier, and Andrew B. Bachelor, better known as King Bach.

However, *Vine* is not just used for comedic purposes. Many users see *Vine* as a way to share their music with the rest of the world, with the attempt to one day become famous.

Michael and Carissa Alvarado, of Us the Duo, started posting song covers to *Vine* in 2013. Now, they’ve signed with Republic Records, toured with the famous acapella group Pentatonix, and released three studio albums.

“Stitches” singer, Shawn Mendes, also has *Vine* to thank for launching his music career. He began posting song covers on the app in 2013 and was signed to Island Records shortly after. Mendes’ most popular cover was, “As Long As You Love Me” by Justin Bieber, which received 10,000 likes in twelve hours. The 18 year old currently has two studio albums, twelve music videos, one extended play, seven singles, and seven promotional singles.

“In my opinion, it should still be an app just so that people who were really into it can still use it,” said Brandon Burchette, a junior at Penn State New Kensington.

Though users of the app and website will not be able to make any more “vines”, “vines” already published by users will remain unharmed and still be accessible to view and download in the future. A tool is currently in the works to make the “vines” already published downloadable. There is no official discontinuation date for *Vine*.



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#REVIEWED

By Sam Elliott

Staff Writer & Reporter

In a time where music is mainly written on keyboards with intense beats, and rapidly flowing dialogue, its true meaning is often lost. With this now in perspective, an independent singer/songwriter named David W. Jacobsen has, through submission via *The Nittany Pride* newspaper's Facebook page, asked if one of our staff members could review his work. Well, let's do it!

Alright, picture pop/rock lead singer Michael Stipe of R.E.M. meets folk rocker Bob Dylan, with the song-writing ability of "Weird Al" Yankovic, and you've got David W. Jacobsen.

Upon first listening to his song entitled "Settle," I felt the sensation of being a love struck guy, who can't seem to get the girl to feel same. The love he feels lingers on by him saying "we're not getting any younger, so settle for me," leading you to face the reality that it's not meant to be.

"Free Bird" talks about the struggles of being an unknown musician and all the gigs taken to receive some pay. I find this song to be quite comical, especially with the lyrics of "The audience is half our age; none of us are getting laid." An edgy feeling came about when listening to "Do You Want Fries With That?," with it being about a guy who used to have money and be on top, but a change happened and he is now stuck working fast-food.

"Gambler's Prayer" is about an optimistic gambler, who wishes to quit, but at the same time loves the rush. He is indeed at war with himself, and I must say that this happens to be my favorite song of the album because of the catchy chorus.

The album is entitled *Begin the Chargin* and consists of twenty songs ranging from disappointed satires to typical life. The music itself has a soothing quality and the backup girls' killer vocals help to deliver a beautiful kick to the earlobes. The album can be purchased via the link: <https://www.cdbaby.com/Artist/DavidWJacobsen>.

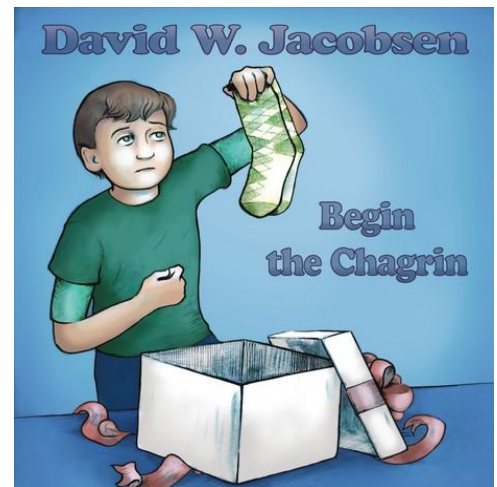


Image attained via cdbaby.com

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Remembering Florence Henderson: Beloved *Brady Bunch* Actress Passes Away at 82

By Monica Fiore
Staff Writer and Reporter



Florence Henderson
(Courtesy of Flickr)

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.- “Here’s the story of a lovely lady” could not be a more perfect first line for the intro to the late 1960s, early 1970s show, *The Brady Bunch*, which featured a close-up shot of actress Florence Henderson playing mother Carol Brady, who has three girls, Marcia, Jan, and Cindy, because even though Henderson played a lovely lady on television, in reality, she truly was one.

Henderson, who was most known for her *Brady Bunch* role, passed away November 24 at the age of 82, due to heart failure.

The Brady Bunch first aired in 1969 and depicted two widowed parents, each raising three children, who were going to become a family of eight, due to marriage. Alongside mother Carol Brady and her three girls, Marcia (played by Maureen McCormick), Jan (Eve Plumb), and Cindy (Susan Olsen), the opening theme song showcased father Mike Brady (played by the late Robert Reed) and his three boys, Greg (Barry Williams), Peter (Christopher Knight), and Bobby (Mike Lookinland), as well as the housekeeper, Alice (the late Ann B. Davis).

Those who played her children in the show, who were like children to her in reality, paid tribute to her the following days after her passing.

“Florence was one of the most gracious people I have ever known,” tweeted Barry Williams. “Proud to call her Mom and lifelong friend”.

Susan Olsen released a statement on Facebook on November 27. “I realize today that many of you are grieving our favorite TV Mom. My experience contains the joy of having known her and loving her and having her love me as a co-worker and a mother figure. But a lot of you are grieving the mother you always longed for. You have MY condolences. I’m sorry you didn’t get to know Florence - she was wonderful. But you will always have Carol Brady, she’s wonderful too!”

“I grieve for the passing of my dear friend, Florence,” Christopher Knight, tweeted November 25. “Privileged to have known her and the kindness of her heart. She will be missed. RIP.”

“Florence was a wonderful role model for me and all of us ‘kids’”, shared Eve Plumb. “She was also loving, warm, generous, and could tell a funny, dirty joke. I’m fortunate to have been able to know and to work with her. She will be missed by her children, her grandchildren, and us ‘kids.’”

In an interview by the *New York Daily News*, Mike Lookinland, known for his character, Bobby Brady, *stated*, “She was the kind of person that is just great to be around. Just to be in the same room with her was a pleasure. You can’t say that about most people. She was just 100% fun and professional.”

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The last of the Brady kids to share their grief, who perhaps may be grieving the most out of all them, is daughter Marcia, Maureen McCormick. McCormick was very close with Henderson, as Henderson was not only recently in the audience supporting McCormick for her performances on *Dancing With the Stars*, but also a part of McCormick's dances on the show.

"Florence Henderson was a dear friend for so very many years & in my heart forever," McCormick tweeted. "Love & hugs to her family. I'll miss you dearly."

Henderson also starred on season 11 of *Dancing With the Stars* in 2010, coming in eighth place with partner, Corky Ballas.

The Brady Bunch show may have ended in 1974, but spin-offs of the show were continuously made, such as *The Brady Bunch Hour*, *The Brady Brides*, *The Bradys*, and television movies *A Very Brady Christmas* and *The Brady Girls Get Married*.

Other roles of Henderson's outside of her *Brady Bunch* character included *Song of Norway*, *Fifty Shades of Black*, and numerous Broadway musicals, such as *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Oklahoma!*, and *The Sound of Music*.

Henderson was buried at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills Cemetery in Los Angeles, California. She is survived by her ex-husband, Ira Bernstein, their four children, Barbara, Elizabeth, Joseph, and Robert, and their five grandchildren.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Smally-wood: How Two Not-Yet Famous Actors Navigate Acting Careers in Southern California

By Scott Sinclair
Contributing Writer & Reporter

GREENSBURG, Pa. - Lauren Spartano-Lavysh is a Wexford, PA native, currently living in Los Angeles pursuing dreams of making it onto either theater or television screens someday. She has had a small body of work, including a recent trip to India, starring in the independent film "Shuddhi," where she played an American] vigilantly out to avenge the death of her best friend. Her husband, Konstantin Lavysh, a native of Belarus, has had some limited] success in getting small television and independent movie roles. Some of these include guest starring appearances in ABC's "Castle" and the short-lived Fox series, "Gang Related."

Spartano-Lavysh describes the day-to-day life of actors who aren't quite able to live solely on an actor's income, and what is required to take the next steps toward, if not super-stardom, at least the ability to live off of an acting career.



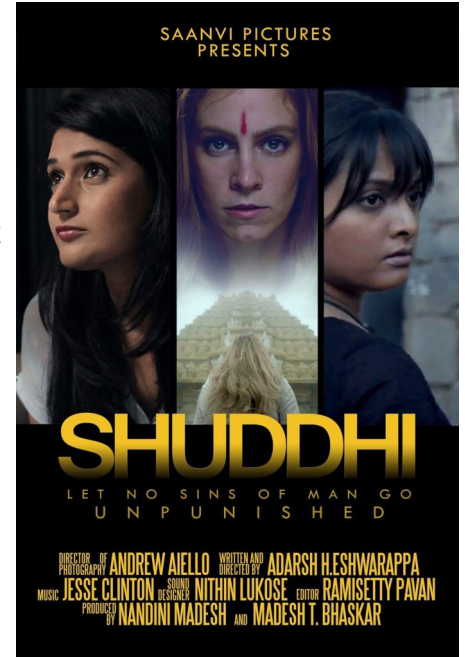
Konstantin Lavysh

Photo taken by Nina Kits, provided by Lauren Spartano-Lavysh.

"I feel like I'm still at the beginning," she says when asked where she is in the process of booking and working acting jobs. "When 'Shuddhi' comes out I may step up a little bit, but it's not out yet so nobody knows about it." This is a common occurrence in the movie and television industries where work is done but never released, leaving the actor without any evidence of their ability to do the job. "I don't even have any of the footage to add to a demo reel," she said.

Since "Shuddhi" is an independent film, Spartano-Lavysh is actually part of the team trying to help get it out to the world. "I'm like the US contact, but there is only so much I can do. [The movie is not acted] all in English, so there is only so much I can do."

During this time, Spartano-Lavysh has held some of the typical jobs of the out of work actor, such as clerical office work for agents and waiting tables. She's also kept her creative energies flowing by selling handmade crafts and consulting people on home improvement ideas, mainly focused on the organization and artistic sides of individual rooms in their homes.



The official Shuddhi movie poster, Movie release to be in 2017, Lauren Spartano-Lavysh in the center.

Photo courtesy of Saanvi Pictures.

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Sometimes even being kept informed about acting jobs is difficult due to lack of communication from agent to actor. At one point, Spartano-Lavysh was dropped by an agent and only found out months later when she sent an email asking about potential roles.

The agent game itself is an interesting spider-web. In Spartano-Lavysh's estimation, the top ten agencies handle almost all of the famous "A" list actors seen on TV. Below them are many smaller agencies which handle the rest of the working (and out of work) actors trying to get a foothold in the industry. Some agents are known for having a stable of specialized actors. For a while, Lavysh was represented by an agent who only handled Russian actors.

Otherwise, the agents are on par with the level of actors they represent based on the following list of actor hierarchy: co-star, guest star, recurring guest star, series regular, series lead. In all actuality, only the series leads have true financial negotiating power on their respective shows, while the other levels are essentially paid at the going rate determined by the Screen Actors Guild (SAG)

Things have gotten much brighter for the couple though. Konstantin Lavysh has actually moved through the ranks of his craft to become a recurring guest star in the new drama/suspense series "Ice" on the Audience Network, which is included for Direct TV subscribers. The show premiered on Wednesday, November 23, and also stars Jeremy Sisto, of the last few seasons of the original "Law and Order" series.

Lavysh was originally to be killed off the show after episode four, but the executives at AT&T, which is Direct TV's parent company, like what he was doing with the character and kept him on at least through episode eight. Should his character survive all the way through season one, he could potentially spend season two as a series regular. The difference, explained his wife, besides the larger payday, is the fact that his name would appear prior to the first commercial alongside the series leads as opposed to being the first name shown afterwards, as it currently is. A small but important distinction in the television world.

Believe it or not, despite this stroke of good fortune, Lavysh still maintains a periodic restaurant job, and has even waited on producers he has worked with in the past. In the egotistical world of Los Angeles this does lead to some awkward moments, explains Lauren, but such is life for an actor whose income is not 100% generated by his craft.

Besides acting on-screen, Lavysh also dubs in background sound for various TV and movie productions. "He likes it and is actually really good at it" says Lauren. This is something the average person would not think of as a paid entertainment job, but it does help to keep the household bills paid.

So, what about the possibility of the couple acting together on something? Is it feasible that Lavysh's upward trajectory could be a benefit to his wife's career? The answer is an obvious yes, in fact the two have already acted together. Spartano-Lavysh's casting was based solely on the fact that they needed a woman to play opposite him, and quite literally she happened to be free that day. Should this project get picked up and funded, the casting would pretty much be in place.

"It's actually funny" she says, "I'm not cast as his love interest, but someone that he is interested in, but I don't feel the same way." So, her inspiration? "I just use times that make me angry with him, like some argument about not doing the dishes or something," she says with a laugh.

POLITICS

The Economy Bubble

By Nathan Traini
Staff Writer & Reporter

After Donald Trump won the Presidential election earlier this month the stock market turned down starkly, but quickly rebounded.

When it seemed inevitable that Trump would win, the Dow Jones, which is a price-weighted average of 30 significant stocks traded on the New York Stock Exchange, spiraled down some 800 points according to CNBC.

The market since then has rebounded with the great turnout for Black Friday and Cyber Monday, but according to Gallup, this means nothing to the 48% of Americans who don't own any stock.

The reason why 48% of people aren't invested in the stock market is because they don't have money to even save for themselves to retire. In America, according to the Social Security Administration, 45% of all wage earners make less than \$25,000 a year. Instead of investing for the future this large swath of Americans is wondering if their next illness, or car trouble will put them in bankruptcy.

For that vast minority of Americans, they watch the stock market while their economic lives either stagnate or plunge. This situation is mainly due to the leveling off of wages for the last 40 years, while productivity soars, as does the cost of living.

The news media is living in a different reality than what the middle class of America is experiencing. It's not a bubble in the economy but these elites live in their own economy bubble. A bubble where the economic plights of of everyday people are not even in their realm of thought.

It is always good to know a little history before diving into the bottomless pit of numbers and statistics that is our economy. The Economic Policy Institute, which is a nonpartisan nonprofit think tank created in 1986 to include the needs of low and middle-income workers in economic policy discussions, shows us the economic history of our country. The EPI illustrated how wages rose with productivity from 1948-1973 with wages rising 91.3% and productivity rising 96.7%. This means that however much money you made was directly tied to how much you produced for the business you worked for.

After 1973, that relationship stopped and separated drastically. From 73' to 2013, productivity increased by 74.4%, but wages increased by only 9.2%.

Where did that money go? Well, the EPI shows us that in 1970 the average CEO compensation of the top U.S. companies was around 20 times that of the average worker. Since then, the average CEO pay has increased to 296 times of what a typical worker makes.

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Then, after you factor that in, most manufacturing jobs left the U.S. and a signal to that was the recent news that Walmart, being a service industry, overcame General Electric as the largest employer of American workers.

Everybody knows we get most of our products from overseas because you can pay people orders of magnitude less than American workers to make those products. This is where a lot of the manufacturing jobs went. How though, do those products, get to the U.S.? They are mostly shipped on huge container vessels that are owned by some of the biggest shipping companies in the world. One of these big fish bit the dust when the Hanjin shipping line declared bankruptcy. This bankruptcy is an indicator that the middle class consuming rate, which fuels our economy in the U.S., is at an all-time low, according to Richard Wolff.

Richard D. Wolff is an economist who teaches at the New School University in New York City. Wolff earned a BA and a MA in History from Harvard and Yale respectively. He also earned his masters in economics from Stanford, and later his PhD in economics from Yale. Wolff argues in his most recent monthly talk in November called 'Global Capitalism: Monthly Economic Update', that the shrinking consumer base, the American middle class, can't continue to buy with the same fervor they once did. All the while, the rich continue to get richer and the middle class and poor have incomes that don't change or decrease while the cost of living increases.

The official unemployment number doesn't take into account people who work part-time but wish to work full-time, and people who have given up looking for work. If it did, the unemployment percent would be closer to 10% than the deceptive number of 5%. All of this data culminates in a bubble of economic reality that the news pundits and people in Washington D.C. live in.

These bubble dwellers look at the stock market, the "official unemployment" numbers, and the jobs gained (which are mainly low wage service industry jobs) and say the economy is doing great. To everyone else living in the real world, we see a plethora of ghost towns and dead zones.



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NATIONAL NEWS

Dakota Access Pipeline versus Standing Rock

By Nathan Traini
Staff Writer & Reporter

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - A pipeline carrying crude oil from North Dakota to Illinois is under contention as the largest Native American gathering in 100 years protests against the pipeline and for their rights to clean water and prayer sites.

The Dakota Access Pipeline is a 30-inch diameter, underground pipeline, which is nearly set to carry sweet (meaning there's less sulfur) crude oil 1,172 miles under many bodies of fresh water, like the Little Missouri River, the Missouri River, Lake Oahe (the main water source for 18 million people including the Standing Rock Tribe according to Jordan Chariton, Reporter for *The Young Turks*) and the Mississippi River. All of this is according to Energy Transfer Partners, the company which is building the DAPL.

Sunoco bought out Energy Transfer in 2012, says EnergyTransfer.com. That's important to know because Sunoco has the worst track record for pipeline leaks in the entire industry. According to a Reuters analysis of government data concerning pipeline leaks since 2010, Sunoco has been responsible for over 200 out of a total number of 1,739 incidents (that last number came from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration). Last October, a Sunoco pipeline in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, leaked 55,000 gallons of gasoline into Wallis Run, a tributary to the Loyalsock Creek, just 15 miles north of the Susquehanna River according to fortune.com.

The CEO of Energy Transfer Partners, Kelcy Warren went on *PBS* to discuss the DAPL and his company's history. The reporter from *PBS* asked Warren about the history of leaks which was laid out earlier.

"I disagree with the statistic about Sunoco Logistics," said Warren. The CEO didn't give out any other statistics or facts that conflict with the statistics gathered by the U.S. Government and Reuters.

The people who are protesting at Standing Rock Reservation are not limited to the largest Native American gathering in recent history. Many people, including Rev. Jesse Jackson, actress Shailene Woodley, former Green Party Presidential nominee Jill Stein, and environmental lawyer Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and others from all over the country are at Standing Rock protesting the completion of the DAPL. Since the protests began, there has been a disproportionate response from the police and private security to the peaceful protest.

According to *Democracy Now!*, on November 29, the National Lawyers Guild "filed a class action lawsuit against Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier, Morton County and other law enforcement agencies, arguing they are using excessive force against Native American water protectors."

This past week police used fire hoses on unarmed protesters in sub freezing temperatures, causing severe hypothermia according to several sources including *The Intercept*. "It was sprayed more as a mist, and we didn't want to get it directly on them," said The Morton County Sheriff's Department. Given that, video from Digital Smoke Signals' drones show a high-pressure stream of water aimed directly at protesters, which can be seen on *The Majority Report* with Sam Seder.

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During the use of water cannons to repel the unarmed protesters, a woman among the protesters named Sophia Wilansky, was hit with a concussion grenade in the arm which exploded and tore most of her flesh away revealing bone, witnesses at the protests said. She is making a recovery, but might lose the limb, according to CNN.

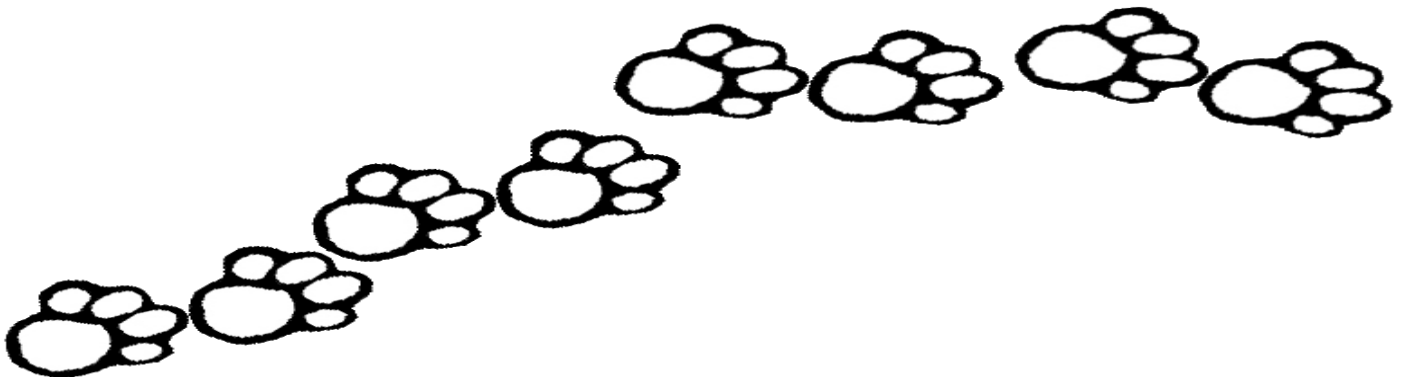
“Private, unlicensed security” sicked dogs on unarmed American citizens using their constitutional right to protest, according to *Democracy Now!*. *Democracy Now!* also had video evidence of the dog incident and other video depicting a man with an assault rifle approaching the protesters’ camp. The video goes on to show a multitude of unarmed protesters backing the armed man out of the campsite. Later, a badge was found on the campsite that belonged to the armed man, and revealed him to be a member of DAPL private security.

A reporter named Jordan Chariton from *The Young Turks*, an internet news program, has been at Standing Rock reporting on things from the protester’s point of view. Video Chariton shot and video gathered from various drones flown by the protesters show that the protesters are explicitly peaceful. All of which can be seen on *TYT Politics*’ YouTube channel playlist labeled “Native Americans Fight Dakota Access Pipeline.”

Chariton and the Native Americans have referred to the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1868, which outlines a huge portion of land that was set aside for the Native Americans after repeated bloody disputes in the 1800s between the U.S. and the Sioux Nation. The pipeline goes just north of the current recognized Standing Rock Reservation, but cuts directly through the land the treaty, which stands today, gave them exclusive rights to according to the treaty which can be seen in it’s entirety at ourdocuments.gov.

Journalists have been jailed, not because they were protesting, but for reporting on the aggressive police line. Some of these journalists/documentarians include two from *Unicorn Riot*, an alternative news source, *Amy Goodman*, a journalist and host of *Democracy Now!* and Emmy-Winning filmmaker Deia Schlosberg, who were all documenting the protests.

Prayer sights which contain burial grounds for Native American ancestors have been bulldozed and others blocked off with razor wire, according to Chariton and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.



Grinch Hot Chocolate (Naughty or Nice)

Everybody knows someone who is as grouchy as the Grinch around the holidays. So this easy and simple drink will warm their cold hearts and make it grow three times the size.

By Chris Lucidi

Ingredients (Nice):

- 2 Cups of milk
- 1 bottle of Food coloring, green
- 1 tsp. Vanilla extract
- 4 oz. White chocolate
- 1 Can of whipped cream
- Green sprinkles (if desired)
- Candy red hearts (if desired)

Ingredients (Naughty):

- 0.5 oz. Peppermint schnapps
- 0.5 oz. Vanilla vodka



Directions:

1. Add milk and chopped white chocolate to a medium saucepan.
2. Heat over LOW heat until chocolate is melted and milk is heated through.
3. Remove from heat and add green coloring (to desired pigment)
4. Pour into mugs and "flavor" with your choice of Naughty or Nice flavorings.
5. Top with whipped topping, green sprinkles, and red heart.

Photo Courtesy of Pinterest