

THE NITTANY PRIDE

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FALL FESTIVITIES



Left: Sophomore Bill Staniszewski takes part in the mini Caber Toss Sept. 13. (Photo by Kelly Haugh)

Lower Left: Chris Higbee performs at the Fall Festival. (Photo by Michael O. Daly)



Top Right: Bed Races raise money for THON.

Lower Right: Chainsaw Art one of the many attractions at the Fall Festival.

(Photos by Michael O. Daly)



PSNK's Fall Festival Full Of Food, Fun And Music

Students Toss Cabers At Mini Highland Games

Freshmen Book Author Travels Ireland With A Fridge

Vault Hunters Wanted

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NITTANY PRIDE

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CAMPUS LIFE

PSNK's Fall Festival Full Of Food, Fun And Music

By Jennifer Phillips & Michael O. Daly

UPPER BURRELL, Pa. - September 29 started out cool and cloudy, threatening everyone with the possibility of rain washing the day out. Though the sun danced in and out of clouds all day, it remained pleasant, warming throughout the day. This was an amazing day for the Penn State New Kensington Fall Festival.

Vendors were bustling about as they got their booths in order and ready for the visitors to the festival when the sound of 15 motorcycles roared to life. They were leaving on a 100-mile motorcycle run that took them from the campus out to Indiana Memorial Park, in Indiana, Pa, and then back to PSNK to enjoy a pig roast at the festival. The proceeds raised by the motorcycle run benefited Military Connections, a local charity that sends care packages to our deployed military.

Soon there was music playing as the DJ, Mr. Z, kept the gathering crowd entertained. People danced to their favorite songs as the smell of food filled the air. You could find barbecue, nachos, apple cider that was being pressed right there, cotton candy, ice cream and so much more delicious food to eat being offered all day. You could also find jewelry, clothing, chainsaw carvings, scented stuffed animals, silk flowers, home decorations and pet supplies all for sale from the rows of vendors.

The annual Penn State New Kensington Bed Races had people cheering and laughing as teams of five raced their beds from station to station, completing different tasks before returning back to the beginning. Five teams did things like eating cookies and marshmallows, drinking little hug juice drinks and trading pajamas with another team member as part of this thrilling competition. In the end, it was the Lion Ambassadors that rolled away as the winners. This event raised \$925 for THON, to help fight pediatric cancer.

Outside the Athletic Center was the pumpkin patch, where you could choose a pumpkin and decorate it with paint while watching a weaving demonstration. Inside, children found giant inflatable structures to play, slide and bounce on. They could get their face painted or have balloon animals made for them by artists. Wild World of Animals put on a show where children got the chance to meet and learn about a



Apple cider being pressed on site at PSNK's Fall Festival.
(Photo by Michael O. Daly)



A team of PSNK students takes part in the bed races during the Fall Festival Sept. 29. (Photo by Michael O. Daly)

(contd. page 3)

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Festival-goers enjoy a performance by Chris Higbee. (Photo by Michael O. Daly)

variety of animals. From a tiny scorpion to a giant bengal tiger, both a turtle and tortoises, a snake and a legless lizard and an eastern raccoon as well as its tropical cousin the coati all excited the children as they learned about the job each animal has in the wild.

Penn State pride was evident throughout the festival. You saw it on hats and sweatshirts. You could see it painted on faces. You could hear it in the cheers rising from Alumni Central, where fans had gathered to watch Penn State decisively beat Illinois 35-7 and collect nonperishable food for a local food bank. The PSNK Men's Soccer team also shut out the team from Penn State Brandywine 2-0 at the field at Valley High, giving students and alumni even more to cheer about.

Live music echoed through the hills of Upper Burrell as 4 bands took the stage to entertain those in attendance. The student band 3 Dudes Chillin' was a crowd favorite with a mellow, but playful, sound. Next, Dimwit played classic rock covers hard and loud. Chris Higbee, best known as the fiddle player for the disbanded local country band Povertyneck Hillbillies, played country music with a rock and roll soul. Gene the Werewolf went on stage as the sun was getting low in the sky and played guitar rock with a powerful sound.

Students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members came together to make this Fall Festival into a memorable event for everyone.



Penn State New Kensington's Fall Festival draws a wide variety of vendors from throughout the community. (Photo by Michael O. Daly)

CAMPUS LIFE

Students Experience Irish Food, Music At Irish Fest

By Ryan McLaughlin

UPPER BURREL, Pa. - Anyone who walked by Café 780 September 19 could not have missed Penn State New Kensington's Irish Fest, an ode to Irish food, music and culture. For lunch, students had shepherd's pie, corned beef, cabbage and noodles, Guinness stew and brownies with strawberries.

During common hour, the Irish band Screaming Orphans, who are four sisters from Donegal, Ireland, showed up and played a mix of old Irish songs and pop songs. One of their biggest hits for the crowd was a cover of The Proclaimers' hit "I'm Gonna Be (500 miles)," where they swapped out the "Nanananas" with "Shot of vodka, shot of vodka, and a rum and a rum and rum and a coke."

After the Screaming Orphans, David Olson, from Mount Vernon, took the stage with his bagpipes. However, most of the audience had to go to class, so he didn't play through his whole slot.

Olson is a Penn State alumnus from Nittany Valley. He was supposed to play the week before, but due to scheduling problems played during Irish Fest instead.

The general reception of the festival seemed positive.



The Screaming Orphans perform for students in the courtyard during Irish Fest. (Photo by Ryan McLaughlin)



Students enjoy Irish food and a performance by the Screaming Orphans in the courtyard during Irish Fest. (Photo by Ryan McLaughlin)

"I love it," Cameron Fouse, freshman, said. "I wish they had more events like this. The food is excellent."

According to Chancellor Kevin Snider, a lot of the attendance was generated by the campus' trip to Ireland in the Spring. He also said he had "several more things planned" to go along with this year's focus on Ireland.

CAMPUS LIFE

Students Toss Cabers At Mini Highland Games

By Kelly Haugh



Sophomore Bill Staniszewski prepares for his second caber toss. (Photo by Kelly Haugh)

UPPER BURRELL, Pa. - A group of Penn State New Kensington students took part in a miniature version of the Highland Games in the courtyard Sept. 13 as part of the university's year-long focus on Ireland and the UK.

Around 20 students competed in a smaller-scale version of the caber toss, a traditional event at the Scottish Highland Games. A caber is a large wooden pole that is usually 19 and a half feet in length and weighs 175 pounds, though students hurled a miniaturized cardboard version weighted down with rocks.

"Since I find it highly irresponsible to have us throwing telephone poles," Lauren Blum, Assistant to the Director of Student Affairs, explained, "This was my mini version, throwing a box that could somewhat resemble a telephone pole."

The goal was sheer distance, with each student receiving two tosses of the "caber" at different weights that were then averaged together to find a winner.

The students really got into the festivities. Those waiting to throw discussed techniques and those that had already went shouted

advice, like "screaming helps," to their friends to help them achieve an optimal toss. There were also a lot of good-natured jokes when throws fell short or veered off course.

"It's lots of fun," Bill Staniszewski, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering technology, said after his first throw, which he thought had been above average.

With only one person left to throw, Ryan Barton, a freshman majoring in biomedical engineering technology, was the one to beat with an average toss of 33 inches. It would take a monumental toss for freshman Cody Shoemaker, a mechanical engineering major, to make up for a short first throw. As he stepped up to the line, most of the students assumed the game was already over, but Shoemaker surprised them all with the longest toss of the day. When the distances were tallied, his massive toss proved to be just long enough for his average distance to tie Barton's score of 33 inches.

Both students said they had fun participating in the caber toss. "The Scottish Highland Games are very interesting to watch," Barton added.

As the champions of the Mini Highland Games, both Barton and Shoemaker won a t-shirt for their caber-tossing prowess.



Winner Cody Shoemaker receives instructions from Lauren Blum before his first toss. (Photo by Kelly Haugh)

CAMPUS LIFE



Winner Ryan Barton reacts after his toss. (Photo by Kelly Haugh)

The chance to win prizes was what drew most of the competitors to the games, but Barton also joked that his reason for entering was, “I figured if I was practicing being manly all week [this] was a good attempt to display it.”

Blum said the Mini Highland Games turned out well. “There’s not a whole lot of students who stick around on campus on Thursdays, so I was pleased we probably had 20 people here.”

She added that there would definitely be more of these “fun-filler kind of things” on campus in the future. “This is just a fun way to get outside in an afternoon,” she said.

After competing in the caber toss, Staniszewski said he planned to take part in as many of the Irish events on campus as he could. “I’m actually mostly Irish, despite my last name,” he added.

Look for more events related to PSNK’s countries of focus throughout the year, including a musical performance by a traditional Irish/Scottish band, Road to the Isles, on Nov. 7 at noon in the Theatre. A look at the tumultuous history of Ireland and an examination of the long-standing issues involved in their struggle for freedom will also be presented by Dr. Tony Novosel, a

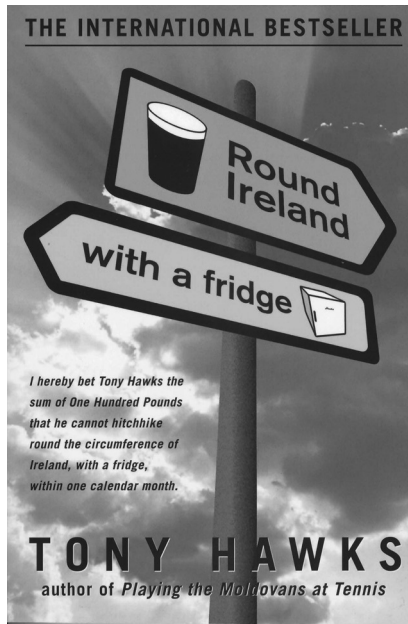
history professor at the University of Pittsburgh, in “From Civil Rights to Civil War and Back: Northern Ireland 1967-1994” on Nov. 12 at noon in the Conference Center.



Students toss miniature cabers during PSNK’s Mini Highland Games. (Photod by Kelly Haugh)

Freshmen Book Author Travels Ireland With A Fridge

By Jennifer Phillips & Michael O. Daly



Tony Hawks, the author of the 2012 First Year Summer Reading Program's book selection "Round Ireland with a Fridge," came to Penn State New Kensington on Sept. 18 to talk to the students about his book, the movie based on his book, and what he learned in the process of hitchhiking around Ireland with a fridge in tow. About 60 students gathered at the Forum Theater to hear the British comedian and author fill in any blanks that the book may have left.

He began by verifying that none of those in attendance were there to see Tony Hawk, the famous skateboarder, and reading several humorous responses to emails he has received that fans meant for "The Birdman." This had the entire audience laughing.

Although he didn't set out on this quest to write a book, only to go on an adventure and win a drunken bet, everything in the book is true. This level of truth has come back to haunt him, as he has reconnected with people he had met on his trip that were upset about how he represented them in his telling of the tale. He set out in the rain, not afraid of what was to come, but disappointed in the lack of rides he was seeing. He had faith in the fridge, next to his spare pair of shoes I guess, and was certain that things would pick up.

The people he met touched him with their lyrical wisdom, and zest for life. While riding down a country back road, Hawks remarked that the highway would have been quicker, to which the driver said of the scenic route, "It's quicker because it's more beautiful." This gift of language ran from the bottom of society to the top. When he met the King of Tory, a tiny island off the northern coast of Ireland, the figurehead told him, "I may be the poorest king on earth, but I am happy." And when Hawks tried to purchase a totally useless duck egg from a shopkeeper, he was refused; because the clerk wanted to sell him what he needed, not just what he thought he wanted.

The pub is where Hawks found the heart and soul of this culture. From the shy but curious groups of old men that would send a representative over to confirm that it was, indeed, a fridge he had with him, to the bawdy crowds that would give the fridge its own barstool, reveling in seeing it out of context. It was in the pub where he met a barkeep that was a surfing enthusiast. Hawks, who will apparently agree to anything when he has been drinking, said that he and the fridge would be ready for their first surfing lesson in the morning. Together, he and the barman-turned-surfing instructor, took the fridge out to sea on a surfboard. They waited for the perfect wave to come along and off it went, basking in the glory of being the first surfing fridge, it rode the wave to shore. This was the moment that he made up his mind that he was going to write this adventure into a book.



Author and comedian Tony Hawks.
(Photo courtesy Tony Hawks)

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The fridge became a celebrity across Ireland. Locals would come out to meet the fridge, people would take its picture after asking Hawks to step out of frame, and bought the fridge pints at the bar. The fridge was christened and given the name Saiorse, the Gaelic word for freedom, because there is no freer fridge in Ireland. He then took the fridge to a nearby convent where it was blessed by the Mother Superior. But even the fame of the fridge faded before the journey was even over. They publicized on the radio that there was going to be a reception in Dublin to close out the trip, but only a bagpiper and a reporter arrived to see the event. Today the traveling fridge lives at Hawks' home on top of the fridge in his kitchen.

He closed the talk with some lyrical wisdom of his own. You could call it a series of morals to his story. He saw his trip as a metaphor for life. Beginning in Dublin was like his birth, he was naive but optimistic. His journey had ups and downs along the way. Then returning to Dublin was like the end of his life, drawing to a close with little fanfare, and the only point of it all was to make it a joyful experience. He realized you shouldn't be careless, but be care free. While standing at the side of the road he saw that we cannot control what others do, but we can control how we react to it. You need to be the creator of your own happiness. The King of Tory taught him to be happy with what you have. And finally, don't take it all too seriously.

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“Mindset” Of Freshmen: Hearing Loss And Hakuna Matada

By Kelly Haugh

This year’s incoming freshmen were born into cyberspace, are addicted to “electronic narcotics” and a quarter of them have already suffered some hearing loss, according to Berloit College’s “The Mindset List” for the class of 2016.

The list, which is full of 75 interesting facts and tidbits with the occasional hint of sarcasm, is meant to provide insight into each incoming class to help professors better understand and relate to their students. According to their website, it was created in 1998 “as a witty way of saying to faculty colleagues ‘watch your references.’” Since then, it has become a globally known “guide to the intelligent if unprepared adolescent consciousness.”

The current class of freshmen were raised in the age of the iPod and the mp3, and they seldom listen to a car radio. They also like to get their TV fix from everywhere but a TV, preferring to catch up on shows like “The Daily Show” on Youtube. Most incoming freshmen were born in 1994 and have seen a woman running the US State Department for most of their lives. They’ve never needed a physical airline ticket and “‘Star Wars’ has always been just a film, not a defense strategy.” They have always been able to enjoy blue M&M’s, memories from school and summer camp have always been captured in digital yearbooks and Simba from “The Lion King” has always said “hakuna matada.”

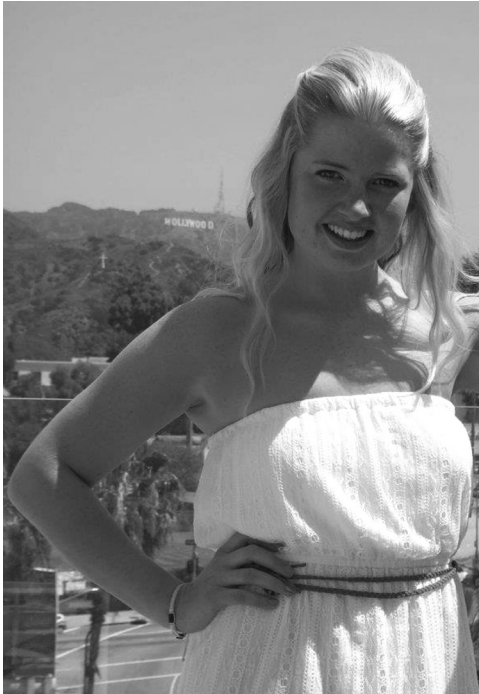
More of the list’s interesting insights into the class of 2016 include:

- “The Twilight Zone” involves vampires, not Rod Serling.
- Robert De Niro is thought of as Greg Focker’s long-suffering father-in-law, not as Vito Corleone or Jimmy Conway.
- Outdated icons with images of floppy discs for “save,” a telephone for “phone,” and a snail mail envelope for “mail” have oddly decorated their tablets and smart phone screens.
- Mr. Burns has replaced J.R. Ewing as the most shot-at man on American television.
- They have had to incessantly remind their parents not to refer to their CDs and DVDs as “tapes.”
- Point-and-shoot cameras are soooooo last millennium.
- Michael Jackson’s family, not the Kennedys, constitutes “American Royalty.”
- Bill Clinton is a senior statesman of whose presidency they have little knowledge.
- Despite being preferred urban gathering places, two-thirds of the independent bookstores in the United States have closed for good during their lifetimes.
- Exposed bra straps have always been a fashion statement, not a wardrobe malfunction to be corrected quietly by well-meaning friends.
- History has always had its own channel.
- The Green Bay Packers have always celebrated with the Lambeau Leap.
- Since they’ve been born, the United States has measured progress by a 2 percent jump in unemployment and a 16 cent rise in the price of a first class postage stamp.
- While the iconic TV series for their older siblings was the sci-fi show “Lost,” for them it’s “Breaking Bad,” a gritty crime story motivated by desperate economic circumstances.
- Having made the acquaintance of Furby at an early age, they have expected their toy friends to do ever more unpredictable things.
- Their lives have been measured in the fundamental particles of life: bits, bytes, and bauds.
- Television and film dramas have always risked being pulled because the story line was too close to the headlines from which they were “ripped.”
- They have lived in an era of instant stardom and self-proclaimed celebrities, famous for being famous.

The full lists for previous classes of incoming freshmen can be found at www.berloit.edu/mindset.

Meet SGA's New President

By Heidi Kolar



SGA President Jordan Miller loves everything about politics.
(Photo courtesy Jordan Miller)

UPPER BURRELL, Pa. — Jordan Miller, political science major and sophomore at Penn State New Kensington, is the new president of the Student Government Association for the 2012-2013 school year.

Miller discovered her love for politics while working on an actual political campaign and decided she wanted to go back to school to be a Political Science major. Miller says while interviewing for the SGA President position she told the board, "I want to be the real president someday," and that definitely got their attention.

She loves everything about politics and enjoys all of the opportunities she has gotten since becoming involved in Student Government. Some of Miller's responsibilities include being the co-chair for the student activity and student facility fee committees, which includes funding clubs and organizations on campus. Also, faculty and students have the opportunity to get money towards other opportunities such as trips. The SAF recently agreed to allot money towards the Ireland trip.

SGA Vice President James Lei says about Miller, "She's an easy person to get along with and a very hard worker. She's creative with her ideas that help contribute to the organization."

After this school year Miller plans

to attend either University Park or Penn State Harrisburg to finish her undergraduate degree.

"I wish I could finish here, but I can't," Miller said.

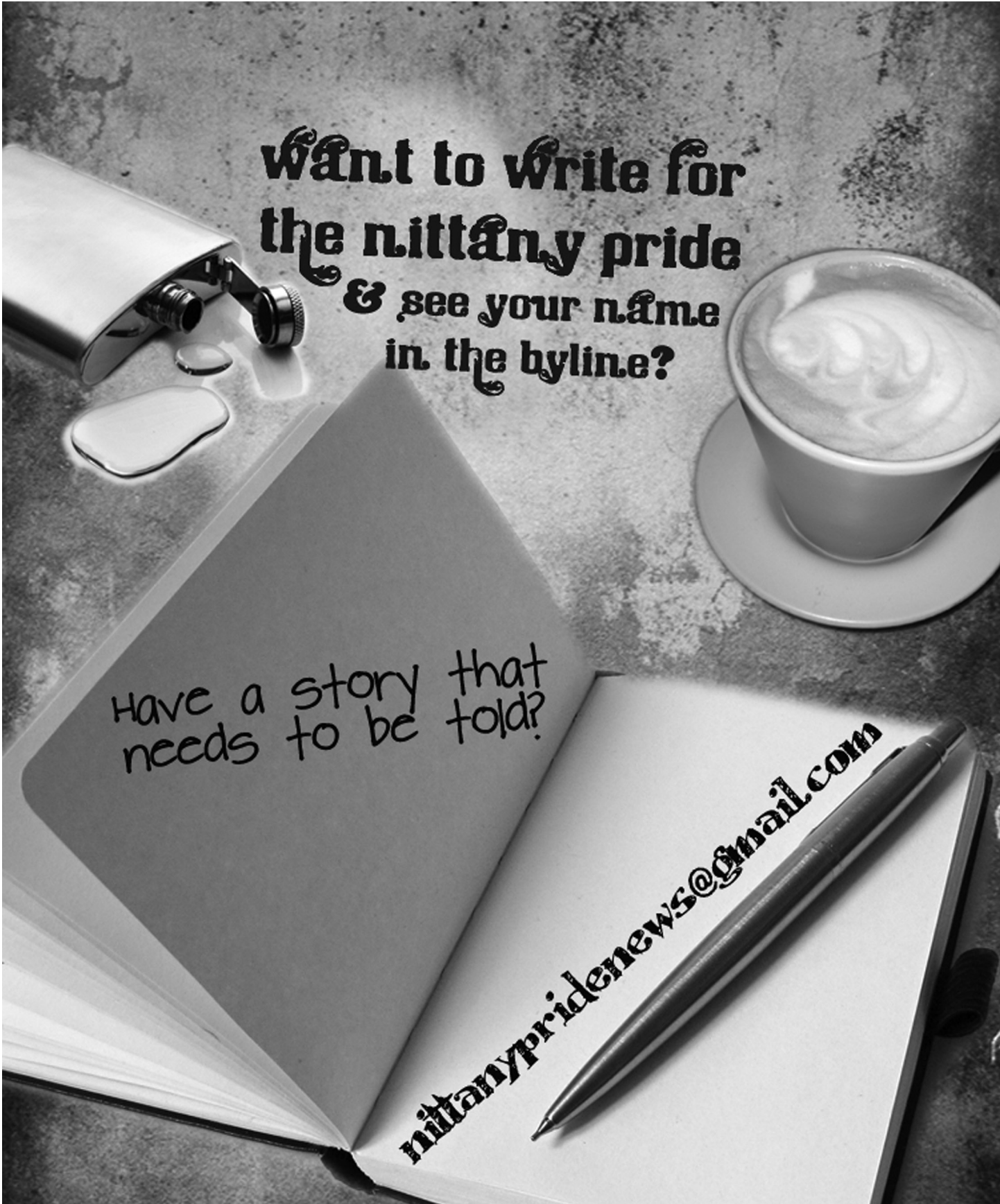
She added that she loves being a part of PSNK because here she has a relationship with her teachers and she loves how they challenge her. At PSNK, she feels she isn't just a number on a classroom roster.

After graduation, Miller would love to work for Fox News in Israel.



Jordan Miller, the new President of the SGA, is a political science major and a sophomore at PSNK.
(Photo courtesy Jordan Miller)

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Vault Hunters Wanted

By Ryan McLaughlin

KITTANNING, Pa. – Many people waited outside of GameStops and other video game stores Sept. 18 to get their hands on “Borderlands 2,” the eagerly anticipated sequel to Gearbox’s “Borderlands,” at midnight.

At the Kittanning GameStop, they tried something new to get everyone lined up. For consumers that arrived after 9:00 p.m., they paid off the rest of the game, received their receipt, and were then assigned to a group. Then, at around 11:45 p.m., the consumers were lined up according to their group and were led in by their groups to receive their game. According to one of the employees, this was to help out people that had literally lined up hours ahead, but were afraid to give up their spot to get food, take a bathroom break, etc. This new method will definitely be tested out when “Black Ops 2” launches on November 6. Kittanning GameStop is expecting around 300-400 people to show up for that launch.



In the world of “Borderlands,” the player takes control of one of four Vault Hunters, who search the planet of Pandora for the mysterious Vault. Supposedly the Vault is filled with valuable loot of one kind or another, but after opening the Vault in the first game, the players realize that the Vault is a cage for a monstrous being called the Destroyer.

In “Borderlands 2,” the player once again takes control of one of four Vault Hunters, but these are four new Hunters. Zero the Assassin, Axton the Commando, Maya the Siren and Salvador the Gunzerker are meeting on a train, answering an ad that wanted Vault Hunters. Here, Handsome Jack, who is the game’s main villain, attempts to blow them up. The Vault Hunters survive, and the game continues from there. The player soon learns that Handsome Jack has found another Vault and intends to open it and unleash the Warrior inside. To do this, the new Vault Hunters will have to work with and right beside the original Vault Hunters and many more old and new characters alike.

Fans of the new game have much more to look forward. Gearbox has announced four DLC packs and one new character class, the Mechromancer. Fans that preordered from GameStop also received the Creature Slaughter Dome, which resides in the Wildlife Exploitation Preserve. Here, players battle wave after wave of enemy creatures to win in-game cash and loot, with the last prize being Moxxi’s Rocket Launcher.

“Borderlands 2” has much to offer to fans of role-playing games and first-person shooters, offering skill trees and various weapons. With even more content on the way, Gearbox is definitely trying to offer their fans a worthwhile experience.

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Check out our website for the latest news: nittanypride.wordpress.com

What's Hot For Fall Television

By Heidi Kolar

The New Normal (NBC)

Brought to you from the creators of *Glee*, this show tackles political and moral issues and exaggerates stereotypes to the extreme. Bryan (Andrew Rannells) and David (Justin Bartha) are a gay couple in Los Angeles looking to start a family, but they run into the obvious challenges. However, fate intervenes when they meet Goldie (Georgia King), a down on her luck waitress from Ohio who ventures to Los Angeles with 8-year-old daughter Shania (Bebe Wood) in tow. Once in Los Angeles she meets Bryan and David and they ask her to be the surrogate-mother for their baby, and a part of their non-traditional family as well.

Go On (NBC)

Ryan King (Matthew Perry), a recent widower and sports talk radio host, finds out his boss Stephen (John Cho) demands he attends grief counseling before returning to the air. A reluctant Ryan finds himself in a support group, "life change," where he meets an eccentric group of characters. An uncertain Ryan, not ready to deal with his grief (that he denies he has) decides to convince the group to digress from the norm and start a tournament-style competition to find out whose story is the worst. This show proves to be both heartwarming and whimsical.

Guys with Kids (NBC)

Executive Producer Jimmy Fallon brings television a whole new spin on dads. Gary (Anthony Anderson), Chris (Jesse Bradford), and Nick (Zach Cregger) are three 30-something dads who are a little reluctant to trade-in their youth and care-free days for diapers and 3 a.m. feedings. These three friends are helping each other navigate the ups and downs of fatherhood, divorce and single parenting.



Parenthood (NBC)

The Braverman family is back for their third season. This one-hour drama delights week after week. The Braverman clan is led by Zeek (Craig T. Nelson) and Camille (Bonnie Bedelia), two loving, crazy parents who would bend over backwards for their children; Sarah (Lauren Graham), Adam (Peter Krause), Julia (Erika Christensen), and Crosby (Dax Shepard) who deal with their own issues. The shows cast deals with their own trials and tribulations exploring everything from breast cancer, aspegers syndrome and cheating spouses. *Parenthood* is an absolute delight.



(Courtesy ABC)

The Mob Doctor (FOX)

Dr. Grace Devlin (Jordana Spiro) thinks she has it all and has her life together. She is on the fast track to becoming one of the country's top notch surgeons doing her residency at Chicago's Roosevelt Medical Center. But mob boss Paul Moretti (guest star Michael Rappaport) has other plans for Dr. Devlin. Because of her Southside roots and constant screw-up brother, Dr. Devlin is indebted to the mob and must do as they ask in order to keep her brother safe and her secret life a secret.

American Horror Story: Asylum (FX)

American Horror Story premiered last fall and immediately had the internet buzzing about the twists and turns this series had in store for its viewers. This season *American Horror Story* is becoming *American Horror Story: Assylum*, another new twist. It will now be set in 1964 in a Church-run haven for the criminally insane run by a nun with a checkered past, Sister Jude (Jessica Lange). The show delves into everything from Nazi's to aliens, and it is sure to delight thriller fanatics alike.

ENTERTAINMENT

Homeland (Showtime)

Homeland is a Showtime original series that hits home with people across the globe. Emmy winner Damian Lewis plays Marine Sgt. Nicholas Brody who has been a prisoner of war for eight years and he is finally coming home. Meanwhile, CIA officer Carrie Mathison, (Emmy winner Claire Danes), is certain he has been turned against the United States and is part of a plot to be carried out on American Soil. This series will have you on the edge of your seat from beginning to end; it is not a show you should miss.

The Walking Dead (AMC)

According to AMC, "The Walking Dead is the most watched drama in basic cable history," and it is returning for its third season Sunday, October 14 at 9/8c. In this post-apocalyptic world Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln) along with the rest of the survivors must band together to fend off not only the living, but the dead. This show has captured the attention of millions, and the count continues to rise.

Bones (FOX)

Dr. Temperance Brennan (Emily Deschanel) and Special Agent Seeley Booth (David Boreanaz) are back for their eighth season. This unlikely pair is back after a jaw dropping season finale, where Brennan fled with her and Booth's daughter, Christine, after being framed for murder. The eighth season began with Brennan's colleagues at the Jeffersonian's Medico-Legal Lab, Angelo Montenegeo (Michaela Conlin), Dr. Jack Hodgins (TJ Thyne), and Dr. Camille Saroyan (Tamara Taylor), working around the clock to clear Brennan's name and bring her home. The end of the first episode leaves viewers gasping with a twist nobody saw coming. It's a must watch this season.



Grabbers: A Quintessentially Irish Monster Movie

By Kelly Haugh

From the shores of Ireland comes the comedic horror film “Grabbers,” a delightful mix of suspense, B-movie frights and a very Irish sense of humor. Set on a small island off the coast of the Emerald Isle, a motley band of residents find themselves under siege from slimy, tentacled creatures that arrive on a meteor and then rise out of the sea one idyllic Irish day.

So what do the Irish do when they’re attacked by bloodsucking monsters? Head to the pub for a few drinks, of course!

There is a reason for their imbibing. It turns out the invading creatures are fatally allergic to alcohol, making the blood of the intoxicated toxic to them. With a fierce storm keeping the residents from escaping, getting drop down drunk may be their only chance to survive long enough to make it off the island.

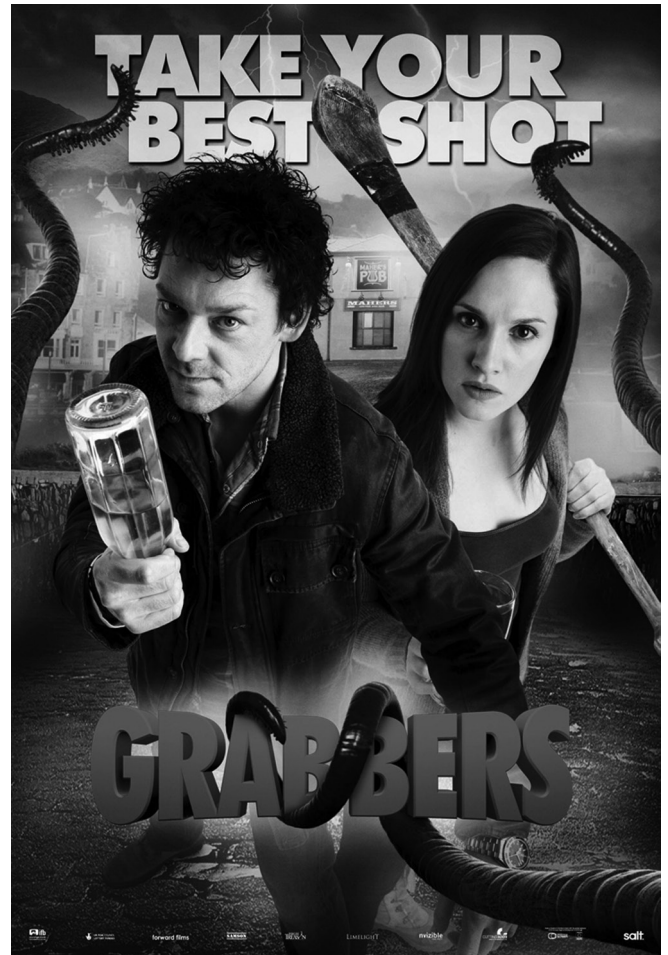
As if surviving an alien attack wasn’t hard enough, the residents of this sleepy little island now have to formulate and execute a plan while tossing back shots, drowning their brains in beer and slurring their love for everyone in the pub. At least if things go wrong, they’re going to go out partying in true Irish style...and they probably won’t feel a thing.

The merry band of misfits on the island includes two very different garda (police officers), a stuffy but smart marine biologist and Paddy, a colorful and often comical old-timer who likes to hit the moonshine and says whatever is on his mind.

Garda Ciarán O’Shea (Richard Coyle) never needs an excuse to drink and seems pretty nonchalant about his job, but despite his sometimes bumbling nature he shows himself to be smart and capable – most of the time. His fresh off the boat temporary partner is the uptight and by the book Garda Lisa Nolan (Ruth Bradley), who O’Shea immediately butts heads with. He enjoys pushing her buttons even as he attempts to get her to loosen up and have some fun with him. He gets his wish thanks to the alien invasion as Nolan is forced to get way beyond drunk for the first time in her life, leading to many comedic moments and blurted confessions after she blows a .2 blood alcohol level.

While there are surprisingly decent special effects and enough monster movie elements to please fans of the genre, it’s the laugh out loud moments in the midst of suspense that makes “Grabbers” really shine. From witty one-liners to some drunken slapstick moments, “Grabbers” delivers the comedy without becoming a total farce or losing track of the creature storyline.

And for once, audiences can excuse most of the stupid decisions characters in horror movies inevitably make because these characters are completely hammered, except for the normally drunk O’Shea who volunteers to stay sober to be the brains of the operation.

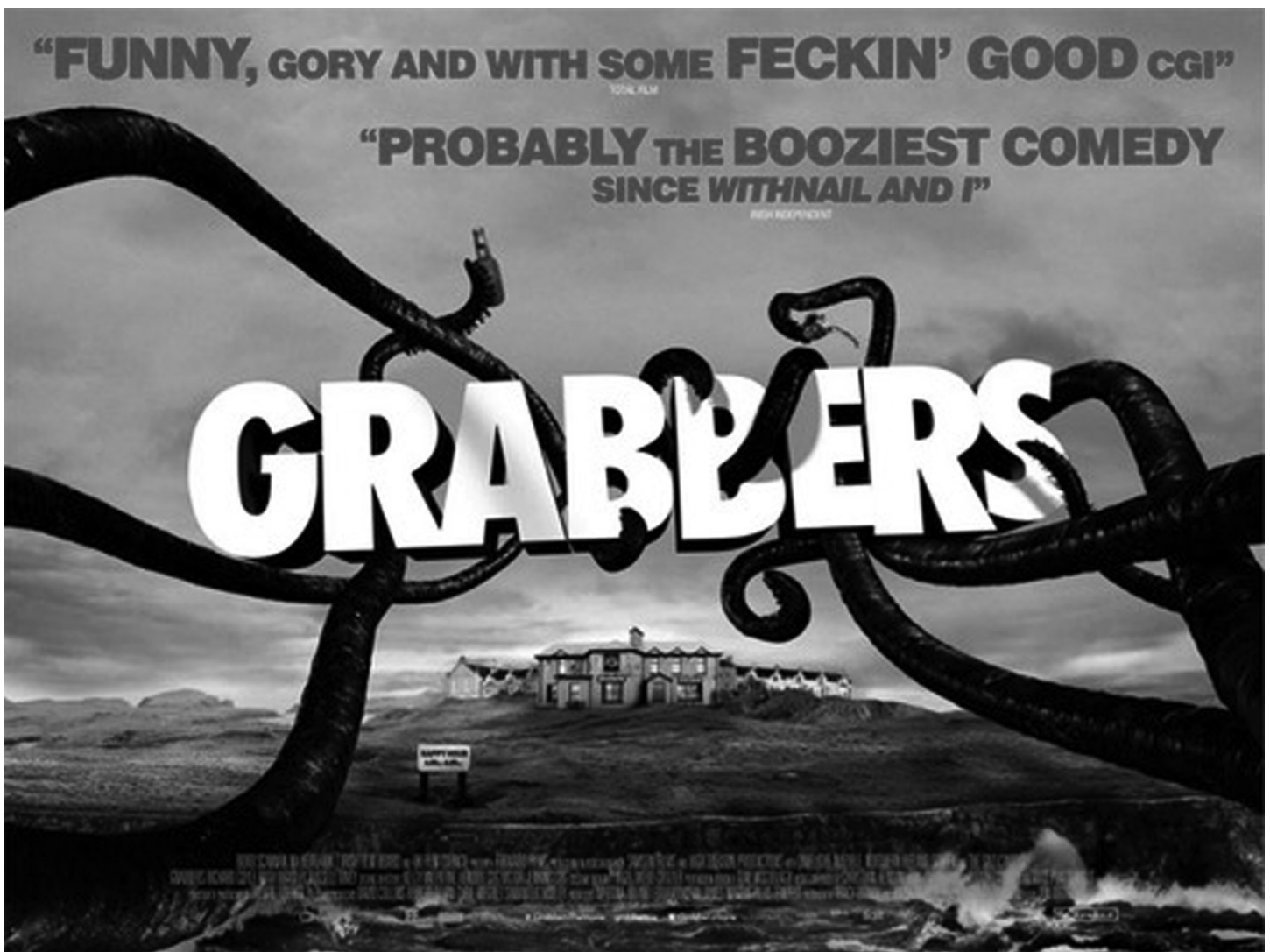


ENTERTAINMENT

Full of laughs, suspense, aliens and Irish accents, with a little romance and a lot of Irish cursing for good measure, “Grabbers” is great addition to the list of enjoyable movies for the Halloween season. Since the horror and suspense elements are also tempered with a good dose of comedy, it’d be a good choice for monster movie junkies and sci-fi fans as well as those who prefer something a little tamer than the typical horror recipe of blood, guts and gore.

Filmed in Donegal and Northern Ireland, “Grabbers” also boasts a beautiful backdrop and picturesque ocean views before the massive storm rolls in.

The film, which premiered at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival to mostly positive reviews, also goes along with Penn State New Kensington’s “Countries of Focus” program that is focusing on Ireland and the United Kingdom this year. More Irish movies and music can be found in PSNK’s Blissell Library.



Obama, Biden Shut Down Megaupload, Threaten Internet

By Kelly Haugh

The internet was shocked January 19 when the favored file hosting website Megaupload was taken offline and seven of its owners and operators in several countries were arrested.

The repercussions of the FBI's seizure of the many Mega-branded sites and the Hollywood-style raid on Megaupload owner Kim Dotcom's New Zealand mansion immediately echoed throughout the web. Coming only one day after a successful global protest of the anti-piracy bills SOPA and PIPA that would have given the U.S. government and the entertainment industry broad powers to censor the internet, the act was seen as the U.S. government flexing its might to show that it didn't need new legislation to police the world wide web.

The outcome of this case could change the internet as we know it, giving the government unprecedented power to censor at will without such a thing as due process, a right which is guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment. If websites have to be completely responsible for everything their users do then they will either need to monitor every keystroke or shut down to avoid possible litigation. In the weeks following the Megaupload seizure, many popular file hosts, especially those in the U.S., did just that. They changed their business models and either put an end to the sharing of files or shut down completely.

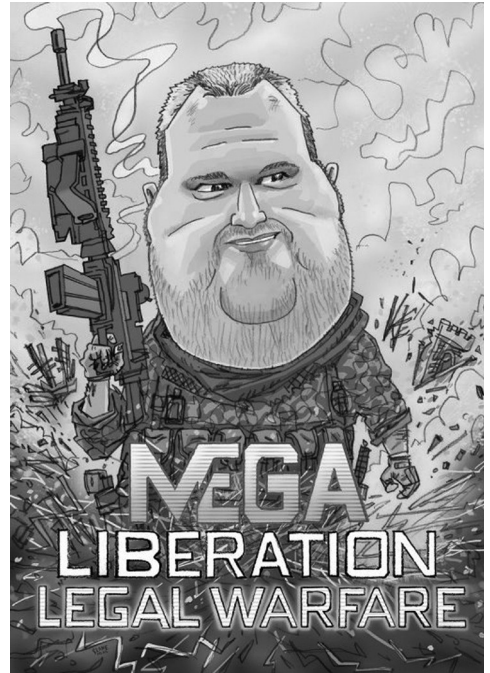
But it gets worse. Dotcom revealed that he has uncovered the man responsible for the seizure of his foreign-based website. "I do know from a credible source that it was Joe Biden, the best friend of former Senator and MPAA boss Chris Dodd, who ordered his former lawyer and now state attorney Neil MacBride to take Mega down," Dotcom told TorrentFreak, a news blog devoted to file sharing and copyright information.

Following a tip, Dotcom was able to verify that Biden had a meeting with many of the major studio executives and MPAA chairman and former senator Chris Dodd through the publically available White House visitor logs. It was at this meeting that Dotcom claims they discussed shutting down Megaupload, though Biden and the Department of Justice insist the meetings had nothing to do with Megaupload.

"It is interesting that a man by the name of Mike Ellis of MPA Asia, an extradition expert and former superintendent of the Hong Kong police, was also at a meeting with Dodd, all studio bosses and Joe Biden." Dotcom pointed out. "The same Mike Ellis met with the Minister of Justice Simon Power in New Zealand."

Dotcom also claims to have even more evidence to substantiate the link between Biden and the Megaupload shutdown, but he has yet to hint at what that evidence may be. He has said he will release it "at the appropriate time."

In 2010, Biden announced that copyright infringement and online piracy were going to be one of the Obama administration's main focuses, as if they didn't have more important things like the economy to worry about. In his speech during the first Joint Strategic Plan of Obama's administration, Biden declared piracy a major threat to national security and the economy, ignoring the findings of the Government Accountability Office that found no link between piracy and the entertainment industry's claimed losses.



A caricature of Megaupload owner Kim Dotcom. (Photo courtesy TorrentFreak)

OPINION

Given this stated focus on ending piracy and the big money Hollywood donors helping to fund Obama's re-election campaign, it's hard to believe that such a major global operation against Megaupload wouldn't have involved the White House in some way, especially since it walks the edge of legality. Already, challenges by Dotcom's lawyers in New Zealand have been successful in getting evidence thrown out because of illegal searches, illegal spying, and the illegal seizure of some of his money and possessions.

Many law experts in the U.S. have already pointed out the many flaws in the Justice Department's case against Megaupload. Taking down Megaupload's websites without a trial is a denial of due process and fundamental right of presumed innocence. The government essentially stole the content of legitimate users when they seized the site, and along with the MPAA they've petitioned the court to continue to deny all users access to their data as some users have attempted to sue to have their data returned.

Political activist group Demand Progress filed a brief with the court as a non-party on the side of Megaupload and their users. They rightfully argue in their statement that, "The MPAA reasons property owners should prove their property non-infringing before the Court permits them access to it. This is akin to arguing that when a thief rents a hotel room and is caught, the contents of all of the guests' luggage should be presumed contraband until proven otherwise."

What may be more worrisome than the case's threat to due process and presumed innocence is the threat posed to free speech. The internet is a place that allows for the free exchange of ideas in a worldwide community. If the government or groups like the MPAA are granted the right remove things from the web and arrest site owners for user-created or shared content, then where does it stop? Are blogs and news sites going to be taken down because of a user comment?

What will happen to Facebook or Youtube? If a Facebook user makes a threat on their page, will the whole website be pulled while owner Mark Zuckerberg is arrested and charged in connection with the threat? Youtube is notorious for copyrighted material uploaded by its users, so of course it will have to go or Google will have to scrub the site clean and be meticulous about what videos it allows.

Suddenly, everything online will have to be approved by a moderator before it can be consumed by the masses, so say goodbye to instant communication and information if the Justice Department wins their case against Megaupload.

Even if Megaupload wins, the future of the internet will remain uncertain for as long as Obama and Biden are in office. The public and the internet thought they'd beaten the threat to the internet posed by SOPA and PIPA, but the Megaupload case allows Obama and Biden to circumvent Congress and get the courts to grant them the power to control and censor the internet, thereby keeping their Hollywood donors happy.

Eric Goldman, a professor at Santa Clara University School of Law, calls the prosecution of Megaupload "a depressing display of abuse of government authority" and claims that "the government is simply making up the law to try to hold Megaupload accountable for its users' uploading/downloading."

He argues that the government is "acting as a proxy for private commercial interests" because of the "Obama administration's desire to curry continued favor and campaign contributions from well-heeled sources."

(contd. page 19)



President Obama (left) and Chris Dodd (right) after signing the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act July 21, 2010. (Photo courtesy the White House)

OPINION

It's no secret that Megaupload was a thorn in the entertainment industry's side. Besides its popular file hosting site that garnered 50 million visitors per day, the Mega brand was, coincidentally, about to launch a new music site before they were busted. Known as Megabox, the site was meant to be far better than the industry's "outdated" business model by giving users free music while paying the artists with advertising revenue. The artists would also have full control over their content and would directly receive all the profits from the advertising, which would have eliminated the middle man, aka the record label. Megabox would have included exclusive content from many big-name artists like The Black Keys and Will.i.am.

It's easy to see why the launch of Megabox would have worried record labels. If it was a success, it would be further proof that, in many ways, they have become obsolete. So it's no wonder why they would have called

up their good pals Obama and Biden to do them a solid for a little more campaign cash.

In the end, this is why Goldman believes the Megaupload case shows that those who want to control the internet under the guise of copyright infringement will eventually win, because of "the administration's willingness to break the law, if necessary, to keep content owners happy."

If Obama wins November 6, the internet could indeed become a very different place, and those who run websites may just find themselves sharing a jail cell with those who enjoy sharing content or those who used Megaupload to back up their own movies or music.

"The war for the internet has begun," as Dotcom says in his song "Mr. President." "Hollywood is in control of politics. The government is killing innovation. Don't let them get away with that."



Pennsylvanians Without Photo ID, You Can Vote!

By Michael O. Daly

Commonwealth Court Judge Robert Simpson has handed down a decision to block enforcement of the Pennsylvania Voter ID law. The law, which would require every person voting to show a photo ID that includes an expiration date, was seen by many as an attempt to disenfranchise voters in a presidential election year. His ruling does not strike the law from the books. Instead it delays its enforcement to allow more time for citizens to get appropriate ID, and for the state to properly implement procedures for obtaining a Voter ID card.

This ruling has been celebrated by those opposed to the law as a win for every voting citizen. Pennsylvania House Democratic Leader Frank Dermody, of Oakmont, said in a statement, “The court order ensures that no citizen will be deprived of the constitutional right to vote as a result of the voter suppression law pushed through by Governor Corbett and Republican legislators, at least not this year.”

A written statement from Allegheny County Controller Chelsa Wagner said, “The decision to delay Pennsylvania’s Voter ID law is a victory for democracy and fair elections, albeit a temporary one. It is clear that this law could not have been implemented in the few short weeks before a high-turnout election without chaos at the polls and qualified voters being turned away.”

Supporters of the law have also been outspoken in their response to the injunction. Pennsylvania State Representative Daryl Metcalf, of Cranberry, said in a written statement, “Rather than making a ruling based on the constitution and the law, this judicial activist decision is skewed in favor of the lazy who refuse to exercise the necessary work ethic to meet the commonsense requirements to obtain an acceptable photo ID.”

This statement makes it clear that his intention in support of the law was not in preventing voter fraud, as he previously stated, but instead it was to keep a portion of eligible voters from exercising their rights.

As it stands, when you go to your polling place you will still be asked to present ID, but even those who were unable to obtain ID before election day will still be able to vote and have their vote counted, so it in no way effects your ability to vote. In future years, if the law remains, you will be required to have a photo ID to vote, so you should obtain adequate ID as soon as you can.

New students at Penn State, starting this semester, were given updated student ID cards that include an expiration date, making them acceptable for the purposes of voting in PA. In addition, students with older student ID cards that do not have appropriate ID for voting can be issued a sticker with an expiration date that will be affixed to their existing ID card, so that it can be used at the polling place. Having ID does not mean that you do not need to register to vote; it is in addition to standard voter registration procedures which must be completed 30 days prior to Election Day.

While your right to vote has been protected, it is your responsibility to exercise this right. On November 6 cast your vote and take part in the election process.

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KNOW OF A STORY WE SHOULD COVER?

Email us at: nittanypridenews@gmail.com

PET CORNER

Pet Chinchillas Popular For Many Reasons

By Jennifer Phillips

Chinchillas are very energetic and inquisitive creatures that have become increasingly popular as pets. They are rodents in the Chinchillidae family that are native to the Andes Mountains in South America, where they live in burrows or crevices in rocks. The name Chinchilla, which means “little chincha,” comes from Chincha people of the Andes who hunted them nearly to extinction in order to wear their soft, dense fur. Today, illegal hunting continues to threaten the existence of chinchillas in the wild.

Chinchillas have been described as fluffy, round squirrels in appearance. They have large eyes and ears that many people find very cute. Including their bushy tails, adult chinchillas are typically around 12 inches long and weigh around 1 to 1 ½ pounds, with females being larger. The most common color of chinchilla is varying shades of gray, but domestication has produced more variety in colors such as white, black velvet, beige, ebony, violet and sapphire, and combinations of these colors.



A standard gray chinchilla. (Photo courtesy Wikipedia)

Chinchillas have a surprisingly long lifespan, especially when they are enjoying the advantages of being a well cared for pet. On average, a chinchilla lives to be 10 to 12 years old in captivity, with some reaching 20 years of age. This is something that is very important to keep in mind when deciding whether a chinchilla is right for you.

Choosing where you will get your chinchilla is also an important decision to make. Pet stores are a common place to acquire a chinchilla, mainly due to convenience. However, lack of socialization at a young age, which most animals at pet stores experience, can result in skittish and aggressive behavior. Poor diet, stress and boredom can also lead to health and behavior problems such as pulling out fur, called barbering. A reputable breeder can minimize these risks by providing an environment that includes socialization, a proper diet and enough stimulation to ensure a healthy, happy chinchilla.

Selecting a chinchilla with a good personality and being knowledgeable about their needs will help ensure a good, long term relationship with them. While their personalities can vary from one chinchilla to another, an individual's personality does not change easily, so keep this in mind when choosing your chinchilla. Typically, what you see is what you get. Earning their trust takes time and effort, but once you do, they will be more likely to enjoy getting petted or even hopping onto your shoulder. Most chinchillas don't enjoy much cuddling or being handled too much even after they get to know you. Since chinchillas are crepuscular, meaning they are mostly active at twilight (dusk and dawn), these are the best times to interact with them.

Chinchillas are fairly easy to care for and have very little odor, but maintaining a clean environment is crucial to their health since they are sensitive to bacteria and other contaminants that may be ingested from an unsanitary environment. Enclosures such as aquariums can easily overheat your chinchilla and are not recommended. An uncoated wire cage, with spacing no larger than half an inch by one inch, will prevent them from escaping, chewing their way out or becoming sick from ingesting wire coating. A great, affordable place to buy cages is martinscages.com.

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PET CORNER

Mesh flooring can cause soreness of their delicate feet and toes, so cover the levels with untreated pine or fleece, or use a cage with solid flooring. Avoid using cedar and redwood bedding, or any other woods that contain resins, oils and phenols as they are toxic to chinchillas. Aspen shavings or untreated white pine shavings are the safest bedding options. Since chinchillas require lots of exercise, make sure to choose a cage that is large enough for him to get adequate exercise. A large exercise wheel, such as the Wobust Wodent Wheel is highly recommended for allowing exercise. The location of the cage is also important to avoid stress and major temperature fluctuations. Place the cage in a cool, but not drafty, place that is quiet and avoids direct sunlight. Since chinchillas don't sweat, they may suffer a heatstroke in temperatures above 75° F.

Chinchillas require a dust bath that mimics the volcanic ash of their natural habitat once or twice per week to clean themselves. Dust bathing too frequently can dry out their skin and irritate their eyes and nose, so don't allow them full time access. These dust baths work by collecting oils and dirt particles which then fall off as they shake and roll around. It's important to use only dust made for chinchillas, which is often made from ground pumice rock, while avoiding brands that use sand, as it can irritate skin. Place an inch or two of dust in an enclosed container, such as those made specifically for dust baths, and allow your chinchilla some time to have a blast. Large fish bowls also work well for dust baths, because glass improves the visibility of the chinchilla while he's bathing. Since the dust bath involves the chinchilla excitedly rolling around, make sure the container is heavy enough not to fall over and place it in the cage or in another safe place while it's being used. Bathing with water can cause fungus and remove natural skin oils, so stick with dust baths only. In addition to keeping them clean, dust baths are also relaxing and fun for chinchillas.

The digestive tract of the chinchilla is delicate, so it is very important to stick to a steady, appropriate diet and make any diet changes gradually. A chinchilla specific, low protein, low fat, high fiber diet in the form of pellets is best. Mixed foods allow the chinchilla to pick out certain items rather than eating a balanced diet and often contain items that should be reserved for treat time only. Using a bowl that attaches to the side of the cage prevents spilling or soiling the food. Plastic food bowls tend get chewed and spill easily.



A 5-year-old male Chinchilla.
(Photo courtesy Wikimedia)

In addition to their regular food, fresh, clean grass hay, such as western timothy, brome, orchard or bermuda grass should be made available at all times. Avoid rich legume hays that are too high in protein such as alfalfa, clover and vetch. Fresh vegetables and fruit should not be given, and sweets should be very limited because sugars harm the normal intestinal microflora of the chinchilla and can also cause diabetes. Clean water should always be available from a water bottle that is placed to prevent chewing or has a metal guard. Chinchillas chew things in order to wear down their continuously growing teeth, so providing chew toys helps prevent the overgrowth and misalignment of the teeth.

It's easy to see why chinchillas have become such popular pets since their domestication in the early 1900's. They have unique personalities and entertain us with their enthusiastic dust baths. If well cared for, they can be an interesting addition to your furry family for many years.

Resources:

<http://www.cheekychinchillas.com/>

<http://www.chinchillas.com/resource/index.htm>

<http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/pets/chinchilla.htm>

<http://exoticpets.about.com/od/chinchillas/a/chinchillafeed.htm>



Fall Festival Photos
by Michael O. Daly

Caber Toss Photos
by Kelly Haugh