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FOCUS

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Campus speaks, in many voices

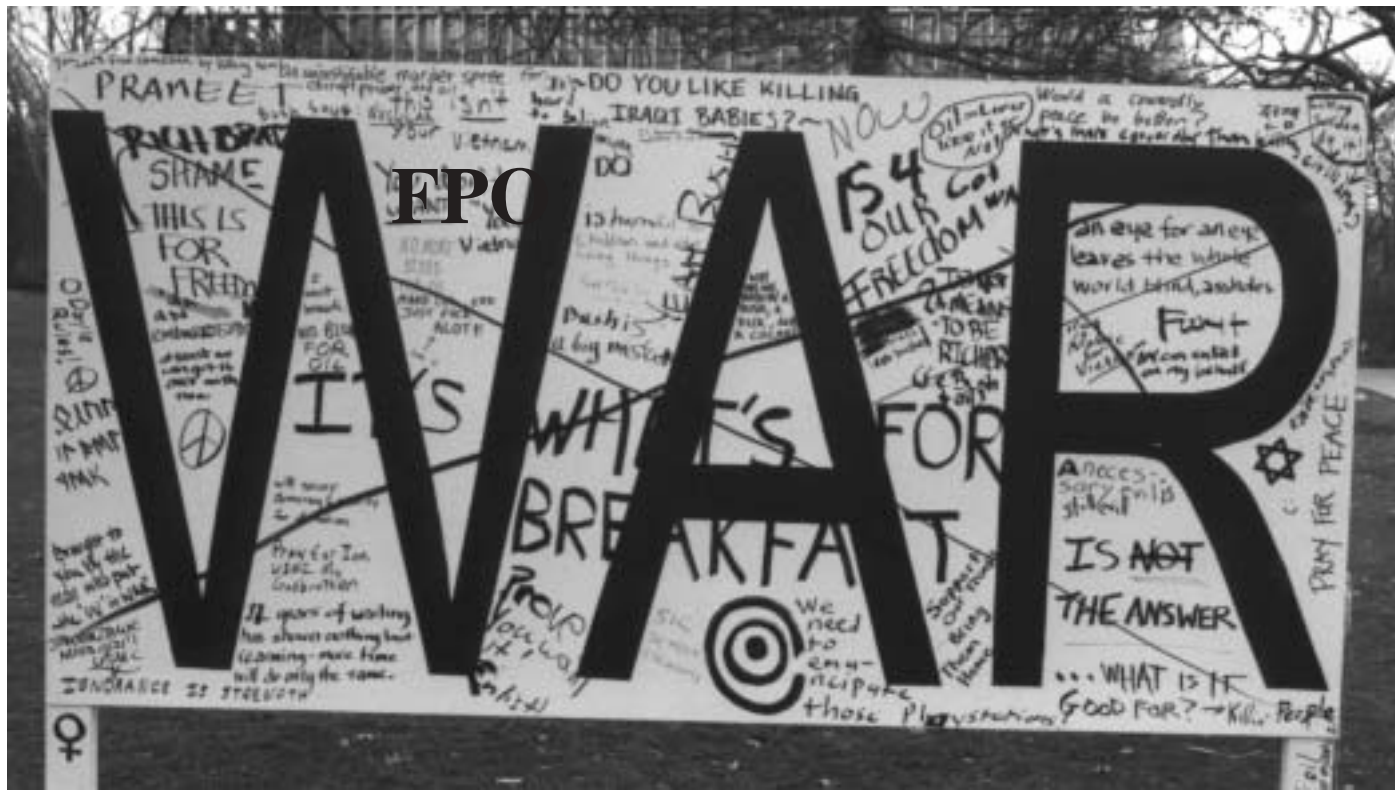


Photo: Brian Connelly

This billboard appeared on the Cut on March 20, with a marker on a string that people used to write comments anti-, pro- and ambivalent. The billboard soon disappeared. For more observations on the world situation, see George Soros story on page 3.

Leaving a paper trail in the rubbish

How many times a day do you compromise your data privacy? Maybe more than you think.

I dropped a few envelopes in the mailbox on my front porch this morning, one with a check to the phone company, one with a resume and cover letter and one with a dental claim for my insurance company.

Anyone could pick up those envelopes. That check I wrote to the phone company could easily be washed clean and used to make purchases through the mail, where nobody checks for I.D.

But check fraud would be the least of my problems. The check and the payment coupon contain personal information: my name,

address, phone number and even account numbers. Somebody who wanted to steal or re-create my identity would just need to find my birthday, which is easily available at anybirthday.com or on the dental insurance claim I left in the mailbox.

From there, it's just a short step to my social security number. Even if my check does reach the phone company's processing center, it will be viewed by arguably underpaid employees who may have an opportunity to copy my information before passing it on, with thousands of other checks, to other employees whose job it is to destroy them.

And the resume? Of course it contains

complete contact information and a fairly thorough history of the past five years. I'm sending it to a P.O. box with a company's name on it, but there's no way I can be sure who really will — and won't — see it. Identity thieves have recently started posting job advertisements online and in newspapers in the hopes of collecting personal information from job seekers.

I ran in to the supermarket down the street to grab a pack of gum and bottle of orange juice. The juice was on sale, so I flashed my supermarket "club card" to receive 20 cents off.

It's no secret that supermarket club cards

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Bookstore, professors still sparring

It was three weeks into the semester when Paul Hopper, professor of English, began to rewrite his class syllabus for Language and Culture.

"I was told by the bookstore that a book I have been using in my classes that has been in print for 25 years was now out of print," said Hopper. Before working around the assigned book, however, Hopper decided to search the Internet for it. Within minutes he found his book on amazon.com.

"I found two versions of the text still available. I wrote back to the bookstore and informed them of this," said Hopper. The bookstore acknowledged that he was right and ordered his text right away. Hopper now has his books, but remains frustrated about the process.

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Jack Longmore keeps the university's many pianos in top playing condition

Piano tuning: A matter of temperament

When I was young, I remember my mom talking about her favorite piano tuner: "I always liked the way the piano sounded when he was done," she said. He was actually retired, but somehow she convinced him to come once a year or so to tune her Steinway.

Jack Longmore, a musician and CMU's full-time piano tuner, knew exactly what I was talking about when I mentioned this. Between pianists and their tuners, there is "a rapport and certainly a trust. It becomes a lifelong connection," he said. Indeed, in his commitment to the pianists and their pianos, Longmore projects a youthful vigor that belies his pear shape and gray hair.

Pianos in the College of Fine Arts, Purnell Center for the Arts and the dormitories all need to be tuned at all different times. Although Longmore doesn't have an office, he

comes in on Mondays and Thursdays regularly and is always on call — even on weekends, when most concerts are scheduled. But he's so in demand that concert manager Amy Stabenow is the only one who has his cell phone number. He'll stop in her CFA office to check in with her and read his e-mail to see which pianos need attention.

"I keep him up to speed on everything that's going on," Stabenow said. Their friendship is undeniable. "Jack was the first person to really welcome me when I came here in the middle of September, eight years ago. He showed me the ropes as it were," she said. "He's an amazing human being and a damn good piano tuner."

Over 30 years ago, as a college student, Longmore began his apprenticeship with William Connelly, a charter member of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Piano Technicians

Safety hazards at Carnival draw concern

In November 1999, a 90-year old tradition at Texas A&M University came crashing down. The 40-foot log structure that was built every year for a football-weekend bonfire instead ended the lives of 12 students. The nation was stunned that an accident like this could happen with college students building a 40-foot log structure without a faculty advisor on duty at all time.

Carnegie Mellon's Spring Carnival and Sweepstakes traditions may also be hazardous to the students involved. One week before Spring Carnival, the Morewood Gardens parking lot is turned into the Midway where all the booths are constructed and carnival rides are set up. Booths are wooden structures held together by enough screws and nails to pass the Facilities Management Services inspection. Sweepstakes, the organization which runs the buggy races, closes Tech Street, part of Schenley Drive and Frew Street in order to let buggies roll on the streets. The buggies — a cross between street luge and soap box derby, with just enough room for one tiny driver to lie prone inside — are propelled up hills by pushers and allowed to roll freely downhill.

Carnival weekend is undoubtedly the single most anticipated weekend of the spring semester, with good reason. The weekend is a huge event and a good time for most of the students, alumni and community members who participate and attend. The children in the community benefit from the booths and the rides and charities receive the proceeds from various organizations.

Three years ago, an accident occurred on the Midway. On the Friday night of Carnival, part of the second floor of Alpha Epsilon Pi's booth collapsed. Fortunately, nobody was seriously injured but several students went to the hospital for treatment. Later that night, FMS workers tore down the booth. The AEPi website has a blurb about this incident, but it seems as though the

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Guild. And that was only after two and a half years of bugging Connelly, the bass soloist at Longmore's church, to teach him the art of tuning. Now Longmore can sympathize with the older man's reluctance, even though he wouldn't accept it back then.

"It's very difficult to learn this business," he said, explaining that those who are in it, love it, and want the apprentices who will assume their places to take it seriously. Once Longmore finally assured Connelly of his genuine interest and firm commitment to tuning, he began weekly lessons on an upright Decker and Sons piano. As far as Longmore knew, he was Connelly's only private student, though Connelly also taught piano technology at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind.

Connelly began by teaching him to tune

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Reading the taboos behind the whispers

I have to admit that when I saw the poster advertising the Adamson lecture "Sex, Gender & World Religions: The Consequences of Denial," by L. J. Tessier on Mar. 17 in the Adamson Wing, the word "sex" naturally captured my attention in the way only that word can. I'm a Catholic girl and naturally wanted to see what this woman had to say about sex, gender and religion, the fusion of the world's oldest taboos.

And the "consequences of denial" also sparked an acute interest. Yes, what does happen from the denial of sex? What occurs when religion blocks out something so natural? We all know how about the recent troubles in the Catholic Church over sex. I was also expecting the lecture to touch upon the role of sex within Islam.

What is the consequence of women's sexuality and gender identity being made so publicly, well, illegal in many countries? Having studied female circumcision in the Sudan, I wanted to know what Tessier had to say about the sexual status of the infibulated, the clitoris-less.

I was ready for enlightenment and a provocative speech on the word I wasn't comfortable saying above a whisper around my Dad until I had been to college.

Tessier, a professor in the Department of Philosophy and director of Religious Studies at Youngstown State University, opened the lecture with a refreshingly shameless promotion of her available-to-purchase book "Dancing After the Whirlwind," and then took offered a broad opening to her enormous subject: sex and religion are "astoundingly culturally separated."

She went on to make official the fact that the world for the most part has cast a double shadow on the idea of sex — it is dirty, so you must only do it with the one you love. We can't talk about it because it is so important and so special.

Sex is forbidden, even though it's how the world keeps itself alive. Tessier acknowledged all of these social conceptions and dualities, and then went on to her main theme.

Or did she? The majority of the lecture consisted of Tessier reading ancient excerpts of tantalizing text as a means of proving that religion and sex were not always separated. It was undeniably interesting to hear an ancient Japanese creation story where a man and a woman make the world by having intercourse. I had no idea that St. Augustine, who wrote about his "mother Jesus," couldn't control his sexual impulse, so he therefore deemed it unholy.

Tessier enlightened my poetry-loving ears with some gorgeous ancient Greek text concerning the physical act of love. Although she acknowledged the grim but undeniable fact that not every sex act is done for a consensual pleasure or as a means of celebrating love or spirit, Tessier drew a lovely picture of the union between sex and spirituality.

But what of the consequences of sexual denial? Tessier did not draw much upon the actual consequence of sexual denial in relation to religion. What she said was that if sex and religion were more connected, then sexual abuse would be sacrilegious.

I waited for the punch line to this enlightened conclusion, because as far as I am concerned — and I don't think I'm alone here — sexual abuse *is* sacrilegious, regardless of my religious opinion. I'm proud to say that everyone I know feels this same way, and I don't hail from a staunchly religious crew.

As non-conformist as some people here claim to be, sex and religion remain in many instances sensitive subjects. Tessier gave a wonderful account of the old history of sex and spirit, and it was refreshing to have proof that this world was not always so afraid to admit that sex is a beautiful, extraordinary act that need not be hushed or kept away, for in as much as it is a private act of love, it has a universal claim on life.

ELIZABETH WEISS



Did missionaries invent cannibals?

Carnegie Mellon's English department has a taste for cannibalism. Or at least, for Patrick Brantlinger, the 2003 Carol Brown lecturer who gave a talk entitled "Cannibals and Missionaries" on Feb. 20 to about 55 people in Margaret Morrison's Breed Hall.

Brantlinger is the author of numerous books including "Who Killed Shakespeare," a work that explores the marginalization of the liberal arts in universities. He's the Rudy Professor of English at Indiana University and a luminary in the field of 19th and 20th century cultural analysis.

Brantlinger began by telling a few cannibal jokes. He noted that there seemed to be a lot more jokes around about cannibals than about missionaries, who are often portrayed as their victims.

Why is that? "Because," he laughed, "Missionaries tend to be tough, tasteless, dogmatic and un-amusing."

Brantlinger suggested that jokes about cannibalism exist because white racism has an extensive appetite for them despite "the unreliability of evidence of any society that practices customary cannibalism."

Customary cannibalism means a regular practice, not the act of a criminally insane Hannibal Lecter.

Brantlinger's lecture centered around the question of whether or not customary cannibals have ever really existed. The only first-hand evidence we have that true cannibals existed comes from 19th and 20th century "eyewitness" accounts. And from whom do the bulk of the accounts come? Christian missionaries. Other than explorers, missionaries were the only people in that day and age who encountered primitive societies where cannibalism was purported to occur. They traveled to Africa and the South Pacific with the goal of converting native tribes to Christianity. Along the way, they wrote extensively about the ritualistic practices of the people they were trying to convert, one of these practices being cannibalism.

But should we trust the validity of these missionaries' personal accounts? Brantlinger said that he thought not.

"They were predisposed to believe that footprints on island beaches were made by cannibals," Brantlinger argued. "And the bravery and self-sacrifice it took to get them there hardly made them objective."

Brantlinger also believes that missionaries had a lot to gain by exaggerating the behavior of the natives.

"Reporting cannibalism made missionaries' work seem more urgent," said Brantlinger. "They may not have always been lying but they were prone to exaggeration." Brantlinger argued that missionaries exaggerated the "wickedness" of the people they were attempting to convert in order to safeguard themselves from criticism back home and to retain funding for their work. If they failed to gain a significant number of converts, they could point to the horrific practices of the native culture to show the extreme conditions they had to work under.

In the end, Brantlinger said that he believed missionaries helped propagate the myth that customary cannibalism existed as a way of life for many native tribes, though he does not believe that missionary accounts are com-

plete works of fiction.

"I'm not saying that missionaries completely fabricated violence," Brantlinger pointed out. "They just foregrounded it so much that their peaceful aspects of their [the natives'] lives got lost."

GILLIAN BRIGHAM

Magazine founder speaks at Mosaic

Christy Haubegger is not only successful, she's funny, down to earth and approachable. Haubegger, founder of Latina magazine and keynote speaker at this year's Mosaic Annual Conference on Women's Issues, entertained a culturally diverse audience Feb. 23 in Rangos Ballroom. Named one of Newsweek's "Women of the New Century," she pegs herself as a relentless optimist who pursued her goal — the first magazine for Latino women — until it became a reality.

"If I can do something like this, certainly anyone can," Haubegger said. The goal of Latina magazine is to empower and inspire readers to feel good about who they are. Haubegger's talk elicited laughter and comments such as "You inspire me" from an audience of close to 300 men and women.

Haubegger grew up in Houston reading magazines filled with images that didn't relate to her experiences as a Mexican-American. Everyone was blond, blue-eyed or close to it. Even her family looked this way. Adopted into a "lovely, tall blond family," Haubegger had few ethnic role models and it bothered her that women in magazines looked nothing like her. "Don't complain about the media," she now jokes, "become the media."

In 1992, after earning a degree in Spanish and Philosophy at the University of Texas, she drafted the business plan for the magazine in a marketing class at Stanford Law School. She didn't know anything about the magazine industry, but after graduation she started knocking on doors. At worst, she'd fail miserably and become a lawyer.

She lived on Ramen noodles and water and suspects she lowered the average salary for Stanford law graduates that year. Still, she has advice for entrepreneurs. "If it ever comes down to paying the phone bill or rent, pay the phone bill. Justice is not swift when it comes to paying the rent. It takes a long time to get evicted. They'll turn your phone off in a day."

Almost 200 potential investors turned her down, but she still kept working on a 16-page prototype. Eventually she landed 20 minutes with Essence magazine founder Edward Lewis to work her pitch. "Here's the story. Any minute there are going to be more Hispanic women than black women in the U.S. And we don't have a magazine." Lewis, head of the largest publication for African American women, bought the pitch.

He invested and the timing was perfect as the Hispanic population grew 58 percent between 1990 and 2000.

The first issue of Latina appeared in 1996 with 17 advertisers and Jennifer Lopez, a newcomer, on the cover.

"What I thought would be difficult was easy and what I thought would be easy was difficult," she said. She thought the hard part would be getting readers, but realized early on that word of mouth was an enormous opportunity. "If you send one magazine to a Latino woman she knows 10 other Latino women and is related to 20."

Attracting advertisers was more difficult. To break down the stereotypes, Haubegger had to answer questions such as, "Do you think your readers can afford our makeup?"

The Latina staff is now 55 people. The magazine covers fashion, beauty, profiles of women who are making a difference in their communities and recipes.

Haubegger left the magazine in June of last year to produce movies. Her first is the romantic comedy "Chasing Papi."

"There's never been a better time to be who we are than right now. Believe in something bigger than yourself and pursue your goals—no matter how lofty or different they may seem," she said.

ERIN REILEY

No science? Then get out of the kitchen

Author and nuclear chemist Robert Wolke and his wife, Post-Gazette food writer Marlene Parrish, collaborate daily on writing and on the "scientific miracles" in their kitchen. They spoke March 20 in Rangos 2 in the University Center to an audience of about 40 people, mostly women. Hosted by Carnegie Mellon Women's Association, Wolke and Parrish talked about "What Einstein Told His Cook: Kitchen Science Explained," recently nominated for a James Beard award.

Wolke, a retired University of Pittsburgh professor, said he "thinks outside the pot" in debunk kitchen myths that are mistakenly considered common knowledge. Through his Washington Post FOOD 101 column in which he answers readers' science questions on anything food-related, Wolke has discovered that people are full of questions about food and food preparation. He also feels the field of cooking is riddled with chefs who are artists when it comes to food preparation but often don't know much about science.

Wolke said his job as a science writer is to teach. The latest book is based on questions Wolke has been asked in the Post column, incorporating Parrish's recipes to enhance the science presented in the book and to "put science to work and see it happen."

The book is different from most cookbooks on bookstore shelves. It offers more than recipes telling what to do and how to do it and does not relay health and nutrition information. It gives readers recipes and the scientific reasons why the recipes work.

During their talk, Wolke and Parrish also debunked a few myths: It's true that rolling out pie dough on a marble counter top is better than on rolling it on wood counter, but not because the marble is cooler, but because it's a good conductor of heat. The marble conducts heat away from the dough while it's being rolled.

Alcohol does not evaporate during cooking. You "can't cook off the alcohol," Wolke said. The alcohol content will diminish upon boiling, but 5 to 50 percent of the alcohol will remain. Heating a lemon or rolling a lemon is not the most effective way to get juice. Wolke said that neither method on its own is as effective as heating the lemon in the microwave for 30 seconds and then rolling it on a table under your palm.

ERIN REILEY

Focus welcomes letters. Please write davidson+or bclz @andrew.cmu.edu

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Editor: Jim Davidson
 Managing Editor: Brian Connelly
 Reporting and Writing: Gillian Brigham, Jeannie Choi, Anne Dollard, Sebastian Habr, Whitney Hess, Amanda Innis, Geoffrey Jarrett, Tara Kennon, Elsie Lampl, Andrew McKeon, Batul Merchant, Sylvia Mosser, Vijay Palaparty, Meg Papa, Gregory Pennington, Alyson Pope, Erin Reiley, Alicia Sanderman, Elizabeth Weiss
 Photography: Brian Connelly, Ken Andreyo
 Production: Donna Badger, Sue Layton, Melissa Stoebe
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CFO Stefano Falconi: Padua to Pittsburgh

"Do you know who Irnerius was?" asked the tall, soft-spoken, tall man.

I didn't have a clue, so Stefano Falconi stood up from his chair and began to explain.

"Irnerius was a famous teacher of law in Bologna during the 12th century whose teachings attracted many students from all over Europe. These students came to Bologna to learn law from him. Over time, they settled down in little groups all over Bologna."

Falconi said that, over time, the riotous and disruptive nature of the students, especially at nighttime, started upsetting the townspeople of Bologna. They started lodging complaints against the students. Meanwhile, the students at Bologna resented the complaints and decided that they needed to form an association to protect their freedom and rights. Thus, the "universitas" (Latin for corporation or community) was formed.

Basically the "universitas" became the foundation of organized education, ultimately leading to the establishment of universities around the world.

"So you can see and appreciate — a thousand years have passed but the concept of *universitas* has stayed the same in spite of many forces that have tried to change it," said Falconi, the chief financial officer and vice president for administration at Carnegie Mellon. He sat down and smiled while I reflected on what he had just said.

Falconi brings to mind a taller, more soft-spoken and highly intellectual Danny DeVito. Not unlike DeVito, Falconi conveys his thoughts with eloquence, wit, zest and perfect timing. He can make a 60-minute interview fly by.

Falconi is originally from Padua, Italy. He graduated at 25 from Padua University law school in 1978 and went to Brussels on a European Union grant to work in the antitrust directorate. An unexpected medical emergency in his family got him back to his hometown of Verona, where he practiced law for several years.

While at Padua University, Falconi became interested in computers, taught himself programming and wrote a document management and accounting package for his law firm. It was the first software package of its kind in Italy. This venture led him to the U.S. to pick up hardware and software documentation because of the unavailability of such



Carnegie Mellon's first Chief Financial Officer, Stefano Falconi

documentation in Italy at that time.

These frequent visits and growing circle of friends stateside, as well as a growing interest in finance, led him to apply to the Harvard Business School MBA program: He came to Boston in 1985.

"Quite an adventurous life," I remarked and Falconi was quick to add, "I have always had a love of adventure and lots of energy, probably more than is good for me."

After completing his MBA, Falconi stayed at Harvard, where he held positions in the areas of sponsored research accounting, federal compliance and finance. He also directed the development and deployment of innovative management information systems for utilization in those institutions' space management, financial planning and budgeting processes.

After leaving Harvard, Falconi worked at MIT as the director of finance.

Falconi joined CMU after Jeffrey Bolton left the university last July to become chief financial officer at the Mayo Foundation in Rochester, MN.

Falconi's responsibilities as CFO revolve

around the financial health of CMU. He is primarily responsible for accounts payable and receivable, taxes, insurance, endowments, treasury and budgeting. As if that isn't enough, his responsibilities as VP for administration include the construction and maintenance of facilities on campus, creation and implementation of human resources policies and administrative computing.

When asked about his opinions as CFO on CMU's financial status, given the shaky economy, Falconi said, "CMU is strong but has grown enormously over the past 15 years, especially in research." This growth led it to operate in the big league, he said, with competitors that are better capitalized, such as MIT or Stanford. "CMU has a very strong balance sheet but can benefit more from capital structure, which is the result of a mix of several factors, such as more giving by alumni (many large peer institutions rely on private support for a substantial portion of their revenues), better returns in the stock market (which is obviously a factor of the economy), etc."

Falconi also has ambitious plans regarding

the administrative system of CMU. His goal is to promote collaboration between the various administrative sectors. "Collaboration between branches will strengthen CMU's infrastructure," said Falconi. He strongly believes that "CMU is a world-class university and needs a world-class infrastructure."

When asked whether he thought CMU had problems with its infrastructure, Falconi replied that when a group of dedicated and competent professionals works hard to make the organization run well and smoothly, there is always the risk of focusing on the tasks at hand, and losing a bit of peripheral vision.

"This is often compounded by logistics," he said. "When you are located in a building remote from campus, for example, and your work is demanding and the workload consistently high, it is easy to lose track of the rest of the university, its students and faculty, its intellectual opportunities. I am convinced that peripheral vision is very important. It promotes awareness of the common goals and therefore of what we, as individuals, can do to help achieve them."

One of the most striking features about Falconi is his philosophy regarding the "collision of brains." The theory holds that for new knowledge to be generated, there must be a "collision of brains" between the students and the faculty. This collision is facilitated within an environment composed of three optimal factors — information technology, finance and physical surroundings, for example — meeting places for students and faculty such as cafes, libraries etc.

For an effective collision to occur, these three factors must be optimized. If any of these factors is compromised, the quantity and the quality of the new knowledge or information generated will be adversely affected. This theory is not new or unusual, but Mr. Falconi stresses its importance in an educational setting such as Carnegie Mellon.

He agreed that Carnegie Mellon has a very strong information technology backbone but said there is room for improvement in the university's financial health and physical surroundings. He said his long-term goal, broadly speaking, is to "strengthen these areas to optimize the generation of knowledge from the students and faculty at CMU."

Irnerius would have been proud.

BATUL MERCHANT

"It is difficult to find a period where political and economic conditions worsened so rapidly."

George Soros, advocate of globalism, lambastes Bush

Quite a crush for George Soros at McConomy on Feb. 28. At least 600 people standing room inside and 100 turned away outside. Many older visitors from Squirrel Hill (including former city councilman Bob O'Connor) were mixed in with a crowd heavily weighted toward international students. Security guards told the large crowd assembled in the hall outside the door that there was no point in waiting and they were becoming a fire hazard. Even Jared Cohon couldn't get in through the front door.

"Who is this guy?" a passing student asked.

Soros is a Hungarian-born billionaire financier and advocate of the open global society who hosts Bill Clinton and an army of international notables to schmooze and brainstorm the global society at the posh ski resort of Davos, Switzerland, every January.

Cathy Ribarchak from the assistant provost's office was kind enough to let me in after I showed her my I.D., business card and last month's Focus.

Inside, Soros was blasting the Bush administration: its hands-off attitude to the world economy, hostility to international agreements behind the Kyoto Accords and the passivity of the Bush Treasury compared to Clinton's, not to mention the then-looming war in Iraq. These policies were all in place before Sept. 11, Soros said. "Sept. 11 removed the constraints." With Sept. 11, Soros said, Bush gained the mandate that he previously lacked. "Terrorism is the perfect enemy," Soros said, "because it never disap-

pears."

Distinguished with salt and pepper hair and a trim Italian-cut suit, Soros laid out a frightening vision of America's place in the world under the Bush administration. Soros

Soros described the Bush administration's policies as a "utopian, unattainable and dangerous ideology."

described Bush's vision as unappealing and unattainable; the shift in worldwide attitudes toward the United States he called startling. In South Korea, for instance, Soros said, the United States is regarded as more of an aggressor than North Korea, because the U.S. has refused to open bilateral talks with North Korea.

Soros identified a long list of trouble areas — neglect of Latin America, worsening relations with China and Russia, the split in the European Union, the floundering IMF, the U.S. deficit and the erosion of civil liberties under Attorney General John Ashcroft — and this was before the war in Iraq had even started. Soros said, "It is difficult to find another period where political and economic conditions worsened so rapidly,"

Soros offered a way out of the present

situation, but not under the policies of the Bush administration, which he described as constituting a "utopian, unattainable and dangerous ideology." By accepting the limitations of the U.S. role and playing a constructive role, Soros said, the U.S. can regain the respect of the world. He does not think disaster is inevitable: "A boom-bust policy can be aborted at any time."

Soros finished by promoting his central vision of a global open society: "The vision of a new global open society is more realistic than a new American empire. But a far-sighted leadership requires an far-sighted electorate to elect such a leadership."

Questions from the audience centered on the impending war in Iraq. "Saddam is a threat that needs to be dealt with. But it is very important how we deal with him," Soros said. While he said there was value in the American pressure on Iraq, the Bush administration's insistence on flouting or ignoring international institutions was flawed.

"If you didn't have this warmongering group in the Bush administration, the United Nations would not have been as resolute. The U.N. needs resolute leadership. It really works with American leadership." Bush is leading us the wrong way, Soros insisted. "Bush is opposed to international cooperation." Soros allowed that the administration's rosy scenario of the Iraq war may be possible if the war is over soon, "but the celebration will be short-lived."

While Soros criticized French President Jacques Chirac for bullying European Union

countries in Eastern Europe that supported Bush's Iraq policy, he described Chirac's opposition to the war as sound and rooted in history. According to Soros, Bush insisted that the war had to begin by March because by then the army would be ready. Chirac recalled how the First World War began because the military men insisted that the armies had to mobilize on a timetable to be ready to fight. "Chirac vowed not to do that," Soros said.

Soros also criticized the Bush administration for lack of leadership in the global economy, saying "The international financial system does not look after itself." Growing inequality in the global economy is a threat to long-term stability, he said.

Soros allowed that while "uneven playing fields are part of free markets," inequality between rich and poor within a country is not the worst thing if the poor also benefit. Far worse is the inequality he defined as being between the "center and the periphery." Countries at the periphery of the world economy, he said, have no counter against the power of countries at the center. At the center, he said, rich countries can run deficits if they feel they need to finance social programs, but a poor country at the periphery does not have that kind of control over its financial destiny.

Asked what made him a successful investor, Soros said, "The idea that 'I may be wrong' is the key to my success. To be a financial speculator, you have to constantly wonder if you are wrong."

BRIAN CONNELLY

Bookstore, English faculty still sparring over service

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"This is more a question of the bookstore not going that extra step to proactively try and help you."

But how much can the bookstore do?

Jim Kownacki, assistant store manager and textbook buyer at the campus bookstore in the University Center, says that it is difficult to notify faculty of new editions in a timely manner.

"New editions and packages or soft-cover editions with different titles are difficult to keep up with. The new editions come out so quickly that once we buy one edition, the next one has come out already," said Kownacki.

"We try to notify faculty beforehand, but there is some lag time by the time we contact the professors."

Bookstore complications happen every semester. This semester, however, the faculty in the English department have collected textbook stories to present to the bookstore in hopes of opening the lines of communication.

Kristina Straub, professor of English and associate head of the department, was the one to collect the stories from faculty.

"I decided that instead of listening to informal griping over the Xerox machine, I would poll the faculty and ask them what problems they had with the bookstore," said Straub.

The responses raised two common problems: First, that faculty did not know whether or not their books had arrived, and, second, that there were not enough textbooks for the number of students enrolled in the classes. Straub informed the bookstore of these issues through an e-mail to Kownacki.

"I wasn't doing this to rake up a big problem, but it is much more useful if you gather data and know what's happening and say this is what we have got to do better here," said Straub.

Kownacki explained to Straub that despite bookstore efforts to make the process run smoothly, there will always be imperfections in the system. He stated, however, that the bookstore is working on notifying faculty of textbook status and getting enough texts for the enrolled students.

Patricia Stacer, director of campus ser-



Jim Kownacki

vices, also believes that the bookstore is on its way to bettering the book buying process.

"We are trying to get better communication for books that are sold out or on back order. We are here for the students and faculty and we want to have happy customers," said Stacer.

Jeri Spann, adjunct professor of English, had a problem not with a wrong edition, but a wrong book.

"I actually discovered today that the text that I had ordered was not in and that the bookstore had ordered the workbook instead. I have never experienced this kind of a problem before and now we've got a workbook that is not useful to the course," said Spann, who was unsure whether the problem was the fault of the bookstore.

Laura Nakonecny, media relations person for the National Association of College Stores (NACS) in Oberlin, OH, says that much of the problem lies with bad timing.

"The whole process of book buying can take the entire summer and most of the books won't get there if you start to buy in April. So, say faculty don't decide until June what they want, it will delay the whole thing," said Nakonecny.

According to Nakonecny, purchasing

books is a much more complex process than most people think and the main reason behind this complexity is the NACS's desire to make the books as cheap as possible for students to purchase.

"We will search the used book warehouses so that we can make sure to buy used textbooks and the reason is new books cost a lot for students and for bookstores," said Nakonecny.

First, the NACS will buy back as many books as they can from students and books that they know will be adopted the next semester will be bought back at maximum value. Other books that do not fit this category will be bought back at slightly reduced values. They will then search the used book warehouses in order to meet the demand for textbooks.

It is clear, then, that getting the faculty textbook requests is an important part of getting this process done in a timely matter and this is also why textbook changes are so difficult to accommodate.

The process of book buying begins as early as three months before a semester begins, with the sending of an e-mail request for faculty to submit textbook requisitions. Often, however, these deadlines are not met.

"Some departments have better track records than others," Stacer said, "and we know that there are late teaching assignments or faculty turnovers, or instances where professors are still determining the best text or their students."

"We understand this. It is their prerogative. If they found a better book than they should have it."

With the late ordering of books, however, comes a need to purchase new books as opposed to old ones and this may mean higher prices for students. It is because of high prices that many students do not purchase their own books.

In fact, according to statistics provided by the NACS, 20 percent of all students do not buy the required textbooks.

"Faculty are shocked," Nakonecny said, "but when you talk a little more with the students, they would say that it would help if faculty utilized the textbooks more often by testing them on the class readings or

discussing the readings in class."

Stacer said, "They're adults and they can make this choice, but I think it's a poor decision. Professors teach from them and test from them and to not buy the text is a poor decision," said Stacer.

Some students order their books online. However, Nakonecny says that online book purchasing has gone down recently.

"In 2000 we had 3 percent of students hopping online. That grew to 6 percent in 2001 and last year we had 10 percent of students hopping online for textbooks. But now, we're back down to 6 percent," said Nakonecny.

Kownacki also does not believe that there will be any major problems for the bookstore because of the online market. "I have been selling college textbooks for 14 years. This is just another venue for students to buy books. The Internet is just giving more people more access to more titles. If there was no Internet, they would find [books] on their own somehow" said Kownacki.

Many students, however, find that it is difficult to go hunting online for textbooks. Amol Shah, a first-year chemical engineering major, spent nearly \$300 on four textbooks this semester.

"I just don't have the time to look online after school starts. I'm very lazy, so I cannot order them online," said Shah.

Saad Alam, a first-year student, was also hesitant about ordering books online, but for different reasons.

"I just don't use the Internet to buy anything. I don't see it as reliable enough," said Alam. "There are too many things that can go wrong such as an incorrect mailing address, credit card numbers getting out, or the books coming in too late."

Whatever the reason is for students not getting their textbooks at a reasonable price, Nakonecny feels that it is a problem and will stunt the growth of college students' educations. "I think that education is the biggest component here. We've got to get these books on the shelves and we want to do it at the best possible cost of the students."

"And our industry needs to do a better job of telling the faculty why it's important to do these book adoptions accurately."

JEANNIE CHOI

Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto looks back at decades of turmoil

She emerged from the right side of the Heinz Hall stage on Feb. 26 wearing a white head scarf that set off the red and gold in her modernly traditional Pakistani suit, striding to the podium in two-inch red pumps with her shoulders held back.

Benazir Bhutto is a Muslim woman who was addressing an audience that politics may have made wary of the Muslim world. She is also a woman who has been elected and overthrown twice as prime minister of Pakistan since first winning election in 1988.

Her headscarf kept slipping off her hair and onto her shoulders after she walked onto the stage. Twice it fell and she casually put it back on her head. The third time she let it rest on her shoulders, and it remained there the rest of the lecture. It was almost a privilege to see this Muslim woman's hair uncovered, as if the lecture was an intimate talk in the privacy of her own home. She began her lecture by addressing Americans new fear of most terrorism.

"The world is a very different place from what we dreamed of when the Berlin Wall fell," said Bhutto, a Harvard grad who was admitted at the age of 15. "War against international terrorism continues to reverberate throughout the world."

Bhutto said that acts of terror go against Islam. "They are not clerics, they are criminals," she said, "Our religion is not what these people preach." Islam, she said, is "committed to the principles of democracy."

She told how Islam is more a sibling to Judeo-Christian faith than an enemy, listing the many similarities between Islam and the other monotheistic faiths. Adam and Eve, Moses, Jesus and Abraham were all recog-

In Pakistan, she said, the Taliban blew up school buses and killed businessmen. Bhutto closed their universities and restored law and order. "In our government, we had the terrorists on the run," she said.

nized in the Quran. Bhutto did not however detail the differences in their roles: Jesus, for example, is a prophet in Islam, but the Son of God for Christians. She focused instead on what they held in common. She spoke of the refuge that Jews gave Muhammad after his flight from Mecca, not the later wars between Muslims and Jews and expulsion of Jews from Arabia.

Bhutto made it clear that under her party, Pakistan was a nation striving for modernity and friendly relations with the West. She spoke of the common bond in being victims of terrorism. "The reality of suicide bombings streak my homeland of Pakistan," she said. The military government that overthrew her party twice keeps her husband in prison and her family in exile.

Her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was the Prime Minister of Pakistan from 1973 to 1977 before being overthrown in a coup by the military government of General Zia-ul-Haq that executed him in 1979. Bhutto told the story that when her father was Prime Minister he introduced her to Henry Kissinger saying, "This is my daughter. She is a fighter."

Bhutto did not dwell on her personal story. It was not until the questions from the audience that she described the state of her life. Even then, she was reserved, almost martyr-like in the details she spared. Her husband has been in and out of prison since 1996. He has been freed 20 times and arrested 21. She has been told he can go free if she promises to not involve herself with politics. But she refuses, for she said that would mean choosing her personal happiness over that of her country. She rarely sees her children because she feels it is her duty to travel throughout the world and tell of the state of Pakistan.

She did not sugarcoat the fact that she was searching for U.S. support, so she focused on democracy and terrorism.

Bhutto said that under her government terrorism did not flourish in Pakistan as it has under the current military rule. When she was in power, she said, the Taliban was exiled and democracy was embraced. After her exile, Osama bin Laden was able to recruit and establish training camps that would within two years yield the destruction of the World Trade Center.

In Pakistan, she said, the Taliban blew up school buses and killed businessmen. Bhutto closed their universities and restored law and order. She said, "In our government, we had the terrorists on the run."

Bhutto said that her democratic ideology weakened the Taliban's hold on Pakistan and served as a buffer between terrorist ideologies in the rest of Asia. Under her government, Bhutto said, Pakistan was on the road to westernization.

She described her government's modernizing accomplishments. In a country that in 1988 had a 20-year wait for telephone connections and 30-hour power outages, she introduced fiber optics and fax machines to government buildings. She encouraged global trade that made Pakistan into one of the top 10 emerging capital markets. She was able to generate jobs and revenue for the government, eradicate polio and greatly reduce infant mortality. Literacy shot up by a third, and 100,000 teachers were recruited, 70 percent of which were female. Bhutto also established banks for females. Her government brought down the population growth rate by providing woman-to-woman education on contraception. A female police force and the first female judges appeared under her party's rule. Pakistan received a gold medal from the World Health Organization while her government was in power.

Bhutto addressed America's current support for Pakistan's military government under Pervez Musharraf, an ally in the war on terrorism, saying "When America turns against democracy, it turns against itself."

ELIZABETH WEISS

“Enigmatic” Russian space program intrigues author

Seeing his book in print for the first time, Asif Siddiqi's words were “Dude, this rocks.”

Siddiqi, a graduate student in the department of History at Carnegie Mellon, has published “Challenge to Apollo: The Soviet Union and the Space Race, 1945-1974,” which established him as the international authority on the history of the Soviet space program.

Siddiqi, known to some of his friends simply as “Joy,” came from Bangladesh to study in the U.S. in 1986. He obtained a B.S. in electrical engineering from Texas A&M University, and an MBA from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Siddiqi started a Ph.D. in economics at Rice University in Houston, but was unhappy with the program and later dropped out.

Siddiqi's 1011-page book was first published by the NASA History office and is available online at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/index.html>, or as a two-volume, paperback set from University of Florida Press.

The book addresses how a handful of space flight visionaries in Russia managed to overcome system-wide problems in their country to achieve significant success in the early days of the space race marked by the launch of Sputnik in 1957. The book follows with the story of Yuri Gagarin, in 1961 the first man in space, and then describes how the Soviets competed with America and lost the race to the moon in the 1960s.

Siddiqi explained that his fascination for space travel began while he was growing up in Bangladesh. He lived close to a Russian Cultural Center whose staff handed out free literature to local children. Most of it was propaganda, but some described manned space travel.

As a child Siddiqi was excited about the American Apollo space projects, but later he became more intrigued by Russian space projects because information about them was so sparse, making them “more enigmatic and mysterious.”

After Mikhail Gorbachev came to power, the Soviet government loosened its censor-



Siddiqi first learned of the Soviet space program as a boy in Bangladesh

ship on details of Russian history, including its extravagant moon program, which was hidden from the West for 20 years.

Siddiqi said, “This was a fascinating time to be interested in the topic since almost every month there would be some new, dramatic revelation that changed everything we knew about a particular incident.” In 1991 Siddiqi started to summarize information from newspapers and magazines about the Soviets failed moon program, “just for fun.”

About a year after his summary was complete, Siddiqi had dropped out of his Ph.D. program and was working as a technician at a computer store, which he hated.

He started to expand his notes into chapters in his spare time, and had a first draft in 1994, which a friend persuaded him to send to a publisher.

Following several rejections, Siddiqi finally signed a contract with NASA in the

summer of 1995, to publish his book.

Researching for the book was, according to Siddiqi, “hard work, but engrossing. I was lost in my own little world of cosmonauts, comrades and the Cold War.”

Whenever Siddiqi read articles about the Russian space program he traced their contents back to the original source. The majority of sources were in Russian and untranslated. Undeterred, Siddiqi taught himself Russian.

“Challenge to Apollo” was published in 2000. He attended a book signing in the Johnson Space Center in Houston, which he describes as “a lot of fun.” They made a cake that looked like the cover of his book.

Siddiqi also attended a book signing in North South University, in his hometown, Dhaka, last April. The best moment in the experience of writing the book, he says, was hearing his mother speak publicly about the value of education and her pride in his work.

Siddiqi is now a recognized authority on the history of Soviet space travel and has given many interviews to the Discovery and Learning channels, and to the BBC, NPR and the Canadian Broadcasting Network.

Siddiqi came to CMU to study for a Ph.D. in history in 1998. He chose CMU because he wanted to work with professors David Hounshell (his advisor) and Wendy Goldman.

Hounshell described Siddiqi as “an extraordinary young man” who has been “an important part of the Cold War science and technology research and training program that he runs in the History department.”

Siddiqi values his time at Carnegie Mellon, where he says he has learned that “It takes a discerning eye to write good history, and that the best pizza in Pittsburgh is at the Sharp Edge (East Liberty).”

Asked his predictions for the future of Russian Space exploration, Siddiqi explained that although their space program bottomed out in the 1990s because of poor economics, it is currently trying to regroup.

The Russian economy is slowly becoming more capitalist, and they have managed to sell some of their technology to the West, including the Russian rocket engines that were used by the U.S. in the Atlas rocket. With many Russian engineers leaving for better prospects in other fields, and a still chaotic infrastructure, Siddiqi thinks that the Russian space program is unlikely to become competitive again.

The subject of Siddiqi's dissertation is the history of Soviet rocketry and its significance in the modernization of Russia. He expects to finish his Ph.D. next year and then teach.

He is also an aficionado of American jazz and an expert on the history of rock 'n' roll; last year he was a teaching assistant in a history class in the subject for Scott Sandage.

Siddiqi's advice for anyone who is trying to write a book — “Don't give up until you're finished.”

KATHERINE ROBERTSON-SMITH

Visitor Center cafe a new refuge in Schenley Park

The new presence in the neighborhood is the Schenley Park Visitor Center, across the street from Phipps Conservatory at the campus end of the Panther Hollow Bridge.

The building reopened to the public last June after sitting closed from disrepair for more than 10 years. While seemingly located in the middle of nowhere, it is actually a convenient cut right across Flagstaff.

The Visitor Center operates as a cafe on a daily basis, serving coffee and pastries at average prices from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The main weekday clientele is mostly Carnegie Mellon faculty and staff, with the weekends bringing in greater numbers from Phipps. The center also features a small gift selection of children's nature books, books and videos about Pittsburgh, and nature-oriented artwork from locals.

The center has been neatly renovated while still incorporating a nature center motif with finished pine walls, an open-beamed ceiling and chairs made of molded metal leaves. The center has tables to seat about 30 people.

These are usually either vacant or nearly so, and with the quiet classical music the center could represent an ideal space to get away from campus and still get some work done.

Barry Kimes, a junior, paused from doing just that to observe, “I've been in here two or three times to study, but the parking kind of sucks. When it's warm and you can just walk here, it's cool.”

The staff encourages anyone to come in and study, and there is no limit on how long you can use a table. Some times are less convenient and quiet than others.

“It is a cafe, but it's also a visitor center,” said employee Nicole English, citing the worst time to come in as noon on Tuesdays because of the weekly lunchtime lecture series called “Lectures with a View.”



Photo: Brian Connelly

The Schenley Visitor Center is open until 5 p.m. for late afternoon coffee

The series is the center's biggest event right now, covering topics of ecology, art, outdoor adventure, and Pittsburgh history. Mayor Tom Murphy, among others, is on the schedule of April speakers. For a full list, go to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy website www.pittsburghparks.org.

The website has all current news on events at the center, and can even be accessed at the center's information kiosk. Along with the lectures there are Sunday docent tours at 1 p.m. that could be promoted as a way for new students to become more familiar with the immediate park area as well as children's

events on national holidays.

Rentals for rental for private parties and non-profit meetings are available, and the center even hosts live bands (although infrequently) with concerts open to the public for a \$10 cover charge and a BYOB alcohol policy.

In the summer the center obviously has a lot more to offer. The hours then are extended from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day but Sunday, when it's open until 9 for the movie crowd at Flagstaff.

The center offers clean restrooms to anybody out on the trails, and also organizes different walks and runs throughout the season. The balcony that runs the length of the back of the building becomes another good study spot in the warmer weather if you're not distracted by the increase in activity and offers a great view over the creek, which gave birth to the “Lectures with a View” title.

Overall, the staff desires that the center would be considered more often as an alternative to places like the University Center or Kiva Han by members of the university community to write or check papers and grab a cup of joe.

“We definitely would like to see bigger crowds here, especially during the winter when everything else we do slows down,” said employee Beth Folger.

More business would provide greater revenue and would likely lead to an increase in planned nature events and possibly the addition of more activities like the live bands. Just take a hike across the hill and check it out, or head to the parks' website www.pittsburghparks.org for more information.

ALYSON POPE

While campus sleeps, they toil on the graveyard shift

While most people are snug in their beds, Carnegie Mellon's University Center is alive with activity as the cleaning crew vacuum, mop and scrub the floors to erase muddy footprints, discarded snacks and other signs of the chaotic day.

The cleaners are contracted laborers who work for Central Property Services. Carnegie Mellon gives the cleaning orders to the CPS office at 429 Fourth Ave. Downtown, and CPS relays the orders to the cleaners. Some of the UC cleaners have permanent assignments, like the locker rooms or the second floor, and others do special temporary projects that put them in a specific building with a specific task.

Cleaning the UC is a "24 hour, 7 day operation" said UC manager Tom Eonner. There are three shifts around the clock, starting at 7 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m.

During the graveyard shift, the atmosphere in the UC shifts to settled and laid-back. Radios play and some voices sing along as the cleaners vacuum and mop and polish and scrub. They seem intent on their work, but they make jokes to pass the time. Eonner picks up one of the orange cones that cleaner Mark Stasko is using to block off his cleaning area and playfully transforms it into a megaphone to get Stasko's attention over the noise of his auto scrubber. The auto scrubber is heavy, metal, maroon and has a round bottom with bristles growing out of it.

The Original Hot Dog Shop closes at 2 a.m. and the clean-up lasts until around 4. Radio station WRRK blares from the "O" speakers. Two kids sit in the big black leather chairs and download techno music, while another eats his Wendy's burger by himself. Upstairs outside the open bathroom door there is a huge gray container filled with cleaning supplies and a yellow central vacuum. A remix of "Lean On Me" is blasting from an unseen radio.

Six guys come out of the "O" long after closing time, traipsing over Mark Stasko's polishing job and nearly stepping on the cord he is pulling toward an outlet. The students act as if the cleaners are invisible.

Cleaner Ray Ross is bothered by the disrespect of the students. There is a group of kids who play cards in the back of the "O" and he repeatedly asks them to please throw away their stuff when they're done, but they never do. The garbage can is only a few feet away, but they still can't be bothered. "It's just childish," Ross said. He is in charge of cleaning the dining rooms at the "O," along with maintaining the rest of the first floor.

Ross has gotten used to working the grave-



Mark Stasko works overtime sanding the floor tiles in the UC Photo: Sylvia Mosser

yard shift, which he says turns everything backwards. He is not a morning person, so the schedule works out well for him. He lives with his girlfriend of a year and a half, and he has a 24-year-old daughter.

When asked about his cleaning job, he said, "I'm not wanting for anything but it's not peaches and cream, either, you know what I mean?" Ross says he would want "just to be comfortable, I guess what you call the American dream."

Mark Stasko has been working at CMU for 18 years. Stasko works on special projects. This night is sanding down the terrazzo tile floor in the UC. Each section has to be sanded down seven times with the hunkering auto scrubber. "Hopefully it'll be done by April first, but I doubt it," he said.

The project is designed to even out the floor, which will make it "shinier and easier for maintenance." The shiny floor has something to do with Carnival and graduation guests. Stasko has been working overtime lately to get the floor done, but he normally works 40 hours a week. Little does the day crowd realize how much work has gone into those tiles that they walk across every day.

Stasko has an 18-year-old daughter and 16-year-old twin sons. When he gets home from work at 7:45 in the morning his kids are off to school and his wife has already left for work. He wakes up at 2:30 when his kids come home so that he can make supper. He describes himself as a "damn good cook."

His boys play football and basketball and his girl swims, "so most every night there's something to do." Stasko has to think awhile about what his dream job would be. He laughs at the remoteness of it — "Dream job?" — and decides that he would be a gym teacher because he "liked being off three months." On second thought, he would "ride a boat all day on the ocean and get tan."

David Walker also works on special projects. Right now he is shampooing all of the carpets in the UC and has another three buildings to do after that. Walker has been a cleaner at Carnegie Mellon for almost as long as his friend Stasko, who calls him "the best." In June, Walker will have been at the university for 16 years.

He says about his job, "I like, not love." Walker wears hearing aids on both ears and uses a walkie-talkie. Special projects workers use walkie-talkies to communicate with their supervisor, Tim Means, who is in charge of the night shift workers all over campus. Walker gets upset when Means yells through the walkie-talkie, constantly asking, "Where you at Dave, where you at?"

Walker dates off and on and currently lives by himself but would "love to have kids." Walker golfs with his dad and some friends every week, traveling all over the countryside. He can't pick a favorite course because he likes them all, but his favorite place to golf is, of course, Myrtle Beach. If he could do anything he would "be a profes-

sional golfer—that's my dream. I'm dreaming." Walker also likes to go fishing and hunting, and has been doing so since he was 12. Walker gets creative with his interests and makes fishing lures and golf clubs from kits because he likes doing crafts.

Zachary Russell is responsible for cleaning the athletic department in the UC. He cleans the gym, squash courts, basketball court, locker rooms and the pool. He says that his areas are always messy because people use them every day. He thinks the students are "all right" but "they're messy because they don't have to clean it up. That's just kids, though, you know what I mean."

Russell has the radio in the locker room tuned to 106 WAMO every night. His music is blaring like everyone else's and he periodically sings along. The station is hip hop and R&B during the day, but during the graveyard shift they go back to some of the "old jams." Russell seems content to be lost in his music in the empty locker room.

The cleaners come across some strange things after hours in the UC. A few Saturdays ago in the basement, Russell found a student passed-out-drunk with his pants down. The cleaners had to call campus police to come get him, and he heard that the student spent the night in a holding cell. Sometimes the cleaners find kids drunk and passed out and they don't seem to be in bad shape. In those cases, the cleaners may just let the kids sleep it off.

Eonner, the 11-7 shift supervisor, remembers a story he heard from the previous supervisor about a girl who had been living in Skibo Coffeehouse. The cleaners apparently knew she was living in there but they just let her be.

Eonner cleans while he supervises. He can be seen leaning over the second-floor railing wearing yellow rubber gloves, using a red duster with a 3-foot flexible handle to clean the crevices. He thinks that CPS treats him fairly and that he treats the cleaners fairly. "I wouldn't ask them to do anything I wouldn't do," Eonner says, "Cleaners, just like anyone else, will take on the personality of the person who leads them."

The UC cleaners are there every night in their shirts with Central Property Services logos, their carting cans and their radios. One would rather be sailing on the ocean with the sun on his face, another would rather be swinging a club on a Myrtle Beach golf course. They all would like to have been born with silver spoons in their mouths.

SYLVIA MOSSER

"Dustbin of History" exhibit explores hidden life of janitors

If you walk into Miller Gallery's second floor this month, you will walk into a new exhibit a university department called "Jettisoned University Histories Center," or JUnHC: a desk and a receptionist, filing cabinets, leafy office plants and large photographs of empty spaces around campus—a faculty lounge in Wean, the UC racquetball court, a Wean restroom, a Doherty classroom. The photographs were taken late at night, after the student/faculty community had vacated the premises — during the cleaning hours.

A custodian's cart stands in the middle of the office. On top sits an archaic boom box still playing talk radio, as if the janitor who's come to clean the office has stepped away for the moment. You generally don't encounter custodians during the day. Most work at night and never see the university in daylight.

The cart is part of the exhibit. And the sound that's spilling out of the speakers is not conventional radio, it's 100.1WJNK, airing interviews with janitors telling their life stories and thoughts on race and class on campus.

Takahiro Noguchi, the creator of JUnHC, has installed a transmitter on top of Purnell Center to broadcast these interviews. Photographer Jen Morris is Noguchi's collaborator. Noguchi and Morris' piece, "The

Dustbin of History", will reside on the second floor of Miller Gallery through April 25.

The exhibit is part of the MFA Thesis show for third-year grad students in the School of Art. Noguchi is one of five grad students exhibiting his work. Morris is a local artist who also manages photographic facilities at the Margaret Morrison photo lab.

JUnHC, the department Noguchi and Morris have created to house "The Dustbin of History," has an elaborate fictional history. JUnHC, encompasses not only the janitor project, but also old records of Carnegie Mellon environmental practices and ancient, broken pots were been unearthed during campus construction. JUnHC functions like a university trashcan, collecting discarded pieces of the university identity.

According to the story, JUnHC was never given a permanent university location but constantly shuffled from one part of the campus to the next. At one point, the department settled in Highlander cafe while its archives were kept in a drained swimming pool in Skibo.

JUnHC's fictional history actually parallels the real history of what's happened to janitors over the past 20 years. Since 1983, they've been steadily cut out of campus life.

In 1983 janitors, who were employed by the university and therefore receiving university benefits, became employees of the American Building Maintenance Co. CMU hired ABM to manage custodial services to improve maintenance quality and save money. The result was that some janitors started working nights instead of days. The tuition benefits for their kids disappeared. Prospects for job advancement disappeared as well. Janitors no longer received first-rate health care. Since they were no longer technically employees of CMU, they no longer had CMU benefits. Twice since 1983, the contract for custodial services has changed. In 1989, FRM took over, and since 1996 Central Property Services (CPS) has run maintenance.

Before the janitors were subcontracted out, they were full members of the CMU community. Now they aren't even visible — literally. They work at night. Unlike faculty and staff, subcontracted custodians aren't allowed to use the basketball court or the pool or the gym. They aren't allowed to be on campus more than 15 minutes before or after their shift. If found on university premises during the day, they have to provide a valid reason for being here. The campus is now just a place to clean.

One CPS janitor said, "I actually tried to come down here one time to play basketball

and I was told by a student that my (CPS) ID is not a valid CMU ID. If I'm putting in my hours here, I feel I should have the right to use these facilities."

When Noguchi was a first-year grad student, he often worked late at night in his Doherty basement studio. There he befriended Dominic Grossi, a janitor in Doherty B-level, who told him all that had gone on since the subcontracts. Their friendship sparked the project.

"I met Dominic through Brian Grant, who's a year ahead of me in grad school, and Dominic worked on our floor so he'd come into our studio. He told me stories about campus history or stuff about work," Noguchi says. He told "interesting tales about the politics that went on when CPS got the contract from the school."

"The Dustbin of History" was created in response to a general lack of respect for janitors on campus. Although some students are friendly with janitors, more often than not, students aren't quite sure how to treat them. Rather than acknowledge their presence, students often act as if janitors are invisible. As a result, many janitors have become standoffish or mistrustful of students. The gulf of communication widens.

To get a sense of how janitors and students felt about one another, Noguchi polled

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A paper trail in the rubbish: The unforeseen hazards

continued from page one

are used to track purchasing patterns and compile marketing data. The personal information I shared to get the card is now associated not only with the fact that I like orange juice but with information about where I was this morning. Right now, my supermarket maintains a policy of not sharing the data with anyone else — but I have no way of knowing how secure their databases are, if they will change their policy tomorrow, or what will happen to the information if the company someday is the subject of a merger, sale or liquidation.

I paid for my purchases by quickly handing the clerk my debit card and then scribbling my name on a receipt.

Identity thieves and credit-card scammers sometimes pay cashiers and servers to use a device called a “wedge” to copy information from credit cards. It is more common in restaurants than in stores, but I wasn’t really watching what she did with my card.

On my way to the bus stop, I dashed into the bank and filled out a generic deposit slip because my checkbook wasn’t handy.

“Social security number?” the teller asked.

I rattled it off, he wrote it down and I was out the door in 60 seconds with a crumpled receipt in my pocket.

Now the teller has my social security number and my account number written on a piece of scrap paper behind the window. Maybe he is planning to quit his job tomorrow and will take the scrap of paper with him, or maybe he will toss it in the trash can for someone to find later.

It’s only 10:30 a.m. How many times have I compromised my data privacy today? Without doing anything particularly unusual or careless, I have left bits and pieces of personal information unguarded everywhere I went. Each of these unconscious “security lapses” represents an opportunity for someone to begin doing serious harm to my bank account, my credit rating, my job security, my (lack of a) criminal record and my identity as a member of society.

Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the country. It goes beyond simply running up charges on stolen credit cards or hacking into e-mail accounts. It happens when someone systematically acquires pieces of your personal information and pieces them together to create an alternate version of your identity that — unknown to you — may be used to rent apartments, take out loans, open new credit card accounts, apply for Social Security benefits, buy plane tickets or take the blame for crimes you’ve never even heard of, much less committed.

Identity theft made Pittsburgh headlines in February when federal authorities arrested or indicted 50 people as part of an identity-theft ring that involved forging checks and stealing credit card numbers from local restaurant patrons. It made national headlines when a hacker stole the names, social security numbers (SSNs) and e-mail addresses of 55,000 employees, students and alumni from a University of Texas database in March. It made international headlines late last year when a team of mathematicians and computer scientists in India developed an encryption-related algorithm thought to be impossible, thereby raising questions about the future of information security and data privacy.

Identity thieves often begin their process by collecting small, often overlooked pieces of paper: duplicate credit card receipts, bank deposit slips or those pre-approved credit-card applications that arrive unsolicited in the mail. Some like to lift utility payments from mailboxes because they include not only account numbers, addresses and phone numbers, but also often contain checks that can be washed clean by chemicals from the hardware store and used to acquire new bank accounts or open the post office box or mobile phone that will serve as the “home base” for your new identity.

“There’s a lot of information on those little pieces of paper,” said Ron Pudlowski, crime prevention officer with the Carnegie Mellon police.



Carnegie Mellon operates the Laboratory for International Data Privacy (LIDAP), directed by Latanya Sweeney, assistant professor of computer science, technology and policy.

Brad Malin, of the LIDAP staff, explained that thieves simply don’t need to hack into databases to gather information when so many people either leave their private data unguarded or willingly respond to requests for personal information.

Malin described a recent scam in which individuals received e-mail inviting them to register on a webpage resembling a well-known Internet commerce site. The webpage prompted the user to enter his or her name, address, phone number, date of birth and — because it was supposed to be commerce site — credit card number. Someone at the other end collected personal data from individuals who thought they were registering or updating their accounts. Similar scams have collected data through e-mails and realistic websites purporting to represent major banks and credit cards companies.

Frank W. Abagnale, a self-proclaimed

loose mail laying around. It’s just laying there where anyone could pick it up — even applications for credit cards.”

Protecting your identity and maintaining data privacy requires a level of vigilance that can seem difficult for many who are already busy and stressed by the demands of their daily life, explained LIDAP director Latanya Sweeney. “People don’t always feel they have time to worry about being vigilant,” she explained. “They’re worried about getting to work and getting dinner on the table.”

So what can you do, in the middle of your already busy schedule, to protect your wallet, your reputation, your privacy and your identity?

“Without a doubt, the most effective tool is to be watchful of your own credit information,” said postal inspector Andrew Richards, supervisor of the financial crimes task force. The postal inspection service is the law enforcement branch of the U.S. Post Office; because identity theft can involve mail fraud and transactions across state lines, federal postal inspectors are often responsible for

Data security contact information

Credit bureaus:

Equifax, www.equifax.com

1-800-685-1111 to order a credit report
1-800-525-6285 to report fraud

Experia, www.experian.com

1-888-EXPERIAN to order a credit report or to report fraud

TransUnion, www.tuc.com

1-800-916-8800 to order a credit report
1-800-680-7289 to report fraud

University police

412-268-6232

Federal Trade Commission

1-877-FTC-HELP

Social Security Administration Fraud Hotline

Oig.hotline@ssa.gov
1-800-269-0271

reformed thief and author of the memoir “Catch Me If You Can,” wrote in January for Bankrate.com that these days, “Only amateurs hack into computers. Pros hack into people.” Most identity theft cases begin not with high tech espionage but with basic carelessness and broad public misunderstanding of just how dangerous that carelessness can be.

Many who closely monitor their e-mail security may not be aware of how vulnerable they make themselves by overlooking the security of their old-fashioned paper mail. Pudlowski points out that mail theft is a common starting point for identity thieves. “In my work on campus, in dorms, offices, fraternity houses,” he said, “I see too much

tracking and prosecuting thieves.

“You can never totally eliminate the risk,” Richards said. “All the suggestions we have are efforts to minimize exposure. That leaves one option: check your credit report.”

Pudlowski, who calls the \$35 personal shredder “the best invention in personal security,” emphasizes that avoiding identity theft can be a matter of destroying your own paper trail. He recommends that you retain all records of financial transactions and shred receipts and applications you have no reason to keep. “Don’t just tear them in half once and throw them away,” he said. “Somebody who wants to steal your identity just has to tape the thing back together to get your personal information and open an ac-

count with your name on it.”

Elaine Newton of LIDAP has developed a method to protect our privacy by de-identifying faces images which could be used on video surveillance footage. She explains that most organizations and institutions that ask for a social security number — including CMU — don’t actually need or require it, and may not be entitled to it.

“I ask many institutions that request an SSN for another option,” she said. “I ask them not to use my driver’s license number because that would recreate another identifier to track my records across different applications or uses of it. Many places, such as state DMVs, do have another option, but you do usually have to ask or look for the fine print in those instances. Hospitals are a good example of this because in the past they’ve insisted on getting your SSN when admitted, but there is no reason why your health records can not be assigned a number separate from your SSN. In fact, some employers assign their employees nine-digit numbers instead of giving the insurance companies their employees’ SSNs.”

Because SSNs were originally instituted to help the government keep track of what money you earn and what social security benefits you receive, they can be required by some government agencies (such as welfare departments) and by organizations dealing with taxes (such as employers and financial institutions). No other group can force you to use or divulge your SSN. Most will accept a different identification number, but some will refuse to do business with you.

Benjamin Vernot of LIDAP explained that protecting your identity and data privacy can sometimes be a matter of making inconvenient choices. Setting your web browser to a higher level of security or choosing to click “cancel” instead of “OK” when a dialog box announces that your data will be sent over an insecure server can mean that you won’t get to see all the websites you’d like to see or make all the transactions you’d like to make.

He recalls that he tried to set up an account online to pay some utility bills, but “was disturbed by the information they wanted. The parts that bothered me were the need for my date of birth, Social Security number, and checking account number and routing number,” he said. “None of those pieces of information are necessary if I want to pay my bill with a credit card, and if their database was ever compromised those pieces of information could cause me irreparable harm.”

Sweeney explained that one of the biggest data privacy problems our society faces is the dichotomy that forces consumers to choose between giving up privacy and giving up access to services.

“Right now, it’s really black and white,” she said. “The choice people are presented with is ‘give us your data or get out,’ which is really not much of a choice. We’re working to create more gray areas.” LIDAP focuses on creating systems that make data (from large marketing or government databases, for example) anonymous enough to protect privacy but specific enough to be useful to those with legitimate needs for such information.

The campus police and federal postal inspectors, for their part, are working to educate the community about the threats posed by identity theft. Pudlowski teaches seminars to any interested group on campus (e-mail ron@andrew.cmu.edu for more information) and Richards provides a speakers bureau for groups in the community interested in learning more about how to prevent identity theft (call 412-359-7900 or e-mail africhards@uspis.gov).

So what about my morning of privacy-compromising activities? Did anyone gain access to my identity? I don’t know. But I’ve ordered credit reports, changed my e-mail passwords, resolved to stop leaving mail on my porch, and started scanning the Sunday newspaper inserts — for a shredder.

TARA KENNON

Safety hazards at Spring Carnival drawing concern

continued from page one

biggest concern the brothers had was the disqualification of their booth and the wasted "weeks of hard work by many brothers."

Robert Anderegg, an FMS fire safety specialist, is responsible for trying to prevent accidents like this in the future. He coordinates the process of reviewing each organization's booth plans. He says, "We're always trying to initiate improvement." That's why some faculty members from architecture and civil engineering help by giving the booths an additional structural review. Even after the organization receives approval, the booth is still subject to a site review to assure its safety.

These structural reviews are helpful. Anderegg says, "What I've seen over time has been very encouraging. Different groups have started out needing a lot of guidance and help, but they are getting better."

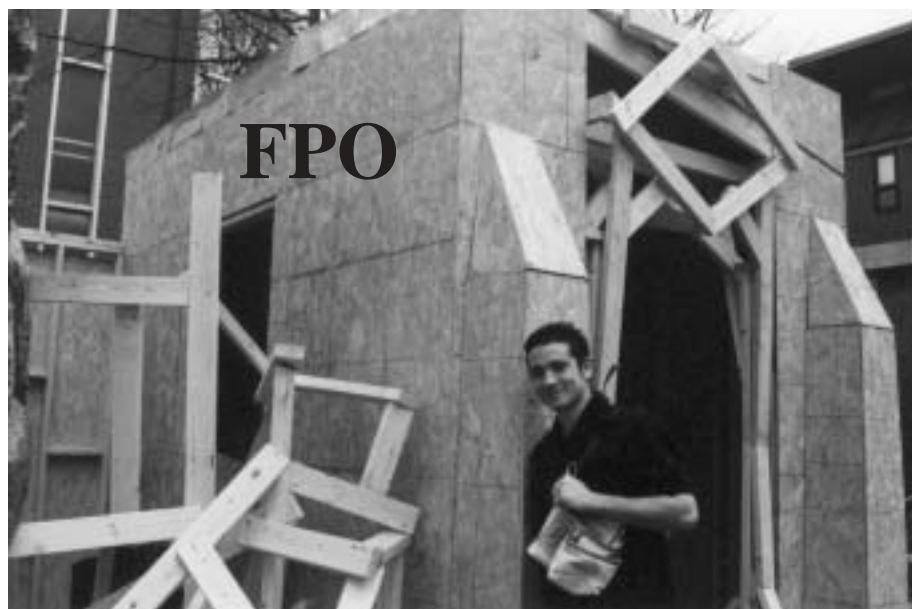
Everyone has seen the "hard hat area" signs at construction sites. The Midway is a construction site, yet hard hats are not mandatory. Bump caps are made of plastic and are designed to protect the wearer from bumping the head on objects. They will not protect the wearer from falling objects. The official Contract of Agreement, which contains all of the rules, regulations and information that organizations participating in booth must sign, contains a few sentences about bump caps. The contract states, "Bumps caps are available from the Spring Carnival Committee in limited quantities. Caps will be available for sign-out. Any additional caps beyond this amount will need to be provided by the organization. Caps should be returned within two hours of signing out."

Few people, however, bother to wear the bump caps.

Denise Fazio, coordinator of student activities, advises Spring Carnival and oversees the activities on the Midway. She says that most accidents are the result of the injured person's neglect and that it is no one's fault that accidents occur. She says the hard hat issue is a definite discussion piece for the Spring Carnival Committee, each organization's booth chairmen and the university risk manager. While the hats would obviously protect students from direct impact, she says it is possible that electrical wiring, for example, could still get into a student's face if he or she were wearing a hard hat because peripheral vision is limited when wearing a cap.

Anderegg says that he encourages everyone to wear bump caps and safety glasses, neither of which is required on the Midway. According to Anderegg, the bump caps Spring Carnival already possesses were originally a gift from FMS. He also says it is rare to see members of an organization wear them but sometimes it happens.

The booths themselves may be either one-story or two-story structures, usually made from wood and held together by screws and nails. The booths are painted and decorated to coincide with the Spring Carnival theme. Each booth houses a game for visitors to play. On a busy day during Carnival, there are a handful of people in each booth. Some booths have games which limit the number of people permitted inside the booth at any one time, but other organizations do not have these limitations. To make the



Phi Kappa Theta's Dante Romanini with the 2003 booth under construction

actual booths fire-safe, all structures must be built of non-combustible materials, or they must be treated with an approved flame retardant. Additionally, a fire extinguisher must be on site before an organization is given a power supply. Nearly all of the booths have an entrance and an exit, which allows a second escape route should it become necessary.

As it stands, Fazio says, there are many safety considerations already in place. The Contract of Agreement itself is 12 pages long. In the past five years, a rule was added requiring that all organizations "must supply a representative" for training sessions that cover building, electrical, power tool and fire safety training. It is then this designated representative's responsibility to bring this knowledge back to every single member of his or her organization.

Anderegg runs these sessions. His philosophy is "the more the merrier." He would like to see more members of every organization come out to the training sessions, but he understands that "academic schedules often make it difficult."

Fazio says it would be too difficult to regulate a mandatory training session for every member of every organization. The problem is that there are many members of organizations who do not get involved in the booth building process, so it would be hard to impose sanctions against the group because a few members did not attend train-

ing. The other issue is scheduling. The number of sessions would be overwhelming if every member of every organization were required to attend. According to Fazio, the best option is the current one, and she believes most organizations' representatives are doing the job well.

Fazio acknowledges that there have been injuries on the Midway, but adds, "It's such a massive weekend for us. Unless it's a serious injury, we don't follow up on it."

A sorority woman who is still at the university declined to discuss an incident last year when a hammer fell from the top of a ladder and struck her near the eye. The Tartan's Crime and Incident report covered the incident, but Fazio has no memory of it.

Also last year, Jessica Tidd, a freshman at the time, was injured when a 1-by-12 board hit her on the head. She acknowledges reaching a settlement with Carnegie Mellon, and for that reason, she can't talk about the specifics of her case. Fazio says she has no knowledge or recollection of this incident.

Teardown is the Sunday of Spring Carnival when the organizations must clear the Morewood parking lot of any evidence of the weekend scene. Organizations face a \$150 fine for not getting their booths off the parking lot and a \$15 per day fine for not having the area appropriately cleaned. Because of this threat, organizations are sometimes a little hasty in taking apart the booth.

Anderegg counsels against what he calls

Buggies crash despite strict rules

Rowshan Palmer, coordinator of student development, advises Sweepstakes. She says that everyone involved recognizes the safety concerns in buggy, so Sweepstakes enforces countless rules on the construction of buggies, the equipment drivers must wear and the number of rolls. New rules are routinely added.

Even with these safety considerations, accidents do occur. A driver from Delta Tau Delta was seriously injured in 1971 when his buggy crashed into a tree behind Baker Hall near Hunt Library. Described as a junior in news accounts, the student graduated three years later.

Last year crashes and spinouts occurred in the turn from Schenley Drive onto Frew Street, known as the chute.

One buggy jumped the curb right after the chute. Another flipped and skidded on its side. Several buggies have spun around attempting to navigate the chute. Tires pop, axles break, wheels fall off.

Anderegg is also involved with some of the safety checks on buggy. The weekend before the races, and over Carnival weekend, each organization rents a U-Haul truck. Inside the truck, the mechanics prepare the buggies for racing. Anderegg helps inspect the interiors of these trucks. Many years ago, there was a serious fire in one of the prep vehicles. The inspection consists of a visual check as well as making sure each vehicle has a fire extinguisher.

ANNE DOLLARD

Rape Aggression Defense classes teach how not to be a victim

It is dark outside. You clutch your car keys as you walk across a desolate parking lot. You feel nervous. Do you know who may be in the shadows behind you? Are you prepared to handle them? If not, you can take a class.

Every semester the Carnegie Mellon University Police Department offers self defense classes for female students, faculty and staff called Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Systems, a hands-on defense class. R.A.D. teaches women how to defend themselves against various types of assault by learning simple procedures.

The program attracted 300 students to a session a year ago, following several inci-

dents of sexual assault on campus. This year, however, attendance dwindled to single digits for each session.

Taught all over the country at universities and colleges, this program has proven to be an effective way for women to learn how to protect themselves. The R.A.D. website currently claims that one out of every four college-age women is a victim of rape and that, from 1973-1987, 71 percent of 2.3 million women who reported sexual assaults in the United States avoided being raped by taking self-protective measures, according to the R.A.D. website.

Officers Joseph Bernarding, Leon D. Mickens III and James Daggett teach par-

ticipants effective defense and martial arts tactics, along with Janice Metz, a former CMU security guard. The maneuvers are simple and effective. The concept behind this program is to show women that physical defense is essential to enhancing their natural resistance. Learning some simple moves could vastly improve your chance of getting away from an assaulter.

The R.A.D. class takes 12 hours to complete. The first part consists of a lecture on scenarios like walking through an empty parking lot or standing at an automatic teller and ways to get out of those sticky situations.

"Kicks to the groin, quick jabs to the neck,

the flying hammers. This happens when several people are trying to pull nails out with hammers. Instead, he encourages the use of pry bars, which allow the pieces to come apart nicely.

Anderegg believes that because some people party a little too much on Saturday night and because it almost always rains during teardown, the day may pose a safety concern. Anderegg says there are "always [some students] dissatisfied because of the awards and they're short on patience." This is where modular construction comes in to play. Organizations are encouraged to build the booth in pieces so it will come apart quickly and be easier to recycle.

Fazio says that to her knowledge there are no intoxicated people doing teardown, although she has seen her share of tired and groggy students. However, she emphasizes that there are still safety checks in place and organizations can be fined even for actions during teardown.

Adding to the safety concerns are the people who are not actively involved in booth and buggy. Fazio says there is a hazard due to "outside components like community members who drop kids off at 8 and pick them up at 11."

The many alcohol-related incidents add to the overall perception of Carnival weekend. Many students see the weekend as a time to party non-stop and enjoy the events like buggy, the Midway and the performances. However, the fact that a sizable number of alcohol-related encounters with CMU EMS or Campus Police come about is not the responsibility of Sweepstakes or Spring Carnival. As always, it is the individual student's decision to drink, but it just so happens that because of the reputation of the weekend and the party atmosphere, more incidents occur on this weekend than most.

Despite these issues, a generally favorable impression of Carnival stays with those participating students. Fazio says that overall Spring Carnival is "wonderful event to have on campus. It is so successful and benefits a large number of students." Rowshan Palmer, coordinator of Student Development, echoes her sentiments saying that many of the students she works with show great interest and dedication to making sure everything goes off without a hitch.

Most students involved believe in the merits of booth and buggy. Daniel Ghesquiere, a fraternity member, spoke of what the opportunity to build a booth has done for his house. "I think booth is a really positive experience for the house because it helps bring people closer together. It's a really rewarding experience." Another person working on the nearby booth yells, "healthy competition," and Ghesquiere adds, "Yeah, booth is both fun and stressful at the same time and it gives us a chance to have some healthy competition between houses."

Spring Carnival and Sweepstakes are an important part of Carnegie Mellon tradition and the university would suffer greatly if students did not get the opportunity to take part. It is also important though to make sure these traditions are allowed to continue by making them as safe as possible.

ANNE DOLLARD

to the nose, and screaming are all useful tactics to employ when you are facing danger," said Daggett, "The most important thing is to use these moves to get away."

The second part of the class consists of self-defense demonstrations. An instructor wears a padded outfit while another performs the defense moves on him. In the optional third part of the class, the instructor simulates an assault on a participant who tries to resist.

To learn more about R.A.D., visit their website at www.cmu.edu/police/rad.htm or call 412-268-6232 to register for upcoming sessions. You can also organize a group to schedule a special class.

GEOFFREY JARRETT

Gates scholar: “I’m gifted? I thought I was retarded.”

I was having lunch with Scott Kaufman in Newell Simon Hall when he got the news. “[Insert expletive here], I have an e-mail from the Gates Cambridge Scholarship!” Scott gasped, looking at his Palm Pilot.

“[Insert same expletive here], are you serious? Read it!” I urged, as I wrenched my neck to see the screen over his shoulder.

Scott was on his feet. “Oh my God, I can’t. Oh my God. What if I didn’t get it? I can’t do this now, I can’t find out this way.”

“Just read it,” I said, trying to get him to sit and calm down. “You have to find out.”

His hands were shaking and the stylus was rapping against the screen. After about 10 seconds of surveying the room to make sure no one was looking at him, he made me avert my eyes as he finally opened the message. I couldn’t help but look at his face. His eyes widened as he read and reread his fate.

Scott, a fifth-year senior double majoring in psychology and human-computer interaction with a minor in vocal performance, had just become the first Carnegie Mellon student ever to receive a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. In the three years since the one-year scholarship was established, it has joined the company of the Rhodes and Marshall scholarships.

“I got it! I got it!” Scott was jumping up and down now, bouncing around the Atrium, and I was bouncing with him. I couldn’t contain my laughter. “I got the scholarship,” he kept screaming, twirling and hopping. The two of us were turning heads.

Now for the real laugh: Less than 24 hours before this rambunctious display of excitement, Scott had received another momentous e-mail. It was from Robert Sternberg, professor of psychology and education at Yale University, president of the American Psychological Association and Scott’s idol, among other things. It was a friendly, unofficial, advance notice that Scott was one of 15 students accepted to Yale’s five-year Ph.D. program in psychology. The e-mail was signed “Bob.”

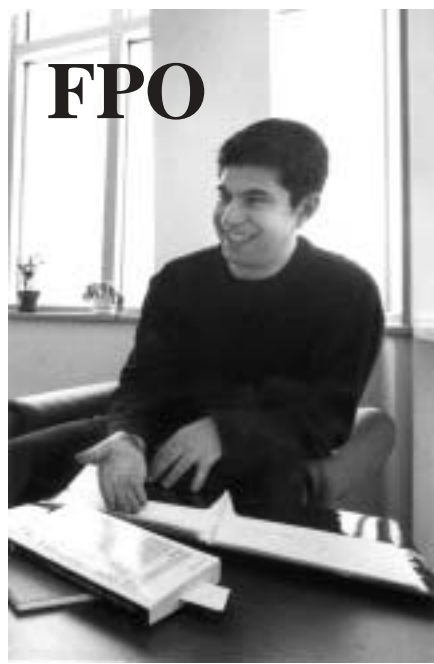
Scott suddenly stopped moving. “Wait a minute,” he said. “What am I gonna do about Yale?”

It’s not every day that a 23-year-old has to choose between his lifelong dream and the opportunity of a lifetime.

Scott came to Carnegie Mellon in the fall of 1998 as a voice major. Not until the spring semester of his sophomore year did he realize he had a different vocation. He was enrolled in adjunct professor Anne Fay’s cognitive psychology course, and had just finished reading the chapter in his textbook on human intelligence.

“I remember when I finished reading the chapter — I was in my Fairfax apartment with my feet up on the coffee table. Nothing had struck my fancy as much as that. Someone was studying what I had been questioning my entire life.

“I wanted to see who wrote the book because I liked the writing style and the way the author was thinking so I opened the front cover and it said ‘Robert J. Sternberg, Yale University.’ I remember saying, ‘I’m gonna go there someday.’”



Scott Kaufman Photo: Ken Andreyo

Let us rewind. As an infant, Scott had several ear infections. Doctors kept putting tubes in his ears, which in turn caused him to have late development of listening skills. In the third grade, his school placed him in a “resource room” for kids who are learning disabled. It wasn’t until the ninth grade that it occurred to him that he didn’t belong there. He asked his parents why he couldn’t be in regular classes, and the fact was they didn’t know.

When he was retested in the ninth grade, his teachers decided that he actually belonged in the “gifted and talented” program. Scott was puzzled: “I’m gifted? I thought I was retarded.” His misdiagnosis, or rather his teachers’ failure to re-evaluate his learning abilities throughout middle school, “made me question the dynamic nature of assessment,” Scott said.

In the spring of his junior year at CMU, with Robert Sternberg in the back of his mind, Scott asked Fay if she would be his advisor for Independent Reading in Psychology, a course in which a student and instructor meet on a regular basis to read and discuss articles and books in a specific area of psychology. Scott was interested in focusing on human intelligence, and Fay introduced him to more works by Sternberg, as well as Howard Gardner at Harvard and Sandra Scarr at the University of Virginia. The reading list was hefty, and kept expanding as Scott tracked down primary resources cited in the articles Fay gave him.

“I couldn’t keep up with him,” Fay said. “Scott had a very strong commitment to pursuing knowledge in intelligence. He wanted to know everything. I don’t think I ever had a student like that before.

“He always asked a million questions. It was so exciting.”

Scott and Fay have a close relationship that “has gone beyond the strictly intellectual,” Fay said. “We talk a lot about professional development, how to set your priorities. He comes to me when he has a problem, or exciting news, or if he has read something or heard a piece on the news that intrigues

him. Five minutes often turns into an hour and a half.”

Also in the spring of his sophomore year, Scott was enrolled in the late Nobel laureate Herb Simon’s course entitled “Cognitive Processes of Problem Solving,” a graduate level course on Simon’s different models of expertise, and about how people make decisions and solve problems. “I formed a really good rapport with him,” Scott said. Before Simon died, he had helped Scott with the conceptual phase for his senior honors thesis on the relationship between musical expertise and intelligence.

Sometime during that semester, Scott worked up the nerve to send off a quick e-mail to Sternberg, asking if he had any summer openings for a research assistant. Sternberg must have forwarded the e-mail to someone else because Scott was granted a phone interview. “When they called me, the main thing that I kept throwing at them is that I worked with Herb Simon.”

Ultimately they were interested, and Scott finally got to meet the man behind the curtain. He spent the summer in Yale’s PACE Center (Psychology of Abilities, Competencies, and Expertise) where he investigated better ways to assess gifted students, working under the tutelage of Sternberg and his postdoctoral student Jonna Kwiatkowski.

The summer left Scott tooling with the idea of going abroad to work with a professor who was studying human intelligence. “I came across the name Nicholas Mackintosh at Cambridge. He happened to be the head of the department of experimental psychology. So I wrote him a long e-mail asking if I could study with him.”

Scott was in Ireland visiting a friend when he got a response from Mackintosh saying, “I think we can work this out.” Scott wrote back to explain that he was in Ireland for a couple weeks and to ask if he could hop over to Cambridge for an in-person interview. Mackintosh agreed.

“I expected this big stuffy pompous man, but he was so nice!” Scott said. Soon after his interview, Scott was accepted as an academic visitor to King’s College at the University of Cambridge for the spring semester of his senior year. He even worked on his senior honors thesis while in England, e-mailing back and forth with Fay, his thesis advisor.

Scott was the first Carnegie Mellon student to study abroad at Cambridge and now he’s the first to receive the Gates Cambridge Scholarship. The scholarship — established in 2000 and endowed with a \$210 million trust by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation — is awarded solely for academic excellence. The Gates panel does not consider students until they have been admitted to Cambridge, whereas admission of Rhodes Scholars to Oxford is arranged after the awards are made.

In its first year, the Gates scholarship received 2,300 applications; this year that number jumped to 20,000 according to www.gatesscholar.org. Scott is one of 42 American students to receive the honor and one of approximately 150 worldwide.

Scott tells a funny story about his interview with the panelists for the Gates Cambridge Scholarship. He was sent to meet them in Annapolis, MD, on Jan. 31, all expenses paid. When he signed in at his hotel, he was handed an envelope with a \$50 bill inside as well as an information packet noting his interview time and location, and a short biography of each panelist.

“I believe the purpose of this was to intimidate me,” said Scott. “The bios were quite impressive. Two out of the three panelists were knighted and were addressed as ‘Sir.’”

The packet also indicated that his interview would last 25 minutes, and he was advised to arrive at least 10 minutes early. After being introduced to the panelists, all seated behind a long table, Scott was instructed to sit in a chair facing them. On his side of the table were an empty glass and an unopened bottle of water. On their side of the table was a gigantic binder entitled “Scott Kaufman.” Scott felt very uncomfortable.

“Immediately the questions started firing in rapid succession,” Scott said. “If I ever went astray from the specific question asked, I was told to answer just the question and to listen.”

He got into a few heated discussions with the panelists as they pushed him to defend his research ideas and his worthiness of the scholarship. At one point he was asked, “Is it true that you can pay for your own education if you don’t get this scholarship?”

Scott said, “I guess so.”

“Well, that is what you checked on your application. I’m just verifying,” the panelist sneered. Only then did Scott realize that they had full access to his application to Cambridge, which he sent in independently of his scholarship application.

“Near the end of the interview [a panelist] had my letter of reference from Anne Fay in front of him and asked me, ‘Your referee seems to think that you will change the world. I think that’s a little dramatic, don’t you?’ I replied by saying that I did in fact think that it was dramatic, and probably surprised them by telling them that I didn’t think one person alone could change the world. I told them that if I was ever in a position to dictate what is intelligent and what tests people should take, then I would quit.”

By the time he left the interview, Scott was sure he would be turned down. “I didn’t adequately represent myself. They wouldn’t let me elaborate on anything, and their reaction to almost everything I said was one of indifference.”

Two weeks later, Scott and I were Mexican jumping beans.

At Cambridge, Scott will enroll in a one-year master’s program in experimental psychology. His tuition will be paid in full, he will live in the Bill Gates House on campus with the other scholars, and he will be given an annual stipend of £9,250, or approximately \$15,000.

WHITNEY HESS

“Dustbin of History” exhibit explores hidden life of janitors

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propr in each group, handing them stamped, addressed postcards so they could reply anonymously. The returned postcards — half of which depicted vacuum cleaners, the other half, custodians — are on display inside JUnHC.

Students wrote that the janitors have good taste in music, that they’re patient, and that one janitor returned a lost item unsolicited. One postcard said, “The janitors keep us civilized. Or do they? Maybe they allow us to become messy savages since they continually clean up after us.”

Four out of five of the returned postcards from janitors suggested that students could be more mindful of them. “I think the students need not be so unsociable with the workers because getting to know one an-

other would make a better working environment,” said one. “I think the students are basically good at heart,” said another. “But they need to learn some manners.”

Noguchi, whose father is a gardener and whose mother works in a cafeteria, has always been aware of how manual laborers are treated. From age 12 to 24, he worked weekends with his father. “I experienced differences in the way people treated me,” he said. “I experienced people who were very kind and treated me with respect as a human being and I experienced people who acted like I couldn’t speak.”

Over the past year, Noguchi has collected interviews with other custodians. These will be played in the installation and broadcast on 100.1WJNK. Noguchi chose radio to disseminate the interviews because he said

janitors generally work with a radio on. Many don’t have Internet access so putting the interviews on a website would exclude the audience he wants to target.

While Noguchi created the fictional department and collected the interviews, Morris provided the visuals. Noguchi met Morris in August at the opening of her Pittsburgh Filmmakers show “Site Specific.” Like the photographs in “The Dustbin of History,” Morris’s photographs in “Site Specific” were of empty places: a vacant stadium, an empty ski jump, a workerless construction site. Noguchi admired the “cool distance” yet “care” he saw in her work and invited her to collaborate on the project.

In the imagery for “Dustbin,” Morris wanted to demonstrate how the university is structured for the presence of students and

teachers — how, even in empty rooms, one feels their presence in the arrangement of desks, chairs, bookshelves and in the lines on a racquetball court.

The campus, she said, “is laid out for students and teachers — I mean the janitors don’t go here, it isn’t laid out for the janitors.” Or, at least, it isn’t shared with them. Not anymore.

The only item in a room that belongs to everyone is a trash can. Janitors, while making their rounds, head straight for each can, tie up the old bag, put in a new one. In this community that janitors used to be able to call their own, now they just pass through, taking out other people’s trash.

Morris was careful to include a trash can in most of her photographs.

AMANDA INNIS

In talk to staff, Cohon addresses university priorities

At our regular March meeting, President Jared Cohon updated Staff Council on Carnegie Mellon's five strategic priorities.

Broadening the educational experience, enhancing interdisciplinary research and teaching, increasing diversity, focusing on the globalization of Carnegie Mellon and contributing to the Pittsburgh community are the five strategic priorities.

Following this update, Cohon answered questions in an open forum.

Have there been significant alumni protests to the friend of the court brief filed on behalf of the University of Michigan?

There have been about 10 negative responses.

What is the suggested percentage raise for the upcoming fiscal year?

I will not release this information. A letter is being sent to all supervisors with this information.

Could Martin Luther King, Jr. Day become a university holiday?

It has been my decision to cancel afternoon classes. I reevaluate this decision each year asking myself "Is it worth the grief we get?" Based on the good attendance this year, I do not plan on changing how this day is handled.

Floating holidays are for such days. We will continue to communicate with supervisors in more effective ways to encourage them to allow their staff to attend.

When the students are not on campus many of the eateries shut down. Are there any plans to bring new eateries (e.g., Subway) to campus or keep the current eateries open year-round?



On the Job

I will look into this. Subway has looked at opening on campus, but the potential for slow times when the students are not around contributed to their decision not to.

I have heard that there are employees in Business Services that do not know to whom they are reporting following the division's reorganization. Could you explain how the reorganization was handled?

I am astounded to hear this. (Cohon asked Barbara Smith, assistant vice president for Human Resources, to assist with this question.)

She said that letters were sent to all supervisors in Business Services and they were to meet with their staff. We chose not to inform the entire campus about the reorganization and I see that this has caused some frustration.

I know staff members who are concerned about their liability when using a Tartan Trust card to make purchases for faculty. How can this be addressed?

(Several audience members explained that there have been no new developments in this area. Staff members who use a Tartan card must be certified in the policies and procedures associated with it.)

Carnegie Mellon faculty receive tuition benefits for their dependents, as soon as they begin employment, but there is a waiting period for staff. Could you explain this?

I intend to consider this soon. (Cohon did say that it is not likely that the financial resources will be available to change this policy.)

Has your visit to Qatar been delayed due to the conflict in the Middle East?

Yes, it has. Provost Mark Kamlet is the only administrator who has been to Qatar.

Will your commitment to the President's

Strategic priorities:
Broadening the educational experience, enhancing interdisciplinary research and teaching, increasing diversity, focusing on the globalization of Carnegie Mellon and contributing to the Pittsburgh community

Homeland Security Advisory Council take you away from Carnegie Mellon frequently while the Middle East conflict is occurring?

I generally go to Washington, D.C. two times per month, one day at a time. I can handle it.

Could a crosswalk or flashing signal be installed at Devon Street near the Alumni House for bus riders who cross Forbes Avenue there daily? Pedestrian safety is also of concern at Forbes Avenue and Hamburg Hall.

I will look into it.

I know staff members who are confused by the emergency evacuation plan that calls for leaving the campus by personal car or PAT bus. Could you explain this?

(Several audience members said that they understood the plan and that each school/division needs to adapt it to its own needs i.e. identifying floor marshals).

If there are parts of the plan that are not clear, please let me know.

When you talked about Carnegie Mellon's strategic priorities, you mentioned that retention of minorities had increased significantly. Is this related to accepting fewer at-risk minority students?

Yes, fewer at-risk minority students have been admitted. The leading reason that students leave Carnegie Mellon is money.

President Cohon's next office hour for staff is 2 to 3 p.m. June 4. To schedule an appointment contact Allison Gale at 412-268-5345 or agale@andrew.cmu.edu

Piano tuning: a matter of the right temperament

continued from page one

the octave from the F below middle C to the F above it. "You spend weeks learning how to establish that first octave," said Longmore.

Longmore uses a tuning fork to begin the process. He doesn't have perfect pitch, but he has developed a stellar sense of relative pitch, the ability to hear intervals. It's actually an asset because sometimes tuners have to accept a different pitch than A440.

Higher keys have three strings on the piano, middle keys have two and bass keys have one. This makes the volume more equal between a long, thick bass string and a short thin high one. But obviously one can only deal with a single string at a time. That's where temperament felt comes in. A tuner has to use this piece of felt to block out doubled or tripled strings while working on the others.

Pianos aren't tuned in just temperament, but equal temperament. This means that the scale is equally divided into 12 half-steps (every white and black key from C to C for instance). As a result, none of the intervals is exactly in tune. But at least this makes all key signatures (the number of sharps or flats) equal. Musicians such as violinists or flutists, however, can control their intonation on the spot and play their intervals more accurately.

On a piano, "C-sharp is the same as D-flat," Longmore explained, describing that in just temperament these tones are the exact same frequency.

What are the issues piano tuners have to contend with? Weather, for one. Or more precisely, humidity. Since this has been a particularly harsh winter, all the buildings have been using more heat, which dries the air and then the piano wood. The heat causes the wood to shrink slightly, which means the tension goes down and the piano sinks in pitch, or becomes flat. If you tune the piano in the winter, you've had to overcompensate for the heat. When you open the windows in the spring — which Longmore said is a good thing to do because it restores humidity to the pianos — they're going to be sharp.

A lower temperature also helps to maintain a piano's tuning. The Frick Art Museum charts its temperature for this very reason. "If you can control atmosphere, you can control the tuning," he said.

With all these issues to deal with, you



Photo: Brian Connelly

Jack Longmore works on a 1924 Steinway donated by Herb Simon's family

might expect an average tuning to take a good part of a tuner's day. But Longmore usually only allocates an hour and a half — and that includes transportation. He can tune your average piano in 45 minutes, which he admits is pretty quickly.

Piano tuning seemed like a monotonous

task to me. Listening from the kitchen or my bedroom I would hear Mr. Tuner bang each note repeatedly until he got it just right.

But for Longmore, it's not about tediousness at all. In an open expression of character, he explained that in a small amount of time he is able to make a huge difference.

Unlike a construction worker, who has to wait for results, he said, he is able to make a pianist's day by working for an hour.

"I enjoy knowing that people are happy when things go well. That's a really rewarding feeling," he said. "I try to serve everyone and be respectful of the talent at this level."

But Longmore recognizes, "You can only do so much — and you'll be wiped out physically." This fact makes his biggest difficulty the puzzle of scheduling, especially since faculty are not always willing to give up their time to have their classroom's piano tuned.

Stabenow spoke of the obstacle he is often faced with: "People are funny about piano tuning — it's the last thing they think about before a concert."

For someone who admits his fast-results profession caters to his impatient personality, he is certainly accommodating. If at all possible, he'll avoid asking students to leave their practice rooms so he can work on those pianos. Practicing music has been ingrained in him since first grade, when he began taking piano lessons from a teacher in the neighborhood, so he knows what it's like to be kicked off the bench.

Longmore has been at CMU for almost 12 years. Two years ago, he retired after 34 years as an organist at the Eighth United Presbyterian Church on the North Side, although he still subs when they need him. He said the pianos in the practice rooms are 10 to 14 years old, with older ones in the studios. In general, the pianos are kept in good condition according to Longmore. He cited one incident in which a total of 21 bass strings were broken in three of the four pianos in Morewood Gardens and Donner Hall, but said that treatment is not normal.

It looks good for all the Steinways in the College of Fine Arts since the "new price of the Steinway is outpacing the depreciation of the piano," according to Longmore.

But for CFA's pianos, which are the object of about 15 hours of heavy playing everyday, the wear and tear will eventually take its toll. Alan Fletcher, dean of the School of Music, is looking to keep pianos a high priority in the future. "We're always looking for donations of excellent pianos," he said.

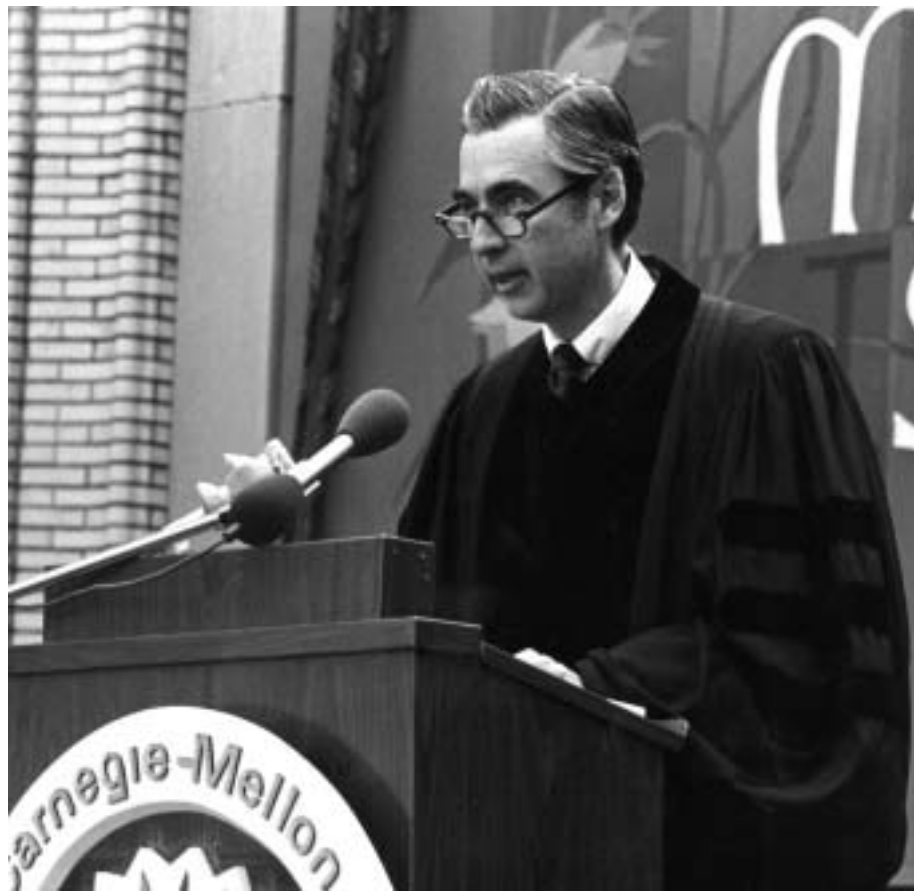
ALICIA SANDERMAN

Remembering a neighbor who never forgot a friend

The word sincere is defined as “whole, pure, and genuine.” Fred Rogers, the man most know as Mr. Rogers from the neighborhood, was one of the few people I know who personified sincerity. Television personalities are often thought to have different personas. “Is he really like that in person?” people would ask me.” I would tell them that Fred is real — that he doesn’t have the need to have different personas — what you see is what you get. He is the same person.

I met Fred in February 2000. I was a sophomore in college, back in Pittsburgh after a semester in Madras, and two weeks into my internship at Family Communications, Inc., the non-profit organization that produced the television program, “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.” I was working in the public relations department of the organization and had the opportunity to interact with Fred on many occasions. Imagine his office as a neighborhood — it’s small, crowded and, simply put, full. As a metaphor, the papers pile upward. They are countless, just like the number of people who feel special because of him — countless. The atmosphere is wonderful, intimate and secure. If anything, some days going to work would be to escape campus and go somewhere peaceful and secure — somewhere real. It’s ironic that his imaginary neighborhood is a place that is real.

Working at Family Communications, Inc., was an interesting experience. His neighborhood is like Pittsburgh — his trolley like the bus. Imagine the nice people who talk to you on the bus sometimes. The bus is like the trolley and Pittsburgh became my neighborhood — and I a part of it. The people in Fred’s neighborhood are always welcoming and live up to the mission of their company and what they all value is truly remarkable. After Fred’s death, I sent them some flowers. And recently I received a letter with everyone’s signature on it, accompanied by



Fred Rogers spoke at Commencement in 1976 when he received an honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts. Photo courtesy of the Carnegie University Archives

a note from each person. It’s a special letter.

I perform as an Indian classical dancer, and I was always sure to invite Fred to productions of the Pittsburgh-based company, Srishti Dances of India. Though he was never able to attend the actual performance, he always sent a note of regret in response to the invitation. In October 2001, Fred visited us before a performance and met with all of the dancers and musicians — a new experience for a lot of them. They knew he was on television, but this time he was in person. And one afternoon last May,

while I was producing a performance at Carnegie Mellon at the Chosky Theater in the Purnell Center, someone from the box office came to tell me that Fred was waiting to see me. I had invited him, and was hoping he could come. But a personal visit from Fred Rogers?

I met with him and he told me his grandchildren were in town. If they left early, he said, he would attend the performance. He presented me with a small book, “You Are Special,” with a toy trolley hanging from it. He wrote inside, “Dear Vijay, This is how

we feel about you at the Neighborhood. Congratulations on your graduation.” It’s a book I cherish. The day he died, I read it over and over to reassure myself that he is still around.

One day last year I parked my car in the garage underneath the Squirrel Hill Branch of the Carnegie Library. And there he was in his Honda — a teal Honda Accord. I drive a Honda, too, and I was thrilled to see that he might share my partiality for such a great car. He greeted me and gave me a big hug. I am not sure where I was going, but I remember him saying he was going to get his camera fixed. We talked for a while until we had to go. That day he told me I will always be a part of the neighborhood and that I was like his grandson. He always made sure that I knew that. It was a comforting feeling.

On the morning of March 6 a friend called me. A moment later she told me the news that Fred had passed away. I was in disbelief. I didn’t know really how to react. I just sat watching a lot of television coverage and also revisiting some books and letters I had received from him. It just couldn’t be. He couldn’t be dead. I suppose I am still in denial. I can’t grapple with the fact that he won’t be around in his cozy office with shag carpeting and a comfy sofa and chair.

Fred died, but he’s still alive for me, and many others. The opportunity to have met such a person in my life is a feeling I can’t confine to words. His work still lives on — and if I feel like it, I can turn on the public television station and enjoy another visit with him. What he has done during his lifetime makes him eternal. In his Presbyterian theology he would say, like everyone else, he is eternal anyway — regardless of his accomplishments.

VIJAY PALAPARTY

Amicus brief makes an emphatic case for affirmative action

In February, Carnegie Mellon and 37 other private colleges and universities filed an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief with the United States Supreme Court in support of the University of Michigan and the right of universities and colleges to use affirmative action in their admissions.

In an interview after the filing, President Jared Cohon called affirmative action “simply the factoring of race among other factors into the admissions decisions.” He said that deserving candidates from under-represented minorities have their race taken into consideration during admissions decisions. Although this may imply that minority students have a higher chance than non-minorities of being accepted into Carnegie Mellon, President Cohon firmly explained, “Contrary to what people think, students are not accepted here just because they are black or Hispanic. They are chosen on account of their potential to succeed, SAT scores and high school GPA.”

Although affirmative action is primarily an issue targeted to public universities and colleges, President Cohon believes that private colleges will inevitably be affected if the Supreme Court rules against affirmative action. There are early indications, too, that such a ruling could also have a chilling effect upon summer enrichment programs for minority high school students as well.

The *amicus curiae* brief clearly says “While public university systems with large enrollments and multiple campuses may be able to achieve some diversity through race-neutral programs that guarantee admission to large numbers of students, such programs will not work for private colleges and universities with limited enrollments, a single campus and students from around the world.”

The brief also says that “race neutral percentage” plans used in Texas, California and Florida depend upon segregated high schools to achieve diversity in the public universities of those states.

Proponents of affirmative action claim

that affirmative action is not discriminatory in any way. Meanwhile, Carl Cohen, a University of Michigan philosophy professor, has argued that affirmative action entails deliberate racial discrimination. As reported in February in the *Post-Gazette*, Cohen has also called the University of Michigan’s admissions program unconstitutional because it violates the Fourth Amendment guaranteeing equal protection of the law. Cohen also argued that Michigan, as a recipient of federal funding, is prohibited from discriminating. While diversity is a reasonable goal, Cohon said, Michigan’s program does nothing except increase the degree of diversity.

The University of Michigan’s undergraduate and law school admissions programs came under fire for allegedly using a “quota” system. Basically, their admissions procedure is based on a 150-point scale in where applicants earn points based on their high school GPAs, extracurricular activities and SAT scores. Minority applicants earn an extra 20 points because of their race, and this really boosts their total points. Many believe that these extra 20 points really increase the chances of minority applicants getting accepted to programs at the University of Michigan.

Carl Cohen argued that a 20-point boost based on race was unfair because it put other worthy white applicants at a disadvantage. The underlying argument here is that worthy white applicants may be being displaced by not-so-worthy minority applicants, based on this alleged “quota” system.

University of Michigan officials dismissed the argument, saying it was mathematically impossible for minority applicants to displace white applicants, given the tiny number of minority applicants compared to the large number of white applicants. They claimed that whites’ chances of being admitted into programs at University of Michigan are not significantly affected by race-sensitive admissions.

A study by Derek Bok and William Bowen, former presidents of Harvard and Princeton, concluded that whites’ chances of being admitted to selective universities are not significantly affected by race-sensitive admissions. With race as a factor, a white student’s odds of being admitted are 25 percent. Omitting race, the odds increase to 26.2 percent. For minorities, the odds make a difference because the pool of applicants is relatively small.

Todd Justman, a student working on a MBA in the Graduate School of Industrial Administration at CMU, voiced his opinions regarding CMU’s stance on affirmative action in a March 11 letter to the editor of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Justman, who applied to University of Michigan’s MBA program and was rejected, argues in his letter that rejection of well-qualified candidates leads to a string of losses in terms of salaries and opportunities for the rejected candidates. He adds that the losses are the price of diversity paid by applicants who are just as hard working and qualified.

In the letter, Justman said that Carnegie Mellon and other schools are supporting University of Michigan out of self-protection. “They don’t want 25 years of rejected students suing them for lost wages, or television lawyers asking people to join large class-action lawsuits against their schools.”

He said it is ironic because the people making what he calls “racist policies” are likely older white men who implicitly benefited from the previous system that kept minorities down. Now that they have their six-figure salaries and positions of power, they can alleviate their guilt by pushing people down the ladder for added reasons of “diversity.” The letter raises an interesting point by wondering whether these academics are truly promoting racial equality by pursuing policies of inequality.

Mary Jo Dively, CMU’s general counsel disagrees with Justman’s view of affirma-

tive action being unequal and discriminatory. In an interview, she said, “CMU does not discriminate in its admissions process.”

Cohon also remarked, “CMU does not have a quota system, although race is considered as one of the many factors during the admissions process.” Like Dively, he maintains that any educational setting is greatly enhanced by diversity and that affirmative action greatly contributes to this diversity.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights began investigating alleged “discriminatory” summer programs for minorities in highly selective institutions such as MIT and Princeton after receiving a conservative group’s complaint. Princeton got rid of its minority-only summer program amid concerns of an affirmative action lawsuit. Carnegie Mellon recently received a letter questioning the constitutionality of one of its summer programs for talented minorities in high schools. Dively and others are currently investigating the program to determine whether there are any unconstitutional aspects to it.

When asked about the chances of a ruling in favor of affirmative action, Dively replied, “We have court-watchers who tell us that there is a 50-50 chance of a ruling either in favor of or against affirmative action. We just have to wait till the ruling.”

The *amicus* brief clearly says “a racially diverse student body serves and enriches the higher education of all students and is essential to the training of leaders for our pluralistic world.” If a ruling against affirmative action were passed, it could cut minority enrollment severely. Federal funding would compel Carnegie Mellon to follow the ruling and that means that the minority enrollment here would drop as well. The high retention rate of minority freshmen at Carnegie Mellon (98%) could decrease.

It makes one wonder if the price of losing diversity is just a bit too high.

BATUL MERCHANT

Two seconds of noise, fumes and glory

WHEN MONSTER TRUCKS

RULED THE WORLD

Before you see them, you can hear them. Inside the stadium, revving up. The trucks are large. Monstrous. Cartoonish. They're more than trucks. They're monster trucks. And without mufflers, they're loud as chainsaws even though they're hundreds of yards away, circling the dirt-covered floor of Mellon Arena.

One child, seated in section C, wears headgear — the kind people wear to firing ranges.

The stadium is packed. It is the Feb. 14 Monster Truck Jam — the first night in a whole weekend of monster trucking. It also happens to be Valentine's Day. There are couples here on dates doing Valentiney things. There are also packs of teenagers and 20-somethings. And families, lots of families.

People go to NASCAR races hoping to see a crash and, more often than not, they do. Lots of cars, tiny race track. Crashing there is almost inevitable.

But here at a monster truck rally the atmosphere is much more sedate. No sense of imminent death here. While the trucks are loud and the lore surrounding them — lore that can be found on monster truck websites — is rife with words like "insanity," "madness" and "adrenaline," the event itself is rather slow.

Two trucks race at a time. The races are short. The audience spends most of its time waiting for the next race to begin.

What brings people here? What is it about the monster trucks?

"The noise" is the most popular offhand response.

"The fumes and the noise," said Leila Farouzman, a young woman in section C.

Jessica Karsak, who has seen several monster truck rallies, says it is "the structure of the cars" that brings her back.

Take a regular 4x4. Replace its tires with monster-tires, 66x43x25 inches in dimension. Take out the suspension system. Get rid of the chassis and instead, buy one in fiberglass—a lightly floppy fiberglass chassis that flutters when the airborne truck makes jarring landings. Install a suspension system that floats the chassis well above the wheels. Finally, paint the chassis with hellfire and lightning and print its name, bold and baaad, in big letters. Like Grave Digger, Black Stallion, Inferno, Blue Thunder, (or Sobe, the name of the sponsor.) And that there is a monster truck.

The first monster truck was born in Missouri in the late '70s when Bob Chandler transformed his 4x4 into "Bigfoot." On a whim, Bob drove Bigfoot over a couple of junker cars, just to see if it was possible. In 1981, he repeated the stunt in a stadium show and it was a hit.

Monster trucking took off in the '80s. Hundreds of 4x4 owners souped up their trucks into Bigfoot imitations. The new brand of vehicle started making appearances in truck shows — driving over stuff, crushing cars. They didn't race until 1984, when Battle of the Monster Trucks created the racing style competition.

To organize the growing sport, Chandler and other monster truck enthusiasts founded the Monster Truck Racing Association in 1987.

"Once you put two high-horsepower vehicles side by side, you create an atmosphere for competition," wrote Dave Huntoon, creator of the MTRA website.



The floor of Mellon Arena is covered with dirt for the gladiatorial spectacle of the monster trucks

Photo: Amanda Innis

Indeed, the competition is fierce. And the racing, brief.

Two pairs of junker cars — American '80s luxury class cars, one set painted blue, the other, yellow — lie squarely in the middle of arena. A thick white stripe, painted several yards in front of the junkers, marks the finish line. The jam begins when the monster trucks revv up in front of the junkers. "Start" signals and they hurtle across the junker cars, crushing them en route to the finish line.

It's a short race. Two seconds tops. After the winner is announced, intense wordless versions of "Smack My Bitch Up" and "Bad to the Bone" fill time until the next race.

The crushing aspect of the Monster Truck Jam, while key to the idea of monster trucking, is not competitive in nature. The trucks do not battle to see who can squash more. The crushing, along with the noise and the fumes, is part of the flourish and display that makes a monster truck rally into a gladiator-like spectacle. Slow, safe, dramatic.

Jim Thomas, 26, says he has come to the Monster Truck Jam to experience what he calls "the international language of crushing."

Other audience members say they have come to see Megasaurus, the car-eating dinosaur.

Transaurus, the mother-model of car-eating monsters (like Megasaurus), was created by Wes Kokela, the Motorsports Entertainment Group promoter. He invented Transaurus at a bar, sketching out his idea on a napkin: a mechanical dinosaur built inside a WWII troop transport.

During the monster truck racing intermission, a shadowy tank rolls into the arena and, before Megasaurus hatches out of it, the announcer reads its lengthy — and fake — history that begins with "long ago" and informs the audience that Megasaurus was first enlisted to destroy man-eating creatures on an island and, victorious in that task, has since been tamed and restricted to

eating only cars. Then Megasaurus' jaws shoot straight up into the air, breathing fire. It lifts an Oldsmobile to its mouth and daintily rips off its roof. The car bleeds clear liquid as Megasaurus holds it in his mouth, biting down until the car breaks completely in half.

The destruction complete, Megasaurus folds back up and rolls away, leaving the crumpled car to the clean-up crew.

Still other audience members have come specifically to see their favorite monster truck, Grave Digger. While Megasaurus is spectacular, Grave Digger is beloved. And after several races, it becomes clear that this monster truck is everyone's favorite.

At first glance, Grave Digger looks out of place — like a leftover Halloween decoration. Its chassis, a 1950s Chevrolet panel wagon — or a 1951 Ford pickup, depending on which website you believe — is painted with ghosts, graves and green fire.

When Grave Digger pulls into the arena, the cheering raises several decibels. An 8- or 9-year-old kid, seated in section B, screams "Grave Digger" until his face turns beet red and veins pop from his forehead. In his arms, he clutches a small, stuffed Grave Digger; a pillow painted to match the truck.

His passion, though more innocent, is comparable to those staple football fans — the drunken, shirtless ones who paint their bodies in the team colors.

Harmony Sullivan, recent Pitt graduate, is fascinated by the child fan. She has trouble imagining that an inanimate vehicle can inspire such adulation. But there it is: Grave Digger is every bit as heroic to the 9-year-old as a football or baseball player might be to someone else — proof that a thing need not pump blood to merit hero-status.

The fervor for Grave Digger is not limited to the boy. The whole audience reacts to Grave Digger. Harmony cheers, not quite knowing why. Grave Digger is simply the

coolest truck of them all—the only truck with headlights like red eyes. The fact that others like it too, intensifies her cheering.

"Everybody likes [Grave Digger]," Harmony says, "and everybody likes that everybody likes it."

The final battle is a Mini Las Vegas Freestyle, an event that requires two more cars be brought into the arena: a pink minivan and a yellow station-wagon, more pastel-colored vehicles to be crushed, making the arena look like a playpen.

Sobe goes first, jumping over the minivan and landing without much bravado. The announcer calls out the total score: 17. Other monster trucks follow, roaring over the cars, leaping into the air and landing. They, too, get scores: 22, 21, 19, etc. Somewhere in the arena, there is a panel of judges jointly deciding the score. Perhaps they are like those Olympic figure-skating judges whose scores line up on the television screen as 9.7, 9.9, 9.8, etc. Perhaps not. No one in my section knew the criteria for judging the Las Vegas Freestyle. At least the commentator in figure-skating events hints at the criteria, whispering something about the leg not being high enough in the triple axle or the landing being graceless. Here, in the world of monster-trucking, the score may just depend on the sheer volume of cheering.

And, of course, the loudest cheering goes to Grave Digger, who roars, leaps and lands like everyone else. But he does more. He drives over the cars several times. He leaps the minivan and he leaps it again. His routine is longer, like the last bright round of fireworks at the Fourth of July celebration.

Grave Digger is the winner. The driver, Charlie Pauken, leans out of the window to receive his applause. The whole evening has been building toward this moment. The ending is, in other words, canned. But everyone likes it that way. After all, it's why they're here.

AMANDA INNIS