

THE RECORD

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Already There: Students Moving and Shaking

By Rebecca Spina

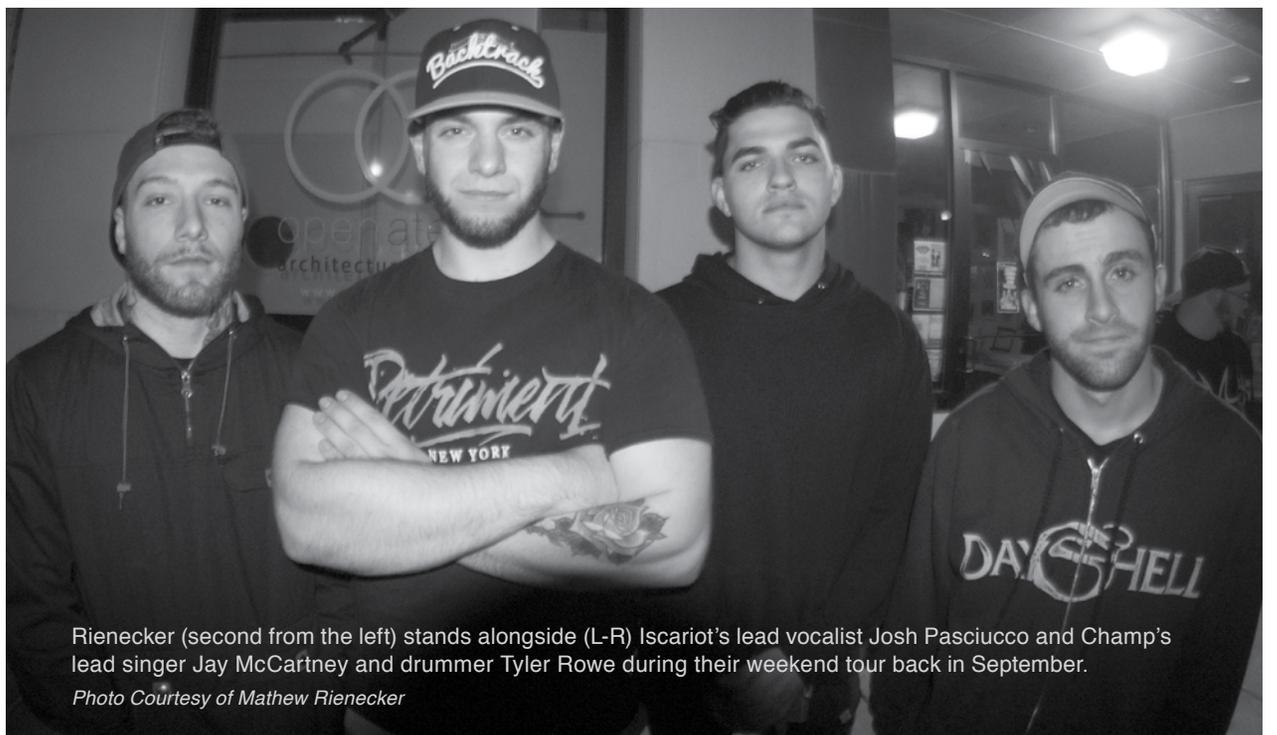
In the backseat of a van headed upstate, Mathew Rienecker sat wearing one of his hats. It was the hat of Long Island melodic metal band Champ's manager and booking agent. With the van fully packed with instruments, equipment, and people, the band was driving to play a show at The Vault in Syracuse before turning around for a show at The Blue Room Lounge in Secaucus, New Jersey the next day.

Rienecker and the members of Champ have been friends since high school and in 2015, Champ finally popped the question and asked Rienecker to come on board as their manager. "I played a lot of shows with them back in high school. We gigged around nearly everywhere on the island and we went on a few tours together," Rienecker reminisced, "They are a bunch of stand up guys that I truly enjoy working with. I know it's not always good to mix business with friendship, but we see eye to eye on a lot of subjects and we seem to be very successful so far together."

A hard working, driven, and passionate individual with a happy-go-lucky attitude, Rienecker is a man who wears many hats. In addition to his Champ hat, Rienecker wears the hat of a student as he works towards his Business Management degree during his sophomore year. While some students are daydreaming about their careers after graduation, Rienecker is already out there getting a head start. Once classes are over, he puts on the hat of a Production and Stage manager at Revolution Music Hall, or the hat of a Box Office manager for Loaded Rock Shows, or the hat of a booking agent for SBC Bookings, LLC.

"I came to Five Towns in order to make my name more reputable in the music industry, with hopes of making an extremely good living doing what I love," Rienecker said. "The music business is just a place where I feel like I belong...I feel so happy being around musicians all the time. We all share something...and that's a burning love for music."

With all the love Rienecker feels towards the music industry, that is not to say that juggling all of these responsibilities does not get overwhelming at times. "It's a big headache balancing all these jobs with



Rienecker (second from the left) stands alongside (L-R) Iscariot's lead vocalist Josh Pasciucchio and Champ's lead singer Jay McCartney and drummer Tyler Rowe during their weekend tour back in September.

Photo Courtesy of Mathew Rienecker

school. It is still very rewarding and I like to be the go to guy for the bands in the scene who I call friends," he said. "I truly love to help make bands money and help run their events. It just puts a smile on my face."

A common theme between every business course provided on campus is the idea of networking. The professors beat the idea until it becomes redundant, but they are right to do so. Networking is one of the keys to success, especially in the music business. The larger a person's network is and the more people who care how well that person succeeds, the more opportunities will become available. That concept is perfectly modeled by Rienecker.

"My friend, Dom, has been the stage manager [at Revolution] for a number of years and let me know when they had an opening; I became the Box Office manager for Loaded Rock Shows because one of the agents is also the manager of Revolution and a great friend of mine; I became Champ's manager through just being good friends with them," he recalled, "I became a booking agent for SBC because I simply knew one of the booking agents, Brandon, from playing shows back in high school with his band,

Mutiny Abroad. Once they had a staff meeting, Brandon brought my name up asking if I should join and they all gave a quick thumbs up right away."

Rienecker's inspirations are the bosses and the roadies that he has met in all of his working environments. "Everyone is so cool and make a good living off of what they love and what we do. I hope to be like some of them one day," he said. From them, he has learned one of the most valuable lessons in life: always be humble and honest. "Don't lie or try and impress people. Business honchos in the music scene can smell nonsense from a mile away. Hard work and a bright smile takes you far in the scene," he said.

After college, Rienecker hopes to continue in his work in the music business as an agent and manager but is open to options and does not want to corner himself into just one branch of work. On a small level, Rienecker has already accomplished his dreams but it is clear that there is no stopping him. As just a sophomore in college, this is only the beginning of a very successful and brilliant career for Five Towns' very own Mathew Rienecker.

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FTC AWARDS



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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF REBECCA SPINA
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PROFESSOR ATKINSON: michael.atkinson@ftc.edu

REBECCA SPINA: rebecca.spina5@gmail.com

The Record

www.ftc.edu

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Record is published by:

Five Towns College
305 North Service Road
Dix Hills, NY 11746

Phone: (631) 424-7000

Editor-in-Chief

Rebecca Spina

Contributing Writers

Michael Atkinson, John Blenn,
Matthew Charran, Giancarlo Estrada,
Emily Finz, Shaun Gold,
Amanda Kennedy, Michael Montesano,
Shonna Narine, Michael Perez,
Reid Ranalli, Michael Scudiero,
Annalise Thode

Contributing Photographers

Nikki Esposito
James Giammetta
Marcus Lewis

Layout Design

Kimberly Ellensohn

Faculty Advisors

Michael Atkinson
Thomas Calandrillo

Contact Us

therecord@ftc.edu

Tales Told By Mayday Parade



By Emily Finz

I consider myself a pretty avid Mayday Parade lover and fan. I have seen them over fifteen times and rarely miss one of their New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania shows. I know how cliché it is to say this band saved my life but this band really did save me from myself. I jumped at the opportunity to buy tickets to attend the ten year anniversary tour for their first EP, *Tales Told By Dead Friends*. I bought tickets for both the Philadelphia date, November 13th, at The Fillmore and their New York City date, November 14th, at Webster Hall.

Let me just say that if you have never met the guys in this band, you really need to. I have never met such kind guys before. I went to their meet and greet in Philly and it wasn't like the usual meet and greet setting. There were no tables, no chairs, no backdrop and no photographer. They just stood around and wanted to have a conversation with you. They were all so genuine and thankful that you were there to see them. I have really never met a band before that treats you like equals to them and actually speak to you. They see you as a friend instead of a fan. I get emotional just thinking back about it.

At Webster Hall, they played in the Studio. For those unfamiliar, The Studio is a small room in the basement of the venue. Mayday Parade is absolutely big enough to have sold out the main room upstairs. I think they did this on purpose. Seeing them in this environment brought on a sense of intimacy to the performance and puts an additional emphasis on the fact that this tour is honoring their first EP released.

Seeing my favorite band play a sold out show was really intense for me. I have watched this band grow from half sold shows at the late Crazy Donkey on Long Island to oversold shows at Starland Ballroom in New Jersey. In Philadelphia they played the most amazing show I've ever seen them play. In New York, they managed to top it.

The set list was incredible. Hearing songs that shaped me to be the person I am today over the past ten years was very humbling. Unsurprisingly, I cried genuine tears during "Three Cheers for Five Years," a ballad telling the story about a couple who have dated for years but just can't make it work, but I really lost it during "One Man Drinking Games," a song about an alcoholic who drinks himself to death. All the songs off *Tales Told By Dead Friends* each have

a different meaning to me but, all in all, they firmly hold a special place in my heart.

My emotions could be described as euphoric, as I've only waited to hear these songs for half my teenage life. After the show at Webster, I was able to get my hands on the set list (thank goodness because I tried so hard to get one in Philly. It's currently hung up in my room next to my signed posters, the lyrics Derek Sanders wrote in his handwriting for me when I was 14-years-old, and the *Tales Told By Dead Friends* vinyl signed by the whole band. I will follow these guys everywhere and anywhere, especially if and when they announce the anniversary tour for *A Lesson In Romantics*. It may seem ridiculous but people do crazy things when they're in love and I am in love with this band.

Both photos are taken by Emily Finz. (Top) Mayday Parade playing a sold out show in The Studio at Webster Hall. (Bottom) Mayday Parade, at The Fillmore in Philadelphia, played *Tales Told By Dead Friends* in full every night of the tour.



Arrival Has Arrived

By Matthew Charran

Arrival hit theaters November 11 and has been selling out theaters since. This movie surpassed every expectation I had for it from the start.

With having profound director Denis Villeneuve, who directed other great films like *Sicario* and *Prisoners*, this film was sure to be promising. Each and every shot has meaning and shouldn't be missed; the entire work just screams *mise-en-scène*. Villeneuve utilizes the use of meaning and perfects it in every shot and frame of this movie, drawing you in from the moment the picture starts. The use of dark and gloomy undertones along with a powerful performance by the beautiful Amy Adams just captures the sense of sadness that all of us have felt at least once in our lives. The vastness of many of the wide shots allows you to really lose yourself in the film. You are drawn out of just simply watching a film and are now, more or less, experiencing one.

Arrival succeeded in where many alien sci-fi films failed. It provides a new and mentally encompassing experience that not even some psychological films could accomplish. The effects used in the film, the acting, and the technique of filming are all equally as good and is what made this movie so

different and unique than to what most of the audience were expecting.

This was no *Independence Day*, this was in a caliber all its own. When mentioning one of the greatest movies of 2016 or arguably ever made there is no doubt that this movie should be in conversation.

Supporting actors Jeremy Renner and Forest Whitaker are not just sitting on the sidelines while Amy Adams steals the show either. They provide a good structure and basis for the film that makes every good movie an even greater story. No character in this film is just merely there, each person has a part to play that adds to the entire experience of watching *Arrival*.

While some thought this movie was "too boring" or "stupid," it shattered expectations of many critics and once seen, *Arrival* has the chance of changing your very perception of the world around you. This film brought a real sense of reality into a plot that seems too generic, but Villeneuve surprises us yet again and gives us an original movie that will definitely be hard to beat when the Oscars roll around.

In *Arrival's* opening weekend, it made over \$24,000,000 at the box office.



Brevity Is The Soul Of Wit - Right?



By Reid Ranalli

Everyday, technology is progressing and culture just as well, or at least one would expect. Incidentally, however, while culture is in a hit-or-miss state in terms of survival, our rhetoric is diminishing wildly.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, when novels and stage-plays were the sole form of entertainment, the standard language of Americans was flourishing and full of definition. The entirety of two pages could be used to dissect the exact feeling a person was feeling in that moment of the story. That's no exaggeration.

I spent the summer reading old literature for a summer class, and initially I found it remarkably frustrating to digest the phrases, words, and statements being thrown at me. It seemed unnecessary and often times redundant. What was the purpose in elaborating these ideas in such a manner, when it could have been summed up into a single sentence? After all, is that not how American culture has come to adapt amongst Millennials and beyond?

Short and sweet is the way to go, right?

Aside from my first disgruntled feelings, it didn't take me long to fall in love with this style of literature, nor did it take me much longer to come to terms with what is missing from our culture: definition.

We live in a world dominated by Vine, BuzzFeed articles, and memes. Everything's gotta be spelled out, everything is quick and to the point, and elaboration is fleeting. Our attention spans are getting lopped off at the neck. We speak in short sentences, if not due to our own tendencies, for the listener who can only listen for ten seconds at a time. Now, I like a good meme just as much as the next guy, but therein lies the conundrum - pretty much every person is the next guy. Our jokes are centered around seeing an image and responding with "me AF." Is that the worst thing in the world? Heck no, man. The issue lies in the byproduct.

As videos get shorter and our responses get briefer, the very content of our being is losing its touch. If there's something that we like, be it an event, a film, an album, what have you, it's "lit." Of course, "lit" slips outta my mouth more than I'd like, but a man can only do some much when living in a sea of the same word over and over. And that's not to say that everyone needs to speak like a colonial Englishman, but at a certain point, our vocabulary loses its definition because we simply don't know how to use the words properly.

In the words of Louis C.K., "we go right for the top shelf with our words now. We don't think about how we talk." In turn, we not only limit ourselves to a grounded base of expression, but we're slowly killing a world of words that has been built for over

a thousand years. Everything is at the extremes. If you don't believe that, look at the word "awesome." It's far too late for that word to find salvation back to its once-inherent; try using that in a serious context when attempting to establish the true awe of something, and tell me it doesn't sound like you might as well be saying "radical!"

All in all, this is no attempt to insult my Millennials (we all know how thick the skin of the average Millennial is, or isn't). It is merely a commentary of how our culture is adapting. But with such a brilliant plethora of words at our disposal at all times, what's stopping us from utilizing them? Is it because we don't know them? Or is it because we think our peers won't understand them? Either way, the opportunity will never die, unless we outright abandon this world of language until, hundreds of years from now, our dictionaries are 50 pages long. So by all means, keep your manner of speaking, for it is what makes you you - I know that I'll always keep "dope" and "sick" on standby at all times. But challenge yourself; when you see a word you don't understand, don't only look it up, but start using it in everyday conversation. Expand your mind, and watch as your mind and expressions begin to breathe life that's been waiting inside you. All those times you find yourself frustrated because you don't know the right words will begin to depart. For brevity is only the soul of wit when the the soul holds the full meaning. That's where the wit lies; not from the brevity, but from the compression of deep dense thought.

See, now that would be a BuzzFeed article worth reading: "Top 15 Words You Didn't Know Existed! You'll Never Believe #6!"

Riffs & Discharges: The X-Men That Stay at Home

By Michael Atkinson

Solstice: Attractive 20-year-old girl with the power to summon songbirds and butterflies at will. Needs the right song playing – happy New Wave stuff, like Katrina and the Waves, does it. Insists she can whip them into a menacing storm in case of combat, but she mostly Instagrams make-up experiments.

Arcanum: Is not a man or a woman, but literally a third sex. Because he/she/it is the only one, no one knows how it functions or what use it might have beyond always giving everyone something to talk about. He/she/it shrugs when asked. Looks like a combination between a tapir and Patrick Star.

Brut: Has saliva that literally is – not merely tastes like – champagne. In charge of the post-crisis receptions, although bottled champagne is insisted upon generally.

Rockface: Impenetrable to having his feelings hurt. Presents as a slight 16-year-old boy with a carpal-tunnel brace and a very expensive prescription to Accutane. Passes easily for normal in the non-mutant world, where he's mistaken for a 16-year-old boy who's pretending his feelings aren't hurt.

Willow: Can perform photosynthesis. At 375 pounds, Willow never eats, but generates her own 100% sucrose diet internally, fueled by sun lamps arranged in an arc around her couch and TV. As a consequence, she releases spores to which most people, including other mutants, are intensely allergic.

Bulletproof: Thanks to a unique silicon factor in his immune system, Bulletproof is resistant to all viruses

and all allergens, including Willow's. Despite their symbiosis, efforts to make them a couple have met with resistance from both. He is roundly disliked, for his choice of name, and for his habit of gloating around the cafeteria sipping a green shake and smiling when someone else sneezes.



Aubergine: Precocious 12-year-old girl who can turn Concord-grape-juice purple simply by holding her breath. Which she can do for up to three minutes.

Oculoid: Can see around corners, but as he's near-sighted, only for a few dozen yards. Expert at practical jokes and scaring people so they drop things. Permanently jealous of other mutants who can simply see through walls, etc.

Impasto: When ejaculating, shoots multicolored paintballs instead of semen. A tortured 25-year-old given to mood swings, he's incapable of a mutual sexual relationship except with Void, whose vagina contains a dimensional gateway, through which everything vanishes. Problematically, Void only wants to be a mother, and hates Impasto. Impasto

is thinking of becoming a performance artist, but otherwise stays in his room with his door locked most days.

Void: In addition to her vaginal gateway, she can telekinetically transform old bananas into perfectly delicious banana muffins. Depressed about never being able to have children, she rarely bothers.

Lighthouse: Has x-ray vision that can see clearly through already semi-transparent lingerie.

Vex: Has the power to make anyone within a hundred-mile radius doubt their ideas about monetary policy, industrial regulations and social programs, regardless of where they stood originally. It takes little effort, and goes entirely unnoticed.

Jackrabbit: Through oogenesis, she spontaneously gives birth to a baby every time she gets angry. The resulting daycare situation is a strain on everyone, particularly since complaining about it inevitably produces yet another baby. All of the babies are normal, and look exactly like Jackrabbit – cute as a bug's ear. Her appearance nearly drove Void to become a villain.

Coma: A 28-year-old with a beer belly, he has the power to remain asleep for 72 hours at a time. When monitored, his dreams can sometimes reveal the location of lost car keys and earrings. Sometimes, they don't.

Millipede: Can turn into a man-sized millipede. As this freaks everyone out, as well as curtailing his speed, agility and communication skills, he does it only when alone, usually during long walks in the woods.

A Tribe Called Quest's Got It From Here

By Shaun Gold

Eighteen years after their last release, A Tribe Called Quest has returned with more to say now than ever, and we're all listening. With their new album, *We Got It From Here... Thank You 4 Your Service*, fans are reminded of how valuable the art of hip-hop is, and how music and words have an uncanny ability to inspire, intoxicate, and empower.

Tribe's first album, *People's Instinctive Travels and the Paths of Rhythm*, was released in 1990 and helped usher in a new era of hip-hop. During a time when artists like N.W.A., the Beastie Boys, Biggie Smalls, and 2Pac were all in their prime, Tribe distinguished itself on the intricacies of hip-hop during that era; well-crafted samples that were mostly jazz and R&B in nature, socially conscious and intelligent wordplay, and plain ol' groove. Songs in their catalogue like "Bonita Appelbum," "Scenario," and "Electric Relaxation" are regarded as classics in the hip-hop community not only for their lyrics, but for their use of sampling as well. Those influential qualities carry over on to *We Got It From Here*.

As much of a tour de force this album is, that is not to say that Tribe escaped 2016 unscathed. Founding member Malik "Phife Dawg" Taylor passed away earlier this year in the midst of recording this very album. While Phife was able to complete the majority of his verses, remaining members Q-Tip, Jarobi, and DJ Muhammad called upon the likes of André 3000, Jack White, Busta Rhymes, Kanye West, and Elton John to help round out what will presumably be the last LP of the group's storied career.

The album wastes no time in diving head first into current issues with the opening song "The Space Program." With the opening mantra "Gotta get it together / Let's make something happen" in full blast, Q-Tip, Phife, and Jarobi tackle not only the issue of black people being marginalized in today's society but the issue of environmental danger as well. At the same time, they encourage the listeners to stand

together and take action against the forces against them. The hook states "There's ain't a space program for ni**as / Yeah, you stuck here ni**a." Making an observation of his surroundings, Jarobi raps: "... They'd rather lead us to the grayest water poison deadly smog / Mass un-blackening, it's happening, you feel it y'all?" The fact that the group changes the beat throughout this song adds to the urgent and unsettling nature of the message.

qualms about butting heads against. Q-Tip reminds us earlier in the song that contrary to what people may believe, we are indeed all the same. We should not be defined by our skin tone while there are countless other things that may describe us.

Tribe breaks for a moment from the charged yet groovy entrance to the album and begins to maneuver through expertly sampled beats and luscious sounding instrumentation. "Dis Generation" starts off with an unmistakable sample of "Pass The Dutchie" by Musical Youth, and transforms into a smooth, guitar-based slow jam that supports the electric chemistry between the Tribe MCs and the revitalized Busta Rhymes, who sounds as if Phife's passing gave him a new energy to cultivate. The song serves as a passing of the torch to the new generation of rappers and gives great insight to the vast lyrical ability of Tribe and their associates.

It's very tough to pick a favorite song on this album. The pure fun that Jarobi and Q-Tip seem to be having on their lewd, humorous love ballad "Enough!!" is a joy to listen to. The throwback nature of "Ego" harkens back to the group's early days, and features production and guitar solos by Jack White. Closing track "The Donald" is an endearing tribute to Phife Dawg, who also went by the nickname "Don Juice," and restates why he is the one and only Don as far as Tribe is concerned.

Eighteen years is a long time to step out of the game. But I get the impression that Tribe felt like they needed to make this album for reasons greater than owing one more record to Jive Records. Due to the climate of the nation and the world at large, the untimely passing of their friend, one of the most influential voices of a genre takes the stage again to let us know that while this isn't the first or last time we will ever be divided, no matter. We'll get it together and make something happen.

A Tribe Called Quest is back after 18 years to release their new album, *We Got It From Here... Thank You 4 Your Service*.



Photo courtesy of A Tribe Called Quest

This politically charged sentiment is carried over to the second track, "We The People." This song takes on subjects like discrimination, police brutality, and xenophobia. Q-Tip sings in the hook, "All you Black folks, you must go / All you Mexicans, you must go / And all you poor folks, you must go / Muslims and gays, boy, we hate your ways / So all you bad folks, you must go." This sarcastic refrain is a direct response to Donald Trump, whom Tribe makes no

REVIEW:

This Is Us

By Shonna Narine

A refreshing, sentimental, family oriented show is probably the best way to describe *This Is Us*. It combines comedy and tragedy and will have you at the edge of your seat in the last five minutes of every episode because of its plot twists.

In its first season, it's already one of the top rated shows on NBC. A lot of people can relate to this show because they manage the tricky task of telling emotional stories without getting too artificially sweet. In each story, the characters are quite relatable. It keeps you hooked and watching to see how all the characters come together.

A smart move that the show did was having it take place in two different time periods. Mandy

Moore and Milo Ventimiglia play Rebecca and Jack, parents in the 1980s who are struggling to raise their twins and adopted son, Randall (Sterling Brown). The show also features the kids grown up in 2016. Randall is happy with his wife and family but dealing with the discovery of his biological father, Kate (Chrissy Metz) finds love as she's starting a difficult weight-loss journey, and Kevin (Justin Hartley) is a Hollywood actor in the aftermath of a career meltdown.

It's like a puzzle the way you try and put everything together. Then once you think you figured everything out, they leave you on a cliffhanger and change the whole plot. There is comedy and tragedy. You will laugh, you will cry, and you may even get mad. They try and let society know that everyone, in their own way, is facing a struggle

whether it be weight, alcohol abuse, midlife crisis, and this show targets them all, which is why it is so successful and a must-watch.

This Is Us airs Tuesday nights at 9/8c on NBC.



Point-Counterpoint: Give Us A Break

By Giancarlo Estrada

Has Five Town's abandoned holidays in good faith? The college's new approach has removed having days off for holidays such as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Veteran's Day within the semester. It leaves a question to be asked: Has this new tactic been beneficial?

Although it may be known that Veteran's Day is a day meant to commemorate fallen, wounded and returning soldiers, most people don't understand the relevancy of the Jewish holidays if they are not of Jewish faith. Rosh Hashanah represents the Head of the Year symbolizing the day the universe was created. Family's gather, prayers are read and, similar to the United States traditions on New Year's, Rosh Hashanah is used to learn from the mistakes of the past and invite thoughtful introspection. Yom Kippur is the Day of Atonement and considered to be the holiest day of the year. Sins are being cleansed before God, who, on this day, is at the closest point to the soul. Both days have an evident importance to those of Jewish faith, similar to the importance a person may give New Year's or Christmas. However, both New Year's and Christmas have the convenience of falling under winter break while Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur fall in the middle of the fall semester.

An argument against having no classes on these holidays has fallen under the majority versus the

minority notion. If enough people were Jewish, then it would make sense not to have classes on these days because enough students would not attend. However the United States has one of the second largest Jewish population in world (second to Israel) with seven million people who affiliate themselves with the faith according to the Jewish Virtual Library. Of the seven million that live within the States, New York State has close to two million Jewish people living in its borders, meaning 10% of New Yorkers are Jewish. Although not a majority, it is enough to be noticeable in a student body.

Emily Finz, a music business major, says, "I'm Jewish so on those high holy days I take the time usually to see my family and spend time with the ones I don't often see."

Finz's traditions strikes similarity to what a person may do on Thanksgiving or Christmas, with the exception of being allowed the day off from school to partake in the congregation. "I doubt the president would ever have school on Christmas or Easter so it's very disrespectful to me that there is school on these days," Finz continued.

But does this disadvantage the students who do not affiliate themselves with these holidays? For one, students who hold part or full time positions outside of the college or have other activities such as rehearsals and projects to complete may use this much needed time to effectively complete these activities. Although

the old model broke the constancy of classes and returning it may result in classes beginning at an earlier date. Students may find the three extra days off within the academic calendar helpful in breaking up the strenuous task of balancing their classes with their alternate activities.

"I wish we had more vacation days because we need time to decompress," said Nikki Esposito, a music business and vocal performance major, "I have a heavy workload in general because I'm a double major and on top of that, I self-manage my own band and work in the morning before classes. With the amount of workload college students deal with, we deserve to get breaks.... We're at the point in our lives where we're stressed out pretty often. I would have felt like I had more control of things if we had the breaks."

Holidays are a time for people to congregate with family and relax from the stresses they may be under. College, especially for those who must work part or full time positions that pay for their transportation, utility and health needs and/or rehearse and finalize projects may only have these days to themselves. However the policy change for the fall 2016 semester has taken these much needed days away from the student body. As we look to the future, there are a lot of things to worry about on and off campus. One of those things in particular is whether or not we will ever get our fall semester vacation days back.

Point-Counterpoint: Give Us A Break

By Rebecca Spina

If you talk to students on campus or scroll through the student-made Facebook groups for Five Towns, you may have noticed an uproar regarding the fact that Thanksgiving break would be the first and only days off in the fall semester. How dare they "take away" these vacation days that students could have been celebrating or sleeping in on?

The fact of the matter is, Five Towns giving its students any form of a break or vacation from classes is a privilege. Public colleges are funded by the state and in turn acknowledge state and federal holidays. Sectarian schools that have a religious affiliation would provide days off during the school year that coincide with whatever faith they follow. Five Towns is a private, nonsectarian school and as such, it is not required to close for any holiday.

The school's calendar is determined through committee meetings and formulated by the provost, President David Cohen, and the Board of Trustees. While there were fewer vacation days this semester compared to previous fall semesters, they were doing students a favor. This school year in particular started after Labor Day and because of that, there was a longer summer break. The late start to the school year was a result of the ongoing construction for student-requested campus improvements. In addition, the college announced that tuition prices were lowering by 10 percent. Private colleges are entirely funded by private contributions and its students' tuition. It's a give-and-take. By reducing the cost of

tuition and making investments into campus improvements, students had to go through the semester with fewer vacation days.

"When we take vacations, they add a lot of cost," Intern President Cohen said, "The cost to colleges to take holidays is quite expensive. There's a seasonal and part-time payroll that colleges have that come into play the minute the school opens. It costs the college 7,000 to 10,000 dollars a day in seasonal and part-time payroll every time we have a holiday."

Amongst the students, there have been mixed reviews. A lot of the aggravation came from students with strong religious beliefs. They made it very clear that they were upset their holidays were not being recognized in the calendar and their classmates with lesser religious affiliation empathized. Senior film major Reid Ranalli said, "[The vacation days are] nice, but I didn't die without [them]. If anything, I was more taken aback by the lack of consideration taken towards the Jewish students considering there's a large amount of them here."

Consideration was given to students who follow a certain religion though. New York State law says that students who attend private schools are allowed to be absent from classes for religious observances and education just as if they attended a public school.

"We have many, many different faiths represented on campus," President Cohen said, "We could just not respond to the requests of every different faith group to close and observe."

With the new attendance policy in place this semester, students are allowed to miss up to 20 percent of their classes. If you are devout to your religion, you can use that policy to your advantage and still observe your holidays. Professors and faculty would respect your absence. The same idea carries to students who happen to be veterans.

The rest of the students bothered by the semester's calendar were more concerned about their mental health. It is a lot to go more than two months straight juggling a college workload in addition to whatever students take on outside of Five Towns. The school believes that the students who walk these halls are "vibrant" enough to be able to manage the juggling act. If at any time a student feels like they are drowning underneath all of their work and just need a day off, they are welcome to use their absent days as they need.

"Every student is adult enough to manage that as they decide and exercise their own unique faith and needs," President Cohen reasoned.

As far as the spring semester is concerned, spring break is safe and secure. Looking further into the future though, students should expect next year's fall calendar to be similar to this year's. If you really need the days off, feel free to take it, your professors just expect you to make up the work you miss. Do you want days off or do you want a lower tuition fee or new equipment that will help you further hone the craft you're studying for?

Backstage At Main STAGE

By Amanda Kennedy

The pink and purple lights blanketed the stage and the Cabaret backdrop as soft indie rock music plays throughout the Dix Hills Performing Arts Center. Bands and artist alike stood in groups spread throughout the theater, talking and laughing amongst themselves as new and old audio majors conducted sound check. The mood is cheery and light with only good vibes between competitors as they chat.

Once the doors open, the theater begins to fill in with Five Towns students new and old, faculty, staff, and the occasional family or two of a performer. By this point all the performers should have been on the wings of the stage or standing by the classrooms outside of the theater but they were all so excited to perform and see their competitors and friends perform that they are seen huddling by the doorways and even sitting in the first few rows on the sides of the theater.

The show, hosted by the adorable Dani Wilson and Bria Walton, was off to an awkward but good start. Despite these girls being very bubbly and charismatic, there was a clear lack of enthusiasm with the event as a whole. In previous years, there were multiple hosts and skits performed, making STAGE very funny and interactive for the audience. There were moments of engagement and interaction this year but it seemed like the audience participated reluctantly. It was overall apathetic. Even when the free merchandise flew through the audience, there was a sense of lackluster. However, I wouldn't tribute this to being the hostess' fault though

because, more often than not, getting any sort of reaction or participation from Five Towns students is like pulling teeth.

Although no event is perfect, the organization of STAGE left a lot to the imagination. The timing was off and at times it took way too long to set up. These things caused a real distraction for both the audience and the performers. There was a clear lack of communication between those running the event. It was a constant back-and-forth of "they said this" and "but so-and-so said this," which led to confusion amongst the performers and the stage and sound crew about where to go and when and where gear and equipment should be held between performances.

Regardless, this is an event focused more so on the performances than the skits and raffles. Each performer was just as good, if not better, than the last. However, while every performer showed and displayed their passion and love for their music, it felt like if your genre wasn't something like what plays on the Top 40 charts than the audience wasn't interested and didn't respond to you.

Amongst the performers though, it was amazing to be able to feel the compassion and camaraderie. No one walked around thinking they were better than the rest. Everybody was excited just to be a part of STAGE and to perform alongside each other. The performers had fun showing off their craft and it didn't matter to them if the audience responded or not because they all were enjoying their time on stage doing what they love.

Jamica Sherman, the winner of this year's STAGE, said, "Five Towns College has an abundance of talent and I encourage [everyone] to keep striving, stay focused, never give up, and really focus on building a legacy rather than a moment in time....Five Towns has so much to offer but we must work together to stand strong."

While everyone's set was unique to their own sound, there were sets that did stick out more because they went the extra mile to really put that "wow" factor in there. One performer in particular was Sherman. She pulled off all the stops by having amazing back-up dancers doing a choreographed opening number with her. For her second song, she played on everybody's nostalgia by singing "A Whole New World" from Disney's Aladdin. Then during her last performance, she had everybody take out their glow sticks and sway them in the air while she say a song that was all about bringing people together. With just a few lights, the glow sticks, and some cell phones lighting the theater, it all felt so surreal. With a performance like that it was no wonder that she won.

When asked on how it felt to win one of the biggest events that this school offers Sherman said, "It was exciting to win....We really worked hard and I always aim to be impactful, so [having] those additional creative touches with the theatricals and the glow sticks just gave it more of a kick....Putting on a performance overall is about more than just a voice, it's the whole performance and we came there to slay."



A Fresh Beat

By Michael Perez

When you enter the Upbeat Café to order your breakfast, lunch, or diner, you are greeted with the special of the day, a salad bar, and a sandwich station. You might think to yourself, "This is a small cafeteria. All this stuff must be fake, bagged, processed food, and there's no way anything here can be fresh or good for me." But oh, how wrong you are.

If you are particular about food, it's easy to put the blinders on when you walk on line for food. It usually has a display of chicken fingers and fries alongside something like a Reuben sandwich, pizza, or the burrito of the day. It's easy to stereotype these foods into a category of frozen and fried, but as with most stereotypes, this is entirely untrue and that is untrue thanks to one person, Five Towns College Catering Manager, Charlie Mandemaker.

Mandemaker is a relatively new manager at the Upbeat, having only taken over the position a little less than two years ago. He takes enormous pride in making every student's dining experience a pleasant one. He is passionate and eager to show just how fresh Five Towns' food really is. The majority of the food at Five Towns is prepared fresh on the premises. For instance, if you order a turkey sandwich with tomato and lettuce, that turkey you're eating was roasted in the Five Towns kitchen, cooled, and sliced for you to enjoy. The lettuce, tomato, and other toppings are sliced each

morning as well, so that every bite you take is a fresh one.

As a matter of fact, most of your favorite Five Towns foods are prepared on premises daily. The grilled and fried chicken cutlets are made from fresh chicken breasts and cooked daily and the roast beef is prepared and sliced fresh here on campus. Mandemaker assures students that freshness and quality of ingredients is a main priority of his.

If you are looking for a healthier option than the special of the day, you can order a fresh hand packed salmon burger or grilled vegetable wrap made on the spot while you wait or you can enjoy one of several house-made specialty salads chopped daily. If you're sensitive or allergic to gluten, Mandemaker has that covered as well. There are gluten-free pastas and buns available for students who order them in advance.

Mandemaker has the health and happiness of the students in mind when it comes to the food at Five Towns College. He is dedicated to providing high quality ingredients and has made it a point to provide an array of healthy options available at the student's request. If you have a suggestion on how to make something better in the cafeteria or want to add something new to the menu, Mandemaker is open to any and all suggestions and that his door is always open. It's clear to see that having a man like Mandemaker at the helm of the Upbeat Café is something all Five Towns students can really sink their teeth into.

Access Control

By Annalise Thode

It is no secret that there have been a lot of changes made to Five Towns College for this semester. An entire athletic program has been formed, the parking lot has been paved, and there are a lot of new faces belonging to both students and faculty walking around this small campus. One change in particular is that of the public safety department and students are not exactly happy.

Opening day, many residents here at Five Towns were both surprised and irritated to find that the silver gates near the dormitory parking lot were closed. For the last several years, students could pass through these gates to loop around and park their car with ample room and were able to load and unload their vehicles without question. Now with the gates closed, residents merely pull over to the side of the road to load and unload their vehicles. Being able to enter into the parking lot for easy load-in is a right they were told was given to them by the Residence Hall Association.

A big problem with the changes in Public Safety comes from the lack of communication between safety officers and students. When Public Safety was checking IDs in the parking lot the week of Halloween, one student asked the officer what the

point of it was and he only offered an unsatisfying, "I'm just doing what I'm told."

In regards to the dormitory parking lot, residents have run into issues with the new closed-gate policy without being given a direct and firm reason as to why it exists. A major complaint from residents was sometimes being given tickets or being told they will be ticketed for doing so. More than anything though, students were outright told they were not allowed to park there. This sparked controversy amongst students and was a hot topic in the Five Towns College: Students United Facebook group, after a student was reprimanded for taking too long to unload their vehicle due to health issues.



Photo courtesy of Nikki Esposito

Public Safety officers have told students they are not allowed to park in the lane in case of emergency, such as an ambulance or fire safety vehicle needing to access the dorm parking lot. Why can't it be open all the time than?

Popular Public Safety Officer Howard Gray said the reason for the closed gates is access control. "It's just like how we check IDs at the main entrance of the educational building, it's about access control. [We need to be] able to filter who comes in and out of the school, staying on top of who is on the property," he said.

How can the gates be opened when an emergency happens when there is no guard in the booth to open it though? Resident students were promised there would be a guard in the booth outside the dorms at all times but on multiple accounts this semester, there was no one in the booth for hours on end.

Though Five Towns is a small college with a small campus, it still holds a whole community of students and faculty. While the inconveniences are just that, the lack of communication leaves an even sourer taste in people's mouths. Hopefully in future semesters, the community can live a little more peacefully but there is surely still work left to be done.

Not My President

On Tuesday, November 8th, I voted in my first presidential election. I was with Her, and still am for that matter. That night, I tried to stay optimistic, but eventually decided I did not want to be awake when the country proved itself not to be with Her, too. I did not want to believe that the nation could so happily get behind a man who carelessly and easily made fun of those with special needs and disabilities, grabbed women by the pussy, threatened to deport immigrants, and build a wall between us and our neighbors.

I woke up the next morning to the news. Donald Trump was elected the 45th President of the United States of America. That is terrifying. I am scared. Donald Trump scares me.

This isn't just about politics. It has never once been just about politics. Trump ran on a campaign of bigotry, misogyny, homophobia, and racism. America was always prided in history books about being a melting pot. All of these different races, cultures, and religions were able to immigrate to this new land. Being an American isn't about a certain coloring to your skin. It's about the strength and openness you carry yourself with. Being "American" had become synonymous with freedom, and now it's just synonymous with racist. During a time when there's a near-daily occurrence of a school shooting, police shooting, college rape lawsuit, or whatever other atrocity is headlining the news, Donald Trump's entire campaign only enabled the venality of white, straight males.

People argue the fact that while Donald Trump is the president, he is still subjected to the system of checks and balances. The point of checks and balances is to ensure that no branch of government, be it executive, judicial, or legislative, has too much power. How well will that system work for the nation, though, when the White House, Senate, and House of Representatives are now all Republican? Or when there are three Supreme Court Justices positions to be fulfilled? Trump wants to make America great again. Being that he is 70-years-old, the America

he grew up in still hadn't passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or Roe v. Wade. Even though passing laws and making changes in government is slow-paced, America is at risk of erasing every social issue milestone the Obama administration and the presidential administrations before him worked hard to achieve.

I am not the only woman who is afraid of him and what he can do with power. We fear for our right to choose. Trump's campaign was aggressively anti-choice and threatened to defund Planned Parenthood. America's future vice president, Mike Pence, is such an advocate for pro-life politics that he once signed a law that would require women to have funerals for their aborted fetuses.

Trump's strong Islamophobia was never a secret and runs parallel to how Hitler treated Jews. Trump believes all Muslims in America have to be registered and carry some form of identification on them (perhaps the Star of Islam be sewed into all of their clothes). This ideology and Islamophobia has caused women of Islamic faith to consider and to stop wearing their hijab because they fear for the safety of their lives.

One of the greatest moments of the campaign trail was seeing the photographs of white Trump supports holding up signs that read "Blacks For Trump." Trump claimed he'd "be great for African-Americans" at the same time his campaign was endorsed by David Duke, a former leader of the Ku Klux Klan, and other white supremacists. A leader of the Virginia KKK branch has said that the reason a lot of Klan members support Trump is because a lot of their beliefs are very similar. And while we live in a world where every day another police officer has wrongly shot or arrested another innocent black man or woman, President-elect Donald Trump dismisses the facts of the police brutality. Black lives do matter, just as much as any other life, and it's more than disheartening that the President of the United States might not even agree with that.

Then, after years of fighting and making such progress in a short amount of time, members of the LGBTQ community may be safer staying in the closet. Pence wants to defund research to cure HIV and AIDS and reallocate that money into conversion therapy. Conversion therapy is a series of dangerous and discredited practices that will change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. According to the Human Rights Campaign, those "treated" through conversion therapy are eight times more likely to attempt suicide, six times more likely to suffer from high level of depression, and three times more likely to use illegal drugs and be at high risk of HIV and STDs.

Social media is flooded with people sharing posts and tagging it with the phrase, "not my president." Sure, he isn't the one you wanted to be announced as the next president but the fact of matter is, he was the one announced. To root against his success is to root against the success of the nation as a whole. As President Obama said Wednesday morning, "We are all on the same team...We all want what's best for this country."

"I believe in America and I always will. And if you do, then we look to the future. Donald Trump is going to be our president. We owe him an open mind and a chance to lead," Hillary Clinton said in her concession speech.

Donald Trump is not my president, not right now anyway. I want to follow Clinton's wishes and approach his presidency with an open mind. I want to give him the benefit of the doubt. I want to believe in the rumors that he ran on such an asinine and intolerant campaign just to get the votes. I want all of these things because, whether we like it or not and whether we trust him or not, America is stuck with Trump for the next four years - or however long he lasts. America has gotten through bad presidents before, and she can surely do it again.

Cabaret

By John Blenn

Cabaret is one of those musicals that casts a long shadow. As a Broadway play, conceived by Joe Masteroff, John Kander and Fred Ebb, beginning in 1966, through several revivals and a 1972 film version that was a tour de force for Liza Minnelli, *Cabaret* has earned well-deserved standing as an all-time classic. Set in pre-World War II Berlin, Germany, it is a fascinating snap shot of a lawless, hedonistic night-life society colliding with the rigid Nazi restructuring brought on by Hitler's rise to power. The magnetism of tale remains timeless.

In the capable hands of Director and theatre veteran Marie Danvers, Five Towns College Theatre Department's 2016 version of the musical holds up well. Sally Bowles, a displaced British national who is leading a charmed existence as a night club crooner and social butterfly, is handled in fine form by Lauren Coccaro, who has a legitimate cannon for a voice. Combining an impressive vocal range with a deft touch for characterization, Coccaro brings both a worldly toughness and empathetic fragility to the part. Dylan Bivings as the co-lead, American writer Clifford Bradshaw, brings a steady likeability to the

part of a globe-trotting novelist who is struggling to find the right environment to write his masterpiece in. Berlin is his latest attempt to find inspiration. Will these two potential soul mates find happiness or will the disintegrating climate around them lead to a star-crossed end. That's the journey the audience is on to find out, set against a simple but effective and nicely-crafted set.

The Emcee from the night club, a role which netted Joey Grey an Oscar in the film version and a Tony for the Broadway version, is flipped over to a female role here, handled in dynamic fashion by the charismatic Dayna Johns. She is a perpetual presence scene to scene, adding just the right mixture of sultry mystery and playful muse. Also standing out in featured roles are Ryan McKeon (Ernst), Taliek Hill (Herr Schultz), Renee Shubert (Fraulein Schneider) and Ashley Ferraro (Fraulein Kost). The supporting cast, Dani Wilson, Amelis Escalante, Ashley Bermudez, Kristin Hutchins, Madison Keith, Cassidy McKnight, Akeil Davis, Felipe Rondon, Charles Dickenson, James Merchant, Julia Zinn, Sean Carey and Kevin Meade, brings a lot of skill to the well-choreographed and beautifully-played proceedings. Dr. Hosun Moon's orchestra breathes a whole new freshness into

the parade of well-known songs, highlighted by Coccaro's energized turn on the title track, the playful "Money Song" and a haunting version of "Tomorrow Belongs To Me."

They say that the smartest thing any director can do is pick the right personnel for the job and Miss Danvers certainly seems to have picked the right people for the job on *Cabaret*. The end result is a spirited, fun evening with some fun performances that will stay with the viewer for months to come. It's not easy to take a story of societal decay, social clash and impending sorrows and turn it into a toe-tapping romp. Most of *Cabaret* plays that way, though the sad, reflective moments are handled with equal degrees of panache and sure-handedness. Five Towns has always had a reputation as one of the best theatre companies on the Island, educational, community or regional and *Cabaret* keeps that reputation valid. If you caught the show, you know that to be true. If you missed it, circle the next musical on the calendar and make a point to treat yourself to an evening of entertainment. You never know when you may see the first steps on the road by a future Oscar or Tony winner.



Lauren Coccaro as Sally Bowles, the British singer headlining the Kit Kat Klub, and the Kit Kat Club Girls during "Don't Tell Mama."



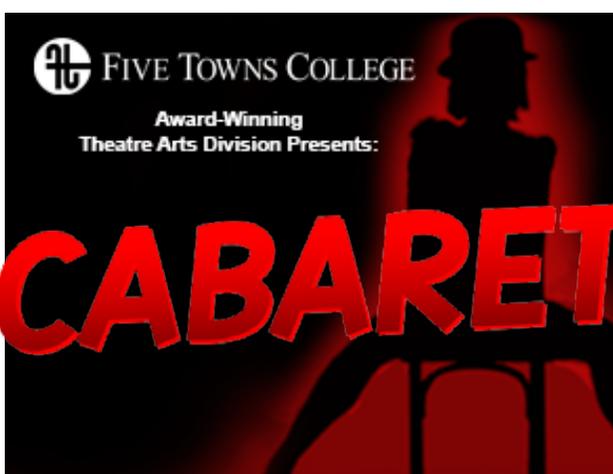
Dayna Johns as Emcee, a leering, ghoulish, flamboyant character.



Ashley Bermudez as a member of the Kit Kat Club Girls



Ryan McKeon as Ernst Ludwig and Ashley Ferraro as Fraulein Kost



Taliek Hill as Herr Shultz, an old Jewish fruit shop owner who is in love with Fraulein Schneider



Renee Shubert as Fraulein Schneider and Dylan Bivings as Cliff Bradshaw in "What Would You Do?"



(L-R) Shubert and Ferraro arguing. Fraulein Kost rents a room from Fraulein Schneider's boarding house.



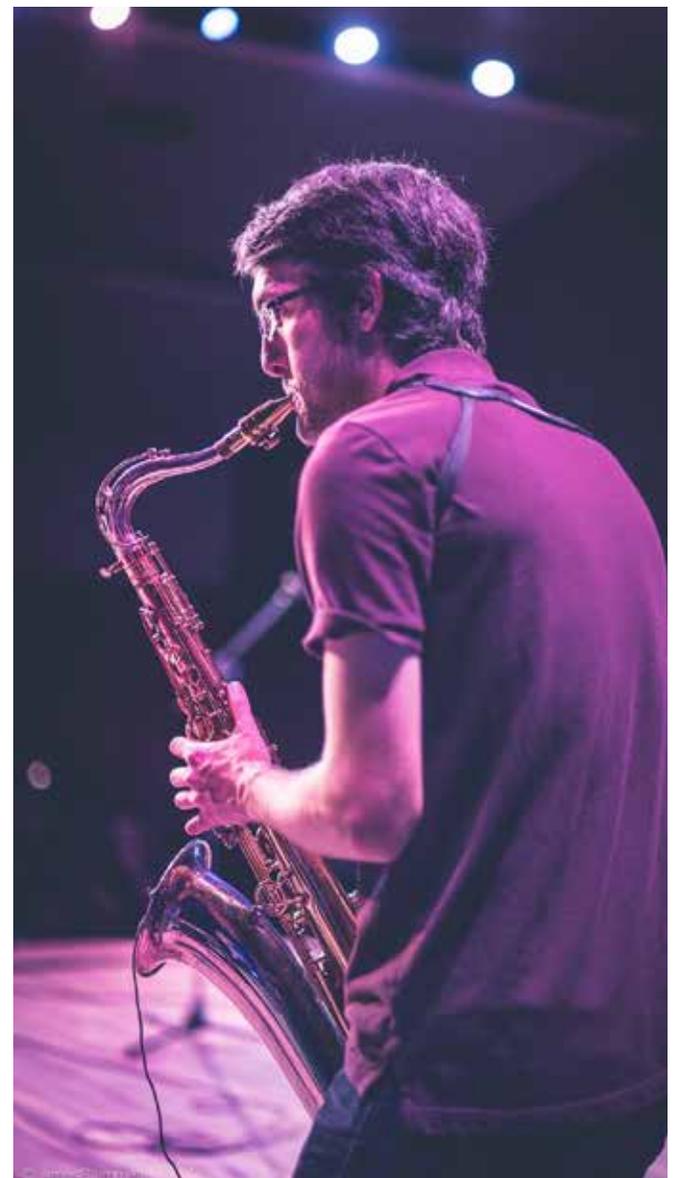
Renee Shubert and Taliek Hill in "Married."

October Fest 2

By Michael Montesano

The second annual October Fest, hosted and created by 5 Sounds Records was held last month on Thursday, October 20th. This event was established last year with the goal of providing entertainment to the students of Five Towns College from the students themselves. Last year was a huge success with an attendance of over 100 students, faculty, friends, and family. October Fest provides performances, the expression of talent and creativity and entertainment for all through live music and performance. October Fest 2 showcased Gatorr, Full Spectrum, Retrofeelya, Zane Quin and The Vibe, S.I.L.E.N.C.E. with Evrything is Evrything, Ria Lucia, and Kelly Wask. 5 Sounds Records helps set up the event, get the performers for the event, aid all of their equipment and technical needs and handles the promotion and organization behind the event as well. October Fest gives people in Five Towns College who make music the opportunity to perform and practice in front of a crowd. October Fest 2 was highly successful events the performers and the audience seemed to enjoy a lot with more to come in the future.

All Photos Courtesy of James Giammetta





Big Blue and Gang Green

By Michael Scudiero

As we look to week thirteen of the NFL season, only one New York team is pushing for the postseason. The Giants, led by their head coach Ben Mackadoo and their respected quarterback Eli Manning, stand at eight wins and three losses after week twelve, while the New York Jets' record has those exact numbers reversed.

The G-Men are currently in the hunt for a wild card spot to grab a ticket to the postseason, or possibly even chase down the Dallas Cowboys for first place in the NFC East. Of these two scenarios, the first scenario is more likely than catching the first place Dallas Cowboys, as they currently have 10 wins and just one loss on the year and show no signs of slowing down led by their rookie quarterback Dak Prescott.

Some people have recently claimed that the Giants are the "worst 8-3 team" out there. Eli Manning, although a solid career quarterback, has a tendency to be a bit inconsistent this season. His last time out against the Cleveland Browns, he threw for only 194 yards despite having three touchdown passes after catching a couple of breaks against an 0-12 Browns team. Their running game, having improved in the second half of the season could still use more work with Rashad Jennings being mainly the only presence while picking up pace. They have no tight end worth relying on. On the other hand, Manning can also obviously be a big threat to the opposition, especially if the team's biggest strength, their passing game, is on the money.

The defense that they spent so much money for over the offseason, led by very talented defensemen in

the likes of Landon Collins, Janoris Jenkins, and Jason Pierre Paul perform very well when the game is on the line particularly. A 10-6 or 9-7 record should clinch a playoff spot for the Giants. Furthermore, considering they haven't been seen as a very intimidating team since they defeated two easy teams in the Chicago Bears and the Cleveland Browns the last two weeks, but they have beaten difficult teams nonetheless. If they defeat the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Dallas Cowboys in the next two weeks, it would definitely help their cause and get them closer to that postseason spot.

Contrary to the Giants, the New York Jets' hopes for making the playoffs stand at little to none with three wins and eight losses following the conclusion of week twelve. Most recently losing to their biggest rival, the New England Patriots, the Jets find themselves buried in a deeper hole week after week. What people really care about at the moment is the controversy surrounding who should be the starting quarterback for the remainder of the season. Head coach Todd Bowles has already named Ryan Fitzpatrick the starter yet again on Monday night against the Indianapolis Colts. Many people believe it should be the fourth round draft pick Bryce Petty, and some say it should be the man that they resigned over the offseason in Ryan Fitzpatrick. Given the fact that the Jets virtually have nothing left to play for, many fans prefer to see Bryce Petty start at quarterback. Gang Green fans also wouldn't mind seeing the young 21-year-old and second round pick Christian Hackenberg get one



or two starts at quarterback either. With all of the quarterback controversy, and the general frustration throughout the fan base due to the teams' record, gameplay, and impossibility of a postseason appearance, it's difficult to find anything to look forward when it comes to the Jets.

Football season has a dawn in September and has a quick dusk, as we find ourselves in December before we know it with the end of the season on the horizon. With week thirteen fast approaching, all eyes are on the Giants to make their playoff push even more intimidating, starting by potentially defeating the Pittsburgh Steelers, and people will be observing the Jets to see whether they will regret going with Fitzpatrick yet again on Monday against Indianapolis.

Taking Another Shot

By Michael Scudiero

Five Towns is giving basketball another shot after 15 years of having a vacant basketball court in the gym. Led by the well-mannered and respectful new Athletic Director and Head Coach John Mateyko, the men's basketball team will hopefully have the success that the team had 15 years ago, as well as gaining popularity throughout the school and filling the seats for home games. In order to get a realistic perspective of the team and what is to come, it certainly helped to be able to sit down with the new Athletic Director and Head Coach Mateyko.

Coach Mateyko was able to give me some history of what the basketball team was like since the last time Five Towns had a team. In fact, many people don't even recall ever hearing about the school having a basketball team. There was a men's basketball team from 2000 until 2001. They were a very talented group and had a very successful season as a part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). That year, the team made it as far as the regional tournament. Unfortunately, in the second semester of the next season, the Five Towns basketball program was put to an end, concluding an exciting year and a half in the NAIA for the team.

Now you might be asking yourself, after 15 years, why would the school be interested in bringing back the basketball program? Well the answer is simple, it happens to be one of the many ideas that current President David Cohen had during this past summer. Shortly thereafter, Mateyko was asked to be the Athletic Director and the new head coach of the men's team, and his qualifications and credibility as a coach are impressive.

Coach Mateyko had a long successful history as a basketball coach prior to coming over to Five Towns and taking the helm of our team. In 20 years of coaching, he has had more than a remarkable 225 wins. Having great amounts of knowledge about Division III College Basketball, he's appeared in the NCAA postseason twice in his 13 years with St. Joseph's prior to spending time at coaching at Dowling as well.

Most importantly, especially in a school that has a vast majority of students interested in the arts, he has impressive skills in recruiting players for his teams. This includes his ongoing goal as the coach. There are certainly some people in the school that have great amounts of interest in sports, but it's generally not a hot topic. Despite this, Coach Mateyko believes

that there will be good participation and enthusiasm for the games, and he looks forward to seeing what comes of bringing sports into the mix at Five Towns. In addition to that, he hopes the soccer team will be equally as successful as the basketball teams.

The future looks bright on the directing side of the athletic program for Mateyko as well, as many coaches have said they are willing to come coach teams at Five Towns "as long as there is a team to coach," he said. Given time, the basketball team should really gain popularity with the community and there may even be a chance of students and faculty finding a newfound love and passion for their school through the program.

At long last, basketball will be making a comeback at Five Towns College, giving the gym a greater purpose than the theater classes. Coach Mateyko hopes and is confident that his program will be successful and popular among a school community in which the main concept is of performing arts. His impressive past experience in this field should definitely help in turning the tides towards creating a successful future for the basketball and other sports programs.