

THE PERFORMER

Teen Drug Issues

By: Devon Zilinek

It seems like this year, more teens than ever before are getting in trouble because of drugs. The problems do not just arise because of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana anymore. Young people are abusing more "hardcore" drugs as well as prescription drugs. Teenagers do not realize the effects these drugs have on their future and the safety of others. Caught up in the present and the motto YOLO (you only live once), they must wake up and recognize the dangers of abusing drugs.

Because of its easy accessibility, alcohol abuse has become one of the largest problems with teens today. Alcohol appears at most high school parties, and teens have started drinking younger than ever. About half of high school juniors get drunk about once a month (medicinenet.com).

The most dangerous part of teens drinking alcohol does not have to do with its damage to intellectual capability, but rather the risk it puts on lives. Drunk drivers aged 16 - 20 are twice as likely to be involved in a fatal crash than drunk drivers 21 or older. About 2,000 people under the age of 21 die every year from crashes involving underage drinking (wedon'tserveteens.gov).

Marijuana tops the charts for the most commonly used illegal drug amongst teenagers. Of the 14.6 million teen marijuana users, approximately 4.8 million smoke it 20 or more days in a month (acesavon.com). Many teens start using marijuana as a remedy to cure boredom while with friends. However, the habit becomes severe when teens start relying on marijuana, believing they need it to escape from problems

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at school, home, or with friends. The drug can also cause depression from withdrawal. Unfortunately, with each use, the depression can worsen and worsen, in some cases even leading to suicide.

One of the worst illegal drugs, ecstasy, is a psycho-simulative drug which mostly attracts teens and young adults. It consists of Methylenedioxymethamphetamine or MDMA. Ecstasy changes the natural effects of serotonin, the chemical messenger that carries signals from one nerve cell to another, and helps to modulate moods and emotions. The drug disables the transported protein and allows the release of all the brain's serotonin at one time. Studies of ecstasy users show that the brain becomes at risk of lack of safety as well as reduction in brain activity because of the drastic loss of serotonin. Long

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Spring Creations

By: Aly Wolf

As always, in the spring season, the school buzzes with the cumulative work of students. The creativity, which comes along with the performing arts, shines through in the final projects of seniors. With the dancers having shown their choreography on March 30th and weekly play readings, which featured not only the senior playwrights of LVPA, but also the instrumental students' compositions, creativity inspires all forms of expression this season. What really goes into choreographing a dance piece, writing a play, and creating a musical score? In the dance department for Young Choreographers in Concert, the "behind the scenes work," teeming with chaos and emergencies, calls for patience, organization, and proper time management skills.

More specifically, the dancers have dealt with a variety of technical and emotional issues. From last minute injuries to artistic differences, choreographing a dance piece and setting it upon other dancers is not a task for the faint of heart. Senior KJ Faustner, who created a piece about touch's effect on the human mind, explains, "the hardest part about choreographing and preparing a dance for a performance was definitely trying to find time to meet with my dancers and arrange a convenient schedule around their busy lives." With injuries and complications afoot, Faustner took on an extra dancer just weeks before the department's due date and managed to recreate a comprehensive work of art.

Another senior, Shannon Geist, recalls her largest challenge as teaching dancers to embody the details of



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Drugs (continued from page 1)

periods of ecstasy use indicate that the increases of MDMA may be fun at first, but becomes very toxic to the brain and can cause damage to the body and brain cells. People often overlook the most major problem with ecstasy. Teens believe they are getting their hands on the “real” drug but find out later that the pill is laced with other harmful substances. Such laced drugs can yield overdose and sometimes even death.

The extremely dangerous trend of teenagers using prescription drugs to get high has been in the news much more frequently than in past years. A national study shows that today’s teens are more likely to have abused a prescription painkiller than any illicit drug. The easy accessibility is the reason for the increase in the abuse of prescription drugs. Many teens often raid their parent’s medicine cabinets to get high. In the rush of the high, however, teens often mix different drugs without realizing the serious reactions they could elicit.

With the rise of teen drug abuse, a rise in awareness has evolved. Organizations such as Above the Influence and The Anti-Drug try to prevent teen drug abuse by informing teens and parents about the dangers of using drugs. Hopefully organizations such as these can get through to teens and show them the dangers of their actions.



Mother’s and Father’s Day: How It All Started

By: Sarah Grapek

In the months of May and June, people all over the country show thanks to mothers and fathers and all that they have done for their children. Most assume the holidays have a purely commercial base. However, research has uncovered deeper roots that contradict popular belief. Civilizations all over the world have been honoring motherhood for centuries. Although people have only recently sculpted Mother’s Day to be about personal mothers, other motherly figures have been worshipped throughout history.

In Ancient Egypt, civilians considered the Goddess Isis to be the Mother of Pharaohs. The Egyptians held an annual festival in her honor, and depicted her as a very regal figure, often sitting upon a throne. Ancient Romans also celebrated this festival, but used it to memorialize battle and symbolize the start of winter. The Roman root of Mother’s Day derives from another festival celebrating the Phrygian Goddess Cybele, also known as “Magna Mater,” which means “Great Mother.” Cybele originates from Greek Goddess Rhea, whom the Greek acknowledged and celebrated as Mother of Gods. However, the festival for Cybele replaced the celebration of Rhea. Similar to many traditions today, the festival’s events included eating honey cakes and sharing flowers in the morning.

Later in Europe, the fourth Sunday of Lent honored “Mother Church” with jewels, flowers, and offerings. In the 1600’s, England decreed this day as a celebration of real mothers as well. The name was changed to “Mothering Day” and featured families united for a feast in which the community presented mothers with cakes and flowers. When settlers came from England, however, the tradition was discontinued. The U.S. Government made Mother’s Day official in 1914, and Woodrow Wilson signed

the observance, which stated the holiday would reoccur every second Sunday in May. Today, the Mother’s Day industry has added up to 16 billion dollars, and 96 percent of Americans take part in holiday shopping.

Unlike Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, which occurs in June, does not have very deep roots. The United States actually created the holiday to accompany Mother’s Day in the late Twentieth Century. One early account took place on July 5, 1908, when a woman named Mrs. Grace Golden Clayton observed Father’s Day in Fairmont, West Virginia. Mrs. Clayton wanted to celebrate the lives of the 210 fathers who passed away in a Monongah Mining disaster many months earlier. Perhaps the first celebration of Mother’s Day a few miles away that same year influenced her to celebrate fathers the same way. Although its history is not extensive, Father’s Day also celebrates



family, parenting, and honor.

It is almost time to think about what to do for these special holidays: What makes parents happy for a day? They might enjoy a stress free day without chores or maybe a card or gift. Parents like to know their children and spouse appreciate all the love and work they have put into the family. Although both days have different backgrounds, they celebrate a common idea: love!



her choreography and remember the piece. She also reflects upon organizational difficulties; "it was hard to get everybody in the same room to practice because other choreographers needed the dancers for their own pieces. We had to cooperate and share the students." Fortunately, everything worked out for the final showings at the end of March. The tension dancers felt for months melted away upon the sight of smoothly performed pieces. Thus, although the stress of senior projects might be almost through, choreographers still need to make final tweaks to make the pieces performance ready.

Faustner and Geist's work, along with the rest of the senior dancers', premiered Friday, April 27th in the Black Box, during the department's Young Choreographers in Concert. Also, watch out for the New Play Festival, which will feature the best of the senior theater major's plays along with the musical compositions of senior instrumentalists, near the end of May.



Origins of Cinco De Mayo

By: Jackie Bastidas

Every fifth of May, Mexicans and Mexican-Americans celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Maybe you, during a Spanish class, have celebrated this momentous holiday. But why do we celebrate Cinco de Mayo, how is it celebrated properly, and why is this day commemorated?

During the Franco- Mexican War in 1861- 1867, the Mexican army defeated France. "El Dia de la Batalla de Puebla," which means "The Day of the Battle of Puebla" became the holiday now known as Cinco de Mayo. In Mexico, people observe the holiday in Puebla with military parades, war reenactments, and other festivities. However, banks, offices, and stores remain open because it is not a major holiday. Oddly enough, Cinco de Mayo is a larger holiday in America than in Mexico.

In 2005, on June seventh, Congress issued a Concurrent Resolution. This meant the people of the United States have the right to observe Cinco de Mayo, its ceremonies and activities. Prior to 2005, the Journal of American Culture reported that there were more than 120 official celebrations of Cinco de Mayo in 1998. After 2005, the number of Cinco de Mayo events increased to over 150.

In America, Cinco de Mayo has become a holiday to celebrate the culture and experiences of Americans of Mexican ancestry. However, many non Mexican- Americans celebrate this holiday making it similar to St. Patrick's Day or Oktoberfest. When celebrating Cinco de Mayo, dancing and Mexican music takes hold. Mariachi bands are common. Commercially, restaurants advertise beverages, Mexican food, and music. Some of the largest festivals are held in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston.

This May fifth, whether you are Mexican or not, treat yourself to some delicious food and Mariachi music!



Miller Keystone Blood Drive

By: Erynn Molettieri

Miller Keystone was established in 1971. It is an independent, not-for-profit community organization. The blood that is donated through their organization is given to 24 hospitals in Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Lehigh, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, and Warren (NJ) counties. The organization donates 450 units of blood every day to local hospitals. Every two seconds, someone needs a blood transfusion. Premature babies, cancer patients, and people who have experienced some sort of accident use this donated blood the most. However, to be a donor, one must be eligible. Miller Keystone lists donor eligibility guidelines on their website at the following address: http://www.giveapint.org/information/donate_eligibility.php



On April 13, 2012, LVPA welcomed Miller Keystone into our school. Through Student Council, they were able to set up a blood drive for juniors and seniors over the age of 17. The blood drive was very successful; 40 people signed up and 25 met the requirements to donate blood. Only three students became ill or needed to stay in the donation center for a few extra minutes.

Facts about Blood Donation:

- Approximately 43,000 units of blood are used every day in the United States
- Statistics show that 25% or more of Americans will require blood at least once in their lifetime.
- The gift of blood is the gift of life. There is no substitute for human blood.
- Females receive 53% of blood transfused; males receive 47%.
- If you began donating blood at age 17 and donated every 56 days until you reached 76, you would have donated 48 gallons of blood.
- Blood centers often run short of type O and B blood, and shortages of all types of blood occur during the summer and winter holidays.
- If all blood donors gave at least twice a year, it would help prevent blood shortages.
- Anyone who is in good health, is 17 years of age or older, and weighs 110 pounds or more, may donate whole blood every 56 days.
- Plasma can be donated every four weeks, and platelets up to 24 times per year.
- 17% of people who don't give blood cite "never thought about it" as the main reason for not donating, while 15% say they're "too busy."

4.8 million Americans would die each year without life saving blood transfusions. For more facts about blood and blood donations, visit the Miller Keystone website: http://www.giveapint.org/information/donate_facts.php. Interested in donating blood? Go to one of Miller Keystone's blood drives, and after a quick screening, a single person can save up to three lives! The organization will be coming to Allentown, Northampton, Easton, Bethlehem, and Emmaus. For specific dates, view their calendar at this address: http://www.giveapint.org/information/calendar_index.php

"A lot of people want to do good things for their community, but with the current economy they can't afford to do. Donating blood is something you can do that only costs you an hour of your time." Nicki O'Connell.

Mayfair 2012 Festival

By: Lana Brucker

One of the Lehigh Valley's first outdoor music, food, and art festival, Mayfair, a festival of the arts, has occurred every year since 1987 in Allentown's Cedar Beach Park. It displays dancers, arts and crafts huts, musical acts, concerts, culinary demonstrations, and visual artists throughout the Valley. This year, a new executive director, Arlene Daily, plans to limit commercial vendors and provide a stronger focus on artists. She is working on "improving the layout of the festival [and] creating an Artist Esplanade at the very busy Ott Street entrance." The performers, the Fair's birthday bash, and a dance celebration dominate Mayfair's festivities thus far.

Three performers already have spotlights on Mayfair's website. Sinister Realm, a heavy metal band, plays at 10:00 pm on Friday, May 27th on the MasterClass stage. They base their music off horror themes and sing about other-worldly topics. Also presenting their talent on the Masterclass stage, Freak Owls, an Indie-Pop, Electro-Folk group, has a show on Saturday, May 28th from 6:30-7:30 pm. The band only has three people but utilizes multiple instruments and voices to make the sound powerful. The third performer, Scott McKenna, a rock, pop, Christian artist will crash the stage with his band sometime throughout the fair, the date to be announced. Additionally, Only Human, a pop/positive rock band, will be coming especially for Discovery Day on the Kids Stage on Friday, May 27th at 2:00 pm! The musical genres and styles abound at Mayfair; anyone can enjoy the art and culture in the area.

Besides simply providing musical entertainment, Mayfair celebrates its 25th birthday this May! On Saturday, May 28th, from 12:30-2:30 pm, guests can witness magicians, participate in a cake decorating contest, and enjoy several other exciting activities. Those who bring gently used or new books to benefit the Reading Rocks program of St.

Luke's may receive a piece of the Mayfair Birthday Cake! Reading Rocks helps to improve the literacy of elementary school children who struggle in school. Moreover, Lehigh University student athletes also assist in the program, making it a way to unite all levels of the community. Donating for an amazing cause, eating birthday cake, and having an interactive party-like experience collectively make Mayfair's 25th anniversary spectacular!

Mayfair also introduces "Days of Dance," a showcase of Lehigh Valley dance studios. The production is set for, Saturday, May 28th and Sunday, May 29th, both from 12-7 pm at the Inspiration Zone. The board of the artistic festival has put together the program as another way to celebrate Mayfair's anniversary. Dancers in all age groups are plentiful in the Lehigh Valley, all using different techniques and routines. Collaborating all into one show should provide a taste of diversity amongst the dance community! Mayfair Festival of the Arts presents a new and improved festival! On May 24th-28th, the events will unfold. For more information, go to mayfairfestival.org. The site provides questions and answers, so interested attendees can learn all about how the event operates. Enjoy the warm weather and spring with all the other artists from LVPA and throughout the Lehigh Valley at Mayfair!



May Events

By: Devon Zilinek

Jazz Band Concert (May 10)

The Big Band and Smaller Groups perform jazz music from the Great American Songbook as well as other song books in the Black Box starting at 7:30.

Artist's Café (May 11)

Visual art majors show off their work at LVPA. The theme of the event is Japonism. There will be Asian-style food, entertainment, and a shuttle between LVPA and the Senior Show. The show runs from 7:30-9:30.

Quilt (May 11- 12)

LVPA dance majors perform dances choreographed by faculty and guest choreographers. The show is held at Williams Center at Lafayette College.

Senior Theater Showcase (May 12)

Senior theater majors will present contrasting scenes and monologues they have worked on over their four years at LVPA. It takes place in the Black Box starting at 7:30 pm.

Chamber Ensemble Concert (May 15)

Small groups perform works from classical and modern genres. It takes place in the Black Box at 7:30.

Piano Recital (May 17)

LVPA piano majors perform pieces from a standard repertoire. The concert is held in the Black Box starting at 7:30.

Spring Concert Series (May 21-23)

LVPA's various bands perform the pieces they have been working on throughout the year at Moravian College at Foy Hall starting at 7:30. On Monday night, the underclassmen choir, women's choir, and show choir will be performing. On Tuesday night, concert band, orchestra, and percussion ensemble will perform. Finally, on Wednesday night, upperclassmen choir and touring choir will perform.

Don't forget to save your ticket stub! A ticket stub from one night's concert will be honored at the other two.

An Evening of Excellence on Ice (May 24)

Join LVPA skaters for an evening of excellence and fun as they perform on ice. The show begins at 7:00 at the Steel Ice Center.

Opinion Editorial

On Image and Acceptance

By: Gina Lerman

Everything from fashion magazines and social networking sites to nineteenth century European portraiture, shares at least one commonality. Despite the obvious differences between contemporary models or actresses and Victorian aristocracy, these images perpetuate a certain epitome of perfection. They each represent a cultural standard of beauty -- in turn, the idea that people, specifically women, have to look a certain way to obtain value in the world.

The images themselves have evolved over the centuries and through the waves of acculturation, have become even more influential with the advent of mass communication. Businesses and advertisers learned quickly how to capitalize on the human desire to be beautiful and inherent fear of not quite fitting the bill. But within the past few decades, the targets of these efforts have gained insight, along with a voice to share it. Greater social consciousness and social revolutions have ushered in a powerful backlash against conventional ideas about how people should look and act. Such a backlash thereby represented a leap towards greater acceptance in matters like sexuality, gender roles, and race relations.

Unfortunately, for every important step a trip backwards often follows. Because of the way culture has standardized, people cannot help but notice images and make immediate judgments, even against their nature. Perhaps, many do not think as impartially and forward as one might like to imagine. Despite all the advances in universal acceptance to date, the subject of women's bodies still remains a controversy. As well-meaning as they seem, messages like "real women have curves" and "only dogs want bones" can be just as harmful as prejudices against the women and girls that society deems overweight. For instance, most would not dare tell someone they are too fat so why do many find no problem telling a girl she is too skinny? Why is it okay to tell someone that they're too anything? Insecurity does not have a weight limit. It does not discriminate, so neither should the people facing another person's awkward flaw.

How another human being "should" look is not for anyone else to decide. In fact, it never was. Everyone at some point has made a judgment. Furthermore, issues of fitting a standard of appearance goes far beyond "fat" or "skinny." However, everyone is a part of this new generation with opportunities to change for the better. All who say they have an empathetic and accepting personality must prove it in order to provide a truly safe environment for different people to live amongst each other.



PERCY'S LAST DAY



Fact or Fake?!

By: Kalina Mellman

Caught Up in Asian Restaurant Raid

Most people go to work expecting the usual: nothing exciting, just the usual work flow. Aylison Fox, 18, received an unexpected surprise as a young African American working part-time at Phun Time Rice. Aylison was unaware of the events that were to follow. "As I entered the building, it was quiet...too quiet for my taste. I just went on with my daily life and thought nothing of it. I set the tables, and then I saw him." Aylison explained to the Cat's Meow Press. "He was my ex boyfriend, Joe Mare. He was upset the night before, about our 7 month relationship ending. I didn't think he was going to come to my workplace and put peoples' lives in danger." When Aylison saw Joe Mare, she was immediately frightened and ran to call the police. "He ran after me, but thank God, he slipped on a soy sauce packet and knocked himself out instantly." Aylison considers herself lucky for not receiving any injuries. The restaurant's owner, June Phun, 33, let the perpetrator in and then left the restaurant. "I think he was the new clean guy." Obviously, he was not. Both June Phun and Joe Mare are currently incarcerated.

No, I'm Batman!!

Who ever thought Batman would be pulled over? Batman was pulled over on March 21, 2012 in Maryland for not displaying his rear license plate. Instead of the normal state registered plate, his plate only read "Batman." The car was transporting Batman to the Georgetown University Hospital to visit sick children. Who is the Batman you ask? Not Bruce Wayne, but Lenny Robinson. Mr. Robinson moonlights as Batman and visits little kids in the hospital. It looks like this old Bat is finally giving back.

This is the last fact or fake can you figure out which one is the fact? Best Teacher Ever was the true story from last months newspaper.

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*Thanks for reading
this year!*