

Being Green vs. Having Green and Everything in Between: Issues Behind the Recycling Resolution

by Britt Bigley

It has been a couple months since The Text published "Its Not Easy Being Green," the article that helped expose the problems with the recycling program on campus. During this time, the faculty, staff and physical plant have taken steps to combat the problems.

Almost immediately after the article was released Russ Kleinbach, Professor of Sociology, drafted a resolution to bring an end to the recycling problem. Professor Kleinbach proposed the resolution at the faculty meeting over the Christmas break where the rest of the faculty voted on whether or not to pass it.

"Recycling is as important as trash removal" the document states, the most important concept in the entire resolution. The resolution also points out the key flaws that have continued to plague the recycling program here on campus. It mandates that every trash can located on campus needs to be accompanied by recycling bin right next to it especially in areas that produce high amounts of trash like the Kanbar Campus Center and the design studios. The resolution also requires that existing bins be clearly labeled so that the university's staff, faculty and students know what recyclables go in which bins, and that adequate funding be provided for the necessary containers, labels, training and education.

The faculty approved the resolution by a vote of 53 to 11. But you may

be wondering, why would anyone vote against recycling? I met with Lloyd Russow, Professor of International Business and Marketing, Associate Dean of the School of Business Administration and Secretary of the Faculty, to learn about the opposing arguments. Professor Russow explained, "When faculty vote against something, it is not that they are against it, but against the concept underneath."

What underlying issue could possibly divert votes from passing the recycling resolution? The opposition is thinking green just as much as those who voted to pass the resolution. But this kind of green has a little bit more monetary value. The question raised by the opposing members is, if the Univer-

room, more sewing machines or even updating the screen printing equipment would have a greater impact on student's education, but currently, physical plant has a separate budget for recycling and trash removal.

Even President Gallagher, who has been criticized by some faculty members for being particularly silent about recycling, assured me that money is not the issue. He commented that the creation of a good sustainability plan would include a careful assessment of the university's financial resources.

Since the faculty meeting on January 16th, new developments have occurred. Professor Kleinbach and other faculty members, staff and students have started a recycling mailing list to keep everyone updated on the latest

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sity is going to spend money on a program like recycling, where is the money going to come from? Instead of spending money on recycling bins and labels, Russow wants the money to be used for something more practical like a smart classroom. "Smart classrooms would have a bigger impact on students," he maintained.

It can be agreed that, a smart class-

developments. Through the mailing list, a volunteer committee has been formed of students and faculty members who are willing to be recycling advocates for assigned buildings. Their job is to supervise recycling and make sure that the building has an adequate number of bins. Physical plant has also made some adjustments that include providing new labels for all of the recycling bins, updating the recycling website and adding more bins around campus. And for the first time, the sustainable committee met on March 22nd to discuss ways in making Philadelphia University a sustainable campus.

But even with all the transitions, there are more things that need to be done. If the recycling program is going to keep making progress, education and leadership will be key components. A few years ago there actually was a green committee spearheaded by a student, Lee Solteziack, but once he graduated the committee disbanded. "We need the leadership in the student body and the faculty," President Gallagher commented, "it had a good start but then the leadership left."

Raising awareness about recycling would help build a culture, a mind set. But in order for this to happen, every-



continued from page 1

one on campus needs to be involved. There are even plans to have incoming freshman take a one credit required course called "First Year Seminar: Finding PhilaU". This course would teach freshman the ins and outs of Philadelphia University and would include information about recycling.

Striving to become a sustainable school could give Philadelphia University something with which to identify. According to Art Alliance of Philadelphia, the city of Philadelphia is one of the top 10 most polluted cities, but is striving toward becoming a greener city by instituting green planning and other sustainable practices. If our school follows suit and takes the initiative to rank high on a "green" scale, we can give our campus a chance to stand out like a diamond in a coal mine. It would be an achievement that none of the surrounding schools could claim.

Design Philadelphia April 12 - April 22

Hey Philadelphia University! Do you need to get away from your design work and get your creative juices flowing again? Luckily, DesignPhiladelphia is coming back for it's third year to recognize and celebrate contemporary design located within the Philadelphia region. For ten days the city of Philadelphia will host over 50 design related events such as: lectures, exhibitions, gallery/studio tours, book signings, parties and workshops. The festivities will start on April 12th with an exhibition and symposium entitled The Grid, inspired by William Penn's and Thomas Holme's city layout of Philadelphia. The exhibition entitled Reinvention: circles, squares, and the city grid, will follow the symposium and will unite seven area design colleges to interpret how these forms interact in our daily lives.

The design schools participating include:
University of Pennsylvania – Architecture
The University of the Arts – Museum Exhibition Planning and Design
Philadelphia University – Fashion
Moore College of Art & Design – Textile Design
Drexel University – Graphic Design
Art Institute of Philadelphia – Industrial Design
Temple University/Tyler School of Art – Interactive Design

So take a break from your work and check out DesignPhiladelphia. Go support design in and around Philadelphia, check out other students' work and last but not least, GO GET INSPIRED!

For more information about DesignPhiladelphia and the list of events check out WWW.DESIGNPHILADELPHIA.ORG or look for it in the April 5th issue of City Paper.

A Change for the Better...?

by Jill Nelson

It's probably too far ahead in the future to think about, but don't be so quick to make plans for Monday, September 3rd, also known as Labor Day. In recent years, I'm sure you have used the extended weekend for final trips to the beach or time to spend with your family while enjoying the foods of a tasty barbeque. These traditions, unfortunately, must end. At least that's the case for Philadelphia University Staff and Students. The 2007-2008 Academic Calendar will mark the beginning of a big change here at Phila U. On Tuesday January 16th, a memorandum from President Gallagher was sent to Faculty and Staff announcing that an amendment was made to the current calendar, and beginning this fall semester, Philadelphia University will remain open on September 3rd, Labor Day. Classes will be held all day and all offices will be open. If this is new news to you, then I'm assuming your response is not unlike most other people, mainly being the question "Why"?

My search for answers began at the White House. (No, not that white house...this crazy idea, for once, had nothing to do with Bush). Geoffrey Cromarty, Executive Assistant to the President, was able to give me a statement from President Gallagher about the change, which went as follows:

"After careful consideration, we decided to adjust the 2007-2008 academic calendar by beginning classes on Monday, Labor Day, September 3, 2007 to enhance the University's commitment to the success of the students, particularly our first year students. One of the nation's most prominent scholars on first year programs argues that the first few weeks of a student's career are the most important in deciding whether a student will continue with his or her college career. We believe we should support students in their pursuit of a Philadelphia University degree.

"We understand that that this change represents a significant adjustment for the campus community, but believe that the benefit to engaging students during those first few weeks is critical to their

success at Philadelphia University." This statement was somewhat helpful, in that it let me know that the decision to change had something to do with incoming freshman and their experience within the first few weeks of school. Interesting. Along with this statement, Mr. Cromarty also supplied me with a list of other schools that are taking part in this considerable amendment. Apparently Bryn Mawr College, Swarthmore College, Lehigh University, Ursinus College, and Haverford College all share the same concern for freshman as Philadelphia University does. But what exactly is this concern and how is staying open on Labor Day going to fix it?

I directed this question to Jane Antheil, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs hoping she would be able to help me out, and that she did my friends...that she did. As it turns out, not every student has a glorious and fun filled experience as a freshman. Some have trouble with academics; some stumble upon some

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financial issues; some just simply decide that they would be better off in another location or with another major. However, the biggest problem that seems to plague students is that of a social one. Feeling comfortable in a strange environment is an important factor in the success of a student. And here is where the "problem" arises.

Traditionally, Labor Day provides us with a three day weekend. As a freshman, I took advantage of those three days to go home and mentally take in all of the events of my first week of college. Oh yeah, it also gave me a chance to get all the random crap I had forgotten. After surveying a number of random students, I came to the conclusion that this was the case for a majority of other students as well. However, this still leaves the

minority of students who live too far to travel home for a measly three days. Where do they go? Ms. Antheil shared with me that every year, her department receives a number of complaints from students claiming that they spent their first weekend of college alone, thus making them feel discouraged. These students shared that they weren't expecting that solitude so soon, and that it made them feel that perhaps college wasn't the right decision after all.

In the beginning, solutions to this problem included increased orientations, more intrusive behavior on the part of advisors, the addition of CA's and the FYE experience, etc. But I guess that wasn't enough. After looking at various studies and learning of other institutions that are doing the same thing, President Gallagher and his committee decided that staying open on Labor Day was worth a shot. Perhaps downgrading from a three day weekend to a two day weekend would keep more local students around so they can keep company with

the students that live too far away to travel home. The logistics seem to make sense, but I'm not sure that making such a drastic change in order to aid a small handful of students is necessary. A few of these distant students even reported that they enjoyed the long weekend. Kendra Talbott, senior Biology major and Colorado resident, says she remembers hanging around campus with the people that also stayed, and that it wasn't quite the traumatic experience that it's been made out to be.

The idea as a whole doesn't seem to be going over well with the staff or student body. The majority of people asked said that they find the idea to be ridiculous. Nine out of ten local students that went home for the long weekend as freshman say that even if they had had school on Labor Day, they still would have gone home for Saturday and Sunday.

Right now, the change is in a trial phase. School will remain in session for Labor Day for the next couple of years in order to see if it has any effect on the freshman retention. Personally, I'm glad that they waited until now to try it out, as I am a senior and won't have to deal with it. But unfortunately for you underclassman (haha suckas...just kidding), you'll have to be the guinea pigs for an experiment that looks like it might not work out too well in the end after all. Oh well. Only time will tell, so save the hot dogs and streamers for another occasion, because you won't be needing them this coming Labor Day.



Philly Green Fest

The 2nd annual Green Festival, Philly GreenFest scheduled for, Sunday September 9th, 2007, from 11-6 PM will traverse several blocks along South Street (8th through 11th, with 8th and 9th streets intersections closed), the fair will be themed this year around "Green Building" with categories focusing on Food, Transportation, Fashion /Design and Architecture. This festival will be decidedly interactive and engaging, with many unique and memorable features.

For the Fashion and Design category we are looking for artists and submit works to be presented in a fashion show comprised of two sections: Ready to Wear and Conceptual. Ready to Wear designers will showcase their designs in organic, sustainable vintage/recycled fabrics. (contact me for sellers of organic and sustainable fabrics)

Conceptual artists are welcome to showcase their pieces in found materials i.e.: newspapers, shopping bags, old clothes, plant discards, old umbrellas anything that would otherwise be thrown in the trash—work made with new materials will be accepted.

Models will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. In addition to our regular models, we will have dancers of local troops who will perform a recital wearing your garment. Please specify how you would like your garments to be featured. (Walking models or dancers)

We are also looking for artist interested in creating the visual display for the backdrop for the stage and catwalk, again all materials will have to be environmentally friendly.

Please submit the these materials to: GreenFestfashion@urbangreenpartnership.org
Short Bio
Written, photo (jpeg), sketch proposal
material list
model requirements

Spreading Team Spirit

by Emily Pidcock and Dennis Berenato
Guest Writers

Comcast Spectacor, owners of the Wachovia Complex, in Philadelphia, has hired Emily Pidcock, a junior Graphic Design Communications major and Dennis Berenato, a junior Marketing major, as college marketing director interns (CMD) for the spring semester. Pidcock and Berenato work directly on Philadelphia University's campus to create awareness for the Philadelphia Wings Lacrosse Team.

Lacrosse incorporates aspects from all sports; the physical contact of hockey, the fast paced action of basketball, and the talent and skill of professional athletes. For only \$10, Philadelphia University students can catch the action of the Philadelphia Wings. These seats are located in the lower level endzone and are normally priced at \$22. Students can obtain these tickets by speaking with either Berenato or Pidcock.

Berenato and Pidcock will attend class every Friday at the Wachovia Center. Here they will be joined by their fellow interns also enrolled in the program. Students will learn tactics to assist them in their weekly promotions.

This program teaches interns about fundraising, promotions, sales, market research, and public relations. Participants will attend all Wings home games, assist in grassroots events, and work with Philadelphia Flyers, Phantoms, and Sixers.

"Working with the Philadelphia Wings has been an amazing experience" stated Pidcock. "It has allowed me to learn the marketing tactics of a professional Philadelphia area sports team."

The Wings host the Minnesota Swarm in their next home game at the Wachovia Center on Saturday March 17 at 7:30 p.m. Guaranteed great seats for all remaining Wings home games by calling the Wings ticket office at (215) 389-WING (9464) or log on to www.wingslax.com for ticket information.

The Philadelphia Wings are owned and operated by Philadelphia Wings L.P., whose principal owners are Russ Cline, Chris Fritz and Michael French. Comcast-Spectacor serves as the marketing, sponsorship and publicity arm of the Wings.

Comcast-Spectacor (comcast-spectacor.com) is the Philadelphia-based sports and entertainment company which owns the Philadelphia Flyers (NHL), the Philadelphia 76ers (NBA), the Philadelphia Phantoms (AHL), the two arenas in which their teams play, the Wachovia Center and Wachovia Spectrum, four Flyers Skate Zone community ice skating and hockey rinks and Comcast SportsNet Philadelphia. In addition, Comcast-Spectacor is also the principal owner of Global Spectrum, the fastest growing firm in the public assembly management field with more than 60 facilities throughout the United States and Canada; Ovations Food Services, a food and beverage service provider; New Era Tickets, a ticketing and marketing company for public assembly facilities; Front Row Marketing Services, a commercial rights sales company; and 3601 Creative Group, a full-service in-house advertising agency. In a

New Atlantic

by Jillian Nelson and Theresa Nguyen

It's about time! New Atlantic is a band that swoons you and makes you dance (or sway) at the same time. So they aren't exactly local, but they're close enough. They play plenty of shows in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas so we're going to dub them an honorary local band.

It's rare for us these days to get into a band before seeing them play live, but not in this case. For a band that just recently signed with Eyeball Records after two long years, their demos were excellent and that's what got us hooked. This band won us over with their soothing combination of strings, percussions and the soulful voice of their lead singer.

Jake Kalb, drummer and youngest member, was nice enough to come out and meet with us even though he was suffering from an illness. What a trooper. We were either late or he was early, but he was already sitting in the corner waiting for us sipping on his ice water. If the rest of the band members are anything like him, then we can see why this band is "BFFL" with a lot of bands. Jake was very polite and very "cool" for someone his age and in his position, apologizing for his slacker-like attitude with not keeping up and replying to messages and emails.

So how did this amazing group of boys get together? Hailing from New Jersey, Giovanni Gianni (vocals) and Christopher (guitar) met in college originally playing acoustic together. Later came Dave (bass) and another guitarist Matt. They lost their original drummer and after meeting Jake from his previous band he joined and created the permanent line up. Now, what better way to get your band off the ground then hooking up with a well known local guitarist as your manager? Matt Watts of The Starting Line caught a listen of New Atlantic's demo and grabbed onto them while they were still fresh. With Matt's help, connections and full support, New Atlantic and TSL toured together and then NA toured with other big name bands. With their music careers on the way to the big time, they finally have a chance to concentrate on their music. They left the Philadelphia area for a few weeks to record their highly anticipated debut album, which comes out April 10 titled *The Streets, The Sounds, and the Love*. Their first single is called "Wire and Stone" with the guest vocals of William Pugh of Cartel, who they are currently on tour with. Look for the video too. One of their favorite songs on the album is called "What it's like to feel small", which reflects the way they feel about being away from home, being on the road and doing their thing. "Anyone can relate to this song," says Jake.

They've written and recorded brand new songs, which Jake claims to be a col-

"The songs are well rounded where each member can set a personal aspect into the music or lyrics"

lective process. The songs are well rounded where each member can set a personal aspect into the music or lyrics. Their goal is definitely to set a vibe. They surely have a distinct, more mature sound that sets them apart from the other bands they play with, but they are still influenced by bands like Cartel and Nada Surf.

So what is their greatest accomplishment thus far? Shooting their very first music video of course! They all felt so lucky to be working with a professional crew and being involved with the video treatment and finally seeing the band go somewhere. Catch them at their next show in the area on June fifteenth at the First Unitarian Church with All Time Low, The Audition and The Graduate.



Local boys from New Jersey prove they've got the beat.

A Bike Ride to Remember

by Jillian Arciero

There is a big difference between supporting a cause and actually believing in it. As you've probably noticed, Philadelphia University encourages many character-building activities and supports numerous fundraisers that are designed to enhance the campus community. One might assume that because of the wide variety of enriching opportunities available to students that it shouldn't be hard to gain volunteers

"...a fellow Philadelphia University student of our own is showing how doing the right thing can really have an impact."

to join in on rewarding causes. However, I think I can honestly speak for all of us when I say that we probably haven't been doing as much as we should. So for those of us who need motivation to make a difference, a fellow Philadelphia University student of our own is showing how doing the right thing can really have an impact. Business student Jillian Greenwald has been preparing for several weeks to take part in Kelly's Ride, a charity bicycle ride honoring

former Philadelphia University student Kelly Vodges. "This ride is a great way to get involved with fundraising and remember Kelly in an incredible way" says Greenwald. "I heard about the Ride from my fall semester job, Phonathon. We got information about it to inform the alumni who we were calling, and once my boss found out that my dad and I are bike riders, she got me involved and I joined the Kelly's ride committee." If that isn't ambition, I don't know what is.

The bike ride, which leads partici-

pants through scenic South Jersey, was organized by Vodges' family and friends and commemorates the cycling route that Kelly and her father Joe frequently enjoyed taking before her death in 2004. Vodges graduated from Philadelphia University in 2001 with a major in Fashion Merchandising and went on to work for the apparel company Jones New York. The charity ride, which takes place on Saturday, June 2nd, supports so many causes that it would be crazy not to join the effort! During my interview

with Greenwald, she informed me that the event benefits Philadelphia University's Kelly Marie Vodges Scholarship Fund, which was created for students planning to pursue a bachelor's degree in fashion here at Philly U. If that is not incentive enough, Greenwald went on to say "A girls' dormitory, school, and dining facility will be built in Honduras from the money raised through Kelly's Ride, and "Robin's Nest" will be completed, which is a group home in New Jersey for adolescent girls."

"Kelly's Ride is a great way to honor Kelly while helping others improve their quality of life," spoke the 19-year-old freshmen. Greenwald utilizes the stationary bikes in the school's Fitness Center to ride "at least five miles a day" and exercises regularly. If a 25-mile cycling trip seems a bit intimidating to you, consider pairing up with a friend or family member; Greenwald is being joined on the ride by her, father David Greenwald.

The first day of spring has come and



gone, and what better way to plan for the warm weather than to get in shape for a charity bike ride that combines more than just fitness and money? Kelly's Ride is about remembering a beautiful life, rebuilding new ones, and helping to improve the future for those who deserve it.

If you would like to participate in the Kelly's Ride Charity Fundraiser, please contact Jillian Greenwald at greenwald9873@philau.edu or Jennifer Welsh.

Business Review

by Tim Carroll

Upper Cuts Barber Shop
Owner: Andy Sgara

As spring is fast-approaching, I am guessing that quite a few gents on campus are thinking of getting a shorter hair-do, or as we say it on the streets, "splitting your wig." If this is the case guys, I have some very good news. If you're tired of going to a fancy salon, or some high-priced, low-quality, name-brand hair-cuttery, pay a visit to Upper Cuts Barber Shop on the corner of Ainslie and Conrad Streets in East Falls. Resident barbers for over 4 years now, Pat and Jeff, are more than willing to give you that classic barber shop look. In fact, Upper Cuts has been offering their fine services for over 50 years now. Once as kids getting their hair cut, Pat and Jeff are now continuing the same excellence and traditional service making Upper Cuts a neighborhood icon.

What makes Upper Cuts distinct from any other salon or shop in the area is that they have a strong, diverse, and loyal customer base which ranges from old-timers who have been getting their hair cut for years, to new faces, especially the strongest group of clientele, Philadelphia University students. That's right guys, as barber Pat Corkery adds, "We get a lot of local college students, including Drexel Med students, Temple and LaSalle kids, but the large majority of our younger clientele are from Phila U; they are very loyal."

Such loyalty is only a product of the premier, old-fashioned neighborhood service Pat and Jeff offer every cut. Aside from talking sports, local biz, and more sports, Upper Cuts is a chill spot to relax and enjoy a classic barber-shop experience; including the entertaining commentary of the old-timers. What makes the experience even better- poor students take a deep breath- Upper Cuts hasn't raised their rates in years! In fact, as Pat proudly puts it, "most places around here are \$15, but we have kept our price at 12 bucks, including a senior citizen discount."

When I asked Pat if he saw any threats to the barber shop, he said, "Our strength is that we are one of the only shops around that can still give you that classic cut...no threats at all." I have been getting my hair cut at Upper Cuts for two years now, and I couldn't agree more. A man of few, yet powerful, words, Jeff Jaroma, adds that we pride ourselves on "consistent, good hair cuts," and that, "if you're looking for a good hair-cut, feel free to stop in." Mike Griffiths, a standout 3rd year Interior Design major, says that, "I'm very particular about getting my hair cut." Mike first tested the waters his freshman year and says, "They hooked it up, and I've been going there ever since."

This is a true testament of the genuine experience of getting your hair cut by the experts in East Falls. Save a few bucks and try Upper Cuts on Conrad Street- I personally guarantee quality and a repeat visit, so does Mike Griffiths, and he never lies.



The newest addition to PhilaU athletics; the crew team.

The Sporting Goods

by Danielle Guldin

Spring, spring, spring has SPRUNG! That means baseball, softball, lacrosse and crew seasons are officially here!

Let's start with PhilaU's newest spring sport, crew! These young ladies and gentlemen have spent all of this semester AND last semester practicing on the frigid Schuylkill River during the wee hours of the morning. Now that's what I call dedication! In a recent indoor rowing event held at Villanova, the Main Line Slide, freshman Maureen Agnew pulled ahead of her competitor and not only placed 1st in the event, but also set a new personal record! Maureen rowed 2000 meters in a time of 7:46.5! GO MAUREEN! Other PhilaU students who placed in the day's events are Lindsay Catov, Lilly Anderson and Sean Sullivan. With such winning potential already evident, I'm confident PhilaU's first crew season will be spectacular! Way to go, crew team!

Baseball has already had several wins this season, including an 8 - 3 win over Millersville University and a 14 - 13 nail-biter victory over California (PA) over spring break! Great job, guys! Keep up the good work!

Softball has also taken home a few victories in recent weeks, including a 3 - 2 win over West Chester on March 22. Keep your eyes peeled for more exciting games in the very near future! Keep it up, ladies!

Women's Lacrosse tore up the field during a recent victory over Wilmington College at Wilmington. Our ladies dominated in a 22 - 4 win! Great job, ladies!

Congratulations to ALL of PhilaU's athletes, and keep up the hard work for an amazing spring sports season!

Until next time, happy playing, practicing and patronizing!

Minority Reports

by Amanda Vereb

Every summer Dow Jones & Company, the publisher of the New York Times, sponsors over 20 journalism workshops for high-school minorities wishing to further pursue journalism in college. One of these workshops Dow Jones funds is the Urban Journalism Workshop. This workshop is an intensive two-week summer camp program that aids minority students to develop the skills needed for a career in newspaper journalism. These basic skills help students learn to report, layout a newspaper, and create their very own 16-page paper. Students work with the Richmond Times-Dispatch reporters and editors, and acquire journalistic experience. From the School of Mass Communications, between 60 and 70 students enroll at Virginia Commonwealth University, Princeton, Harvard, and other prestigious universities. Many of them have gone on to very successful careers in journalism. The guidelines for being accepted in the summer workshops starts as follows, "each participant must be a minority." As of September 26, 2006, a lawsuit has tested the Dow Jones criteria for accepting these potential students. Emily Smith, a 15 year-old junior at Monacan High School, in Virginia's Chesterfield County, submitted an application in hopes to take part of the journalism workshop. Access was denied from the Urban Journalism Workshop for the highly qualified Ms. Smith because she was white. Upon hearing this news, her parents filed a class-action lawsuit for discrimination against the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, the Richmond Times Dispatch, and Virginia Commonwealth University. Smith apparently "wasted her time" with filling out the application in the first place and this caused her "emotional distress" because of the "closed educational opportunities" that could have been hers. The Smith family claims that the journalism program violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees equal protection under the law. This also follows under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits racial and ethnic discrimination by educational institutions that receive federal funds. As a part of the legal settlement, the journalism fund has agreed to open up the programs to members of any racial or ethnic group and to rename the programs to "multicultural" while dropping references to minority members. Emily Smith does not have to be compensated financially, but VCU is required to give the Center for Individual Rights \$25,000 for legal fees. Too bad this journalism program was created, designed, and most importantly, all funded exclusively for minority students.

Either way, Emily is all in her glory now that she changed a highly controversial lawsuit into something that will change the way minorities can be benefited from these specifically designed programs. She brings an end to a program that has greatly benefited the careers and dreams and aspirations of would-be journalist. After this lawsuit, summer journalism programs are now defined as "multicultural," suggesting that these programs are open to students of any race. Then what does that leave for the sole minority programs? This "multicultural" stipulation would not benefit minorities because special programs would no longer be design specifically for them. According to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, minorities currently consist of 13.8 percent of the nation's journalists. Programs like what Emily Smith diminished, leaves the diversity level in journalism a questionable status quo now. Since these programs are open to every student of every race and gender, will this turn away minority students? Skeptical readers wrote to the Chronicle of Higher Education and say that they believe that Smith had thoroughly sifted through many program workshops with her ill illusion of superiority. They think Smith wanted to find some program that dared not have anything to do with whites and thought "this cannot be" this is a cold cruel world because of "reverse discrimination." According to the Commonwealth Times, "Smith was unaware of the specific definition of a minority it [the application] held...the article said the workshop requested students from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds...after talking with her parents, Emily didn't know what that meant, so they decided to apply anyway." Smith's defender in the case, Terence Pell, the President of the Center for individual Rights, said "Diverse could mean anything." Pell believes that Smith had every reason to think she fell into a minority from being female. According to the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund's guidelines for summer workshops, minority is defined as U.S. citizens who are "Black, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian, or Alaskan Native." From the last U.S. consensus, minorities only make up about a third of the U.S. population. Women in the newsprint department make up 37.7 percent. To note, some minorities are scarcer in journalism than women. Julian Benbow, a former Urban Journalism Workshop participant, said, "As few women are there are in the newsroom, there're even fewer people of color." VCU agreed to admit Emily into it's workshop for summer of 2007 and if she accepted their terms, she would "not be discriminated against on the basis of her race or because she filed the lawsuit." After all of this hoopla, if the programs are no longer targeting minorities, one student journalist from Duluth Minnesota at the University of Minnesota, Brian Peltier, proposed that maybe these programs should target from the socio-economic aspect instead. This would greatly benefit many underprivileged students from a plethora of diversity and give them the opportunity that may not have been. Now that Emily Smith has been accepted into workshop program and changed an entire program that was exclusively for minorities, she had better soak up all of the knowledge of journalism she can get.



Sen. Obama at the Civil Rights walk in Selma.

The Real Deal

by Lauren Graef

2008 marks another election year and another race for presidency. It also marks the most diverse group of candidates in this country's history. On the Democratic side, Hilary Rodham Clinton is attempting to be the first female in office. Barack Obama is also attempting to be a first; the first mixed race president. Other potential candidates include: Senator Joe Biden (Delaware), Dennis Kucinich (Ohio), John Edwards (North Carolina), and Reverend Al Sharpton of New York. On the Republican end, Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City will be trying to share his views of pro-choice and gay rights with the rest of America. Other runners for the Republican side include: Senator Sam Brownback (Kansas), John H. Cox (Illinois), Michael Charles Smith (Oregon), and former governor of Massachusetts; Mitt Romney.

Out of these prospects, one name continuously stirs up controversy. Senator Barack Obama is one of the youngest candidates and many citizens find his age to equate with his experience. Despite being 45, Obama has already served eight years as an Illinois Senator. During this time, he improved his state by giving one hundred million dollars in tax cuts, founding programs like Earned Income Tax Credit, and gaining the support of law enforcement officials in regards to capital cases. But Senator Obama has more than just his age to worry about. People are also pinpointing the issue of his name. Obama is very similar to Osama, the leader of the terrorist group that attacked the World Trade Center in 2001. Without considering that the senator hails from Hawaii and Osama bin Laden was from the Middle East, many people hold the senator's name against him.

Obama is only the fifth individual of African-American descent elected to serve as Senator and the only African-American in the Senate at the present time. For a country that is trying to maintain an equal representation of its people, these figures are not encouraging. Despite an impressive review from the Washington Post, in which Obama was declared to have "work effectively

with both Democrats and Republicans, to build bipartisan coalitions," there still seems to be some debate over the Senator's abilities.

As of the week of March 19, 2007, the war on Iraq had its fourth anniversary. Many citizens feel that it is time for troops to pull out of the country and if elected, that is what the Illinois Senator promises to do. His counterpart, Hilary Clinton was one of the 29 Senators that voted for Bush's decision back in 2003. On July 1, 2006, both Clinton and Obama voted against Bush's idea of maintaining troops in Iraq. Though they agree on the majority of issues, the former First Lady and Barack Obama are separated by their decisions in regards to the war. It is, what experts are calling, the deciding factor, and Obama's largest asset.

Mary Rauh, New Hampshire Democrat, believes both candidates have had little time in the Senate to display their abilities. However, she feels that the Illinois Senator will be the stronger choice. "It seems to me Obama's ability to communicate says potentially there's a leader there," she stated in an interview with Tim Curry of MSNBC. Garth Corriveau, another Democratic activist and Manchester, N.H. attorney believes the two differ greatly in the public eye. He said, "Sen. Obama's media blitz portrays him as the candidate for change — youthful and charismatic — he even took a page from the Clinton handbook using 'Hope' in his book title. Sen. Clinton is an accomplished senator, master political tactician and invaluable asset to the party." Ann Fitzgibbons, a Democratic Activist in Iowa was quoted, "Every Democrat I talk to — and even independents — say they really have read a lot about Obama. People are pretty excited about him."

Senator Obama participated in a reenactment of a civil rights march with Clinton in Selma, Alabama to commemorate the 42 anniversary of Bloody Sunday. While in Selma, he spoke at George C. Wallace State Community College about his views on the war and his plans to enhance day-to-day life in America. The Senator's presence received some very positive feedback. Jude Barry of Silicon Valley says, "He's a once-in-a-generation talent. He's just the real deal."

Service with a Smile?

by Aimee O'Neill

Why is there so little service with a smile? It seems to me, respect and responsibility are two way streets. It seems that there is no sense of urgency in trying to help each other anymore. It feels like no matter where you are there is someone you feel is not giving the attention you feel you deserve. Everywhere from retailers to schools to doctor's offices, people feel service has diminished.

"One of the problems occurring in our society today is a lack of mutual respect or even common courtesy amongst one another."

One of the problems occurring in our society today is a lack of mutual respect or even common courtesy amongst one another. Fewer seem to go out of their way to make even a small effort to alleviate any one else's daily load, and it is taking a toll on our quality of life. In the shiny world of advertisements all employees are smiling and at your service as soon as needed, but in reality they are probably talking on the phone to their boyfriends and rolling their eyes while wondering how you, the customer, could possibly have the audacity to interrupt their conversation. This lack of respect is shown nearly everywhere one receives service. Another good example would be when appointments are made at offices; they ask that you be on time, but when you are there on time you wait for nearly 45 minutes or longer than your scheduled time, EVERYTIME!

A common expression in the business world is "the customer is always right", but as of late I have not often seen much evidence of this. An example of this is a family member's trip to a restaurant with friends. After a major delay in service, the manager reprimanded an employee for his actions in front of the customers, including my family's party. This was an awkward situation to witness and led my family members to ask to speak to the manager privately after dinner to let them know how uncomfortable they were with this. The result? The owner verbally attacking and screaming at my family members that no one could tell him how to run his business and he basically would do as he and the manager (his wife) would do as they pleased. Understandably, they my family was shocked. I was appalled to hear about this situation too. It disregards most business policies but also is a blatant display of disrespect to a paying customer looking for a fun evening out. Professionalism is something we are told we need to get a job, but apparently you don't need it to keep one or even run a business. It's a frustrating feeling when events such as these keep presenting themselves as daily occurrences making what we hope to be pleasurable and relaxing into stressful experiences.

College can offer similar challenges. As students, there is a lot of emphasis put on deadlines and due dates that have students stressing out every week. And it is our responsibility to attend class and complete all assignments on time. Most professors do not like to hear or accept any form of excuse as a general rule. But what are the professor's responsibilities? What do you do when a professor drops the ball? Confronting the situation is an intimidating task because we do not

want to risk getting on the professor's bad side so it leaves us wondering how to solve the dilemma without stepping on any toes. Students are often hunched over their assignments praying that it gets completed before the given due date, but if professors are not giving back the assignments in a timely manner does it not show a lack of that same sense of

students, and noticeably, I learned more and received higher grades. It would seem when a professor doesn't uphold the same standards of responsibility and respect asked of their students it can be perceived as hypocrisy. This is an extremely important issue. Our grades are going to shape our current opportunities and ultimately our future. Students need and respect professors who are truly willing to help us to succeed.

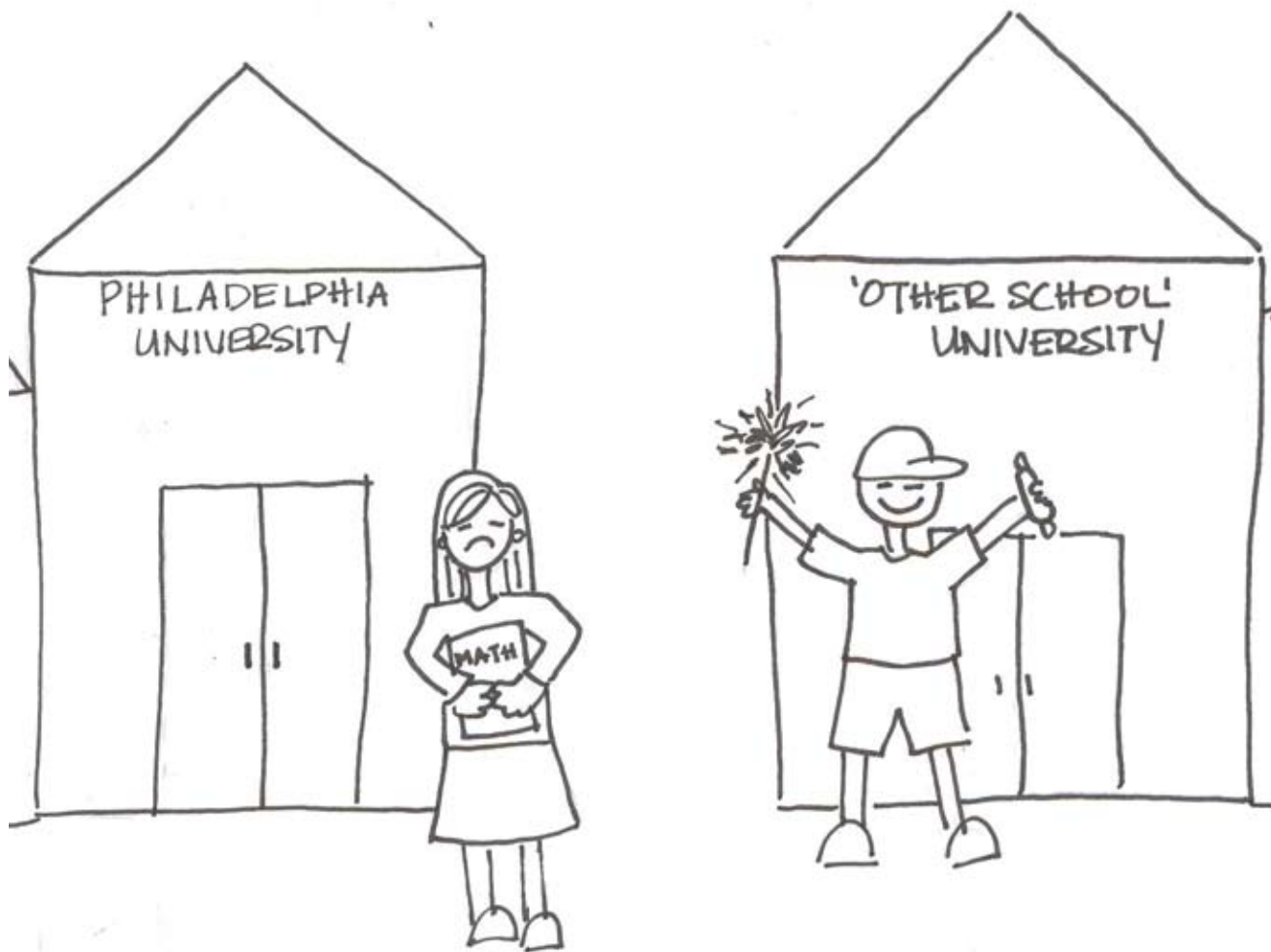
Basically, it all comes down to the golden rule. We should treat others as we would like to be treated. Believe me; I know as well as anyone this can be hard when all is not right in your world. But, when you're on the receiving end of one of these experiences, somehow it suddenly seems easier to understand how wrong it is. Some may or may not believe in karma, but I believe that it works for the most part. What goes around comes around. Putting anything positive out there will help positive things happen to you. So when you're the employee having a bad day or experiencing personal drama remember that it should not be reflected onto someone



If the customer is always right, why do you leave the store with a headache?

responsibility that they had asked of us? Or when you can't get a concept and despite attempts to get further explanation – you're still dazed and confused. Isn't there a joint responsibility here as well? Mine is to work to learn, theirs to teach. The importance of having our assignments returned in a timely manner is essential. Without them we are hindered in our learning experience because we do not know how the professor has graded our work and if in fact we have provided what it is they are looking for which is all critical information as we prepare for our next assignment. The goal is to better ourselves from the last assignment. In my three and a half semesters that I have been attending this university I have been very fortunate to have experienced some professors who have decidedly viewed staying on top of their work as important as our job as their

who has nothing to do with it and vice versa. With all the chaos of world events today we should not add more stresses to each others lives. If we can just show a mutual R.E.S.P.E.C.T. for each other and all our hard work and take and share Responsibility. And seriously, how hard could it be to dish up a little smile with that service? Besides you're never fully dressed without a smile, or so they say...



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Co-Advisors

Jim Savoie
Academic Affairs

Tim Butler
Student Activities

Editorial Staff & Writers

Susmita Sukla
Editor in Chief

Katie Marcacci
Layout Designer

Jacob Marcinek
Photographer

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