millennials: who we are & why we’ll change America
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Alanis Morissette
"Jagged Little Pill"
This album is a masterpiece and was one of my first cassette tapes. I grew up with her songs, such as "You Oughta Know," and I related to "Ironic." I played the track and loved singing along.

What has been the most influential music album in your life? Why? We asked our staff these questions in response to photos of influential albums hanging around The Burr office for one of our feature stories, "Death of an album." See our answers above, and then turn to page 26 to read the story.
Feeding happy customers for eleven years, the CyBurr brings the integrity, information and entertainment of the print Burr to your computer screen. It has a new home (themburr.com) and new content — weekly updates and more multimedia than you can handle. We've mixed its best ingredients for our end-of-the-semester launch that you can check out now. More stories, more video and more content added to your favorite stories in this issue make the CyBurr a product you don’t dare miss out on.

* Contents HOT under pressure. May lead to over consumption.
It's a four-letter word, but it's a mighty one. The message of hope is sprinkled throughout our cover story, "Millennials: Who we are and why we'll change how America works." It illuminates how tragedies, triumphs, and technologies have shaped our generation. It discusses how the rest of the world perceives us and what all of that could mean for the future. But the underlying idea is one of change and ultimately hope.

My aim for this issue of The Burr was to give Kent State students something to read suiting every mood they have. I want it to entertain, provoke, inform.

Looking for a conversation starter? Check out how rapidly evolving technology could change how music is produced, and see if your friends agree with our list of the 25 most influential albums. Looking for something light-hearted? Learn how to make your own Cornhole boards. Profound? See how a clinic in Cleveland is reaching out to the city's sexually active youth. That variety isn't missed on our Web site, either. Theburr.com is jet-packed with web exclusive content of these stories and more.

From one Millennial to another, I hope you like it. Cheers,

Jackie Maney

Special thanks to our patrons:
Melody C. Reilly
Margaret Garmon
Katie Hilbert
Katie Phillips
Alisha Cybulski
Grace Dobush
Mandy Jenkins
Kimberly Flash
Joan Friedman
Keri Stubbs-Hoff
The Locascio family
Nicholas Pappada
Carl and Ann Schierhorn
Jactyn Youhana

ON THE COVER

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The current generation of Millennials outnumbers the Baby Boomers. Delve into why it is poised to change the red, white and blue.

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04 GENERATION PLASTIC Statistics of Americans getting plastic surgery lump as procedures become more accessible.

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DEPARTMENTS

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19 FOOD EVERYDAY EATS Trade in your pencils for some cooking utensils with these recipes that would make Rachael Ray jealous.
Health Center Hours
Monday 8:00am-7:00pm
Tuesday 8:00am-5:00pm
Wednesday 9:30am-5:00pm
Thursday 8:00am-7:00pm
Friday 8:00am-5:00pm
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GLUE GONE GLAM
Take any boring item from your room and shove it (into some polyurethane).

NOSTALGIA AT ITS BEST
Television of your youth and the popular shows today aren't as different as you'd think.

FINAL FOCUS
Captured in an instant, a photographer shares a forgotten moment.

REALITY THEATER
Francis Dorsey, director of Kent State's African Community Theatre, shares his story of how a production of "West Side Story" eased racial tensions in a divided community.

BOOTS FOR BOOKS
Spencer Wenger finds his roots on a regular basis as he earns money for classes.

HELPING CLEVELAND YOUTH
Clinics in the struggling city hit the streets to provide AIDS tests and sexual awareness.

HELL NO! WE WON'T ... PROTEST?
One writer dives fist first into the world of protests on campus. Problem is, she can barely find any.

THIS IS DAGORHIR
Campus green space becomes a battlefield for this student group.

MINOR MALADIES
Political third parties struggle on a national and collegiate level. The Burr investigates why.
Increasing numbers of people are going under the knife

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Breast Augmentation</th>
<th>Liposuction Procedures</th>
<th>Botox Injections</th>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>101,176</td>
<td>176,863</td>
<td>65,157</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>403,684</td>
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Source: American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, Inc.

Compiled by Brenna McNamara

Do you know what the most common plastic surgery is for men? Visit theburr.com to find out. You may be surprised.

Theburr.com

CURVE CRAVINGS

The most frequently performed procedure is Botox injections, says the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, while the most popular surgical procedures are liposuction and breast augmentation.

According to the ASPS, breast augmentation, especially among teenagers and young adults, has increased by 476 percent since 1992, the largest increase in plastic surgery procedures.

Junior fashion merchandising major, Jane, who chose not to disclose her real name, received a breast augmentation in January 2007. Jane has always had a long, slender frame, being 5-feet-6-inches and weighing in at 115 pounds since her freshman year of high school. Jane was particularly self-conscious about her appearance, especially because of her small breast size.

"I often compared myself to other girls and became jealous of full figures," Jane says. She had never considered looking into the procedure until reading an article in a 2005 issue of Cosmopolitan. She had doubts about getting breast implants, but she was most concerned about being able to afford it.

Being a full-time student, Jane did not think she would have the time or money for a breast augmentation. After a consultation at the Beachwood Plastic Surgery and Laser Center, she learned that the procedure was more affordable than she initially imagined. Like most cosmetic surgery practices, the BPSLC offers financing options which break down the cost of a procedure into smaller monthly payments that work with a patient’s personal budget.

Jane’s procedure amounted to $3,257 but was split into payments of $136 per month for two years, she says. Even though she is still currently paying for leftover expenses from the procedure, she is still able to afford monthly payments.

OR A HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE

Instead of using cosmetic and reconstructive surgery to achieve a glowing Hollywood appearance, some procedures, such as gastric bypass surgery, are widely used to improve one’s overall health.

According to the American Society for Bariatric Surgery and the National Institutes of Health, Roux-en-Y gastric bypass surgery is the most popular bariatric surgery (the control and treatment of obesity) in the United States.


For this procedure, five incisions were made (two on each side and one in the midline) in her abdomen. A small stomach pouch is created, constraining a “bypass” for food. This allows food to skip parts of the small intestine, allowing the body to not absorb as many calories or nutrients.

After the surgery, patients are placed on a strict diet, eating smaller portions. Vail was also advised to avoid sugar and carbonation. Since the body processes food much faster, they may cause nausea and vomiting.

“I love pop, and it was a hard thing to give up,” Vail says. “Sometimes I’ll allow myself one sip every so often.”

Vail lost a total of 122 pounds as a result of the surgery and is disciplined about her diet. She easily avoids high-calorie portions and certain foods that may upset her stomach.

Vail has since become a vegetarian and is focused on eating healthfully not just to maintain her weight, but to improve her health. Not only has her energy improved, but her asthma and the joints in her knees no longer bother her.

“Even though my friends and family were completely supportive, it used to bother me that I couldn’t be as active as I wanted to be,” she says.

In order to be considered for gastric bypass surgery, a series of examinations that focused on Vail’s background, including health purposes, family history and psychological status, were considered in determining if the surgery was the right choice for her.

The cost of the surgery is approximately $25,000; however, because Vail’s mother works as a Computer Programmer at the Cleveland Clinic and the cost of Vail’s surgery was approximately $3,000 to $4,000. After Vail turned 22, she became independent of her mother’s health insurance, which was a major deciding factor in undergoing the procedure in February.

Although she was forced to miss a semester due to the procedure, she has no regrets choosing to have the surgery when she did.

“If I would’ve waited, I still would’ve considered getting surgery,” she says. “I’m glad I did, not only because of the cost but also so I wouldn’t have to wait until after school.”

Vail says that her experience was extremely rewarding, but suggests becoming as informed as possible before making any decisions.

“Before considering changing the body in any way, make sure you’re sure and have the support of family and friends,” she says.

Sarah Van Druten is a senior English major. This is her first story for The Burr.
Remembering scene
A production of 'West Side Story' changes a community

Even fights with seven different white boys. That was Francis Dorsey's reception the first week he spent at Huntington Junior High School, just before Christmas 1964. He was in the eighth grade, and when the white boys pushed him, he pushed back.

That's the way it was in Philadelphia, where he had lived since fourth grade and shared a skin color with most everyone else. He quickly learned life would be different at Huntington. If his being the new black kid in a school filled with antagonistic whites wasn't evidence enough of that, he might have learned it straight from the mouths of authority.

"We do things different here," school administrators told Francis. They said he would be suspended for the fights had he not been a new student. Francis changed his ways. Instead of fighting in school, he fought out of school. Eventually, the white boys learned Francis would not back down. The frequency of fighting diminished to nothing.

Huntington was located in Abington Township, Pa., Francis's birthplace. He returned to live there with his ailing father and two older brothers — Marvin, the middle child, and Carl, the oldest. His parents were separated.

He lived in a small black community named Crestmont. Dr. Wofolk's pharmacy, on one edge of the neighborhood, could be seen from Ms. Chapman's grocery store at the other. Churches dotted the streets in-between. It was a poor community, and even though Francis often worked two jobs at a time to get the things he wanted, he couldn't always escape poverty.

Sometimes the oil bill would not be paid, and his house would be cold. Sometimes the welfare would run out, and the kitchen cupboards would be empty.

He tried not to think about it. Francis's ninth grade year soon came, and he entered Abington's junior high school — North Campus. The school came with what was by then a constant for Francis: white people who didn't listen and didn't care. Francis could wrestle for a white teacher, as he did in ninth grade, and be the best wrestler on the team. In the gym, Francis was the coach's priority. But what that same coach taught a class, Francis felt he could stand on his desk and shout without ever being noticed. This he experienced too often, and his grades inevitably fell.

But with North Campus, something positive came as well. Searching for like-minded people, Francis joined the...
The power of theater continues

Francis Dorsey, now director of the African Community Theatre at Kent State, likes to let an audience down. "For me, personally and professionally, nothing made me feel better than to disappoint people in that we didn't do a bad production," Dorsey says.

According to him, the university and Kent community don't support the theater the way they should. Many faculty and administrators don't even know it exists, and they don't offer help when the theater needs it, Dorsey says. And when they do come out for shows, they come looking for a dramatic disaster. But even on a slim budget, Dorsey says his groups have never put on a bad show.

"The tragedy is we've had a lot of people criticize what we've done and they've never walked into our theater," Dorsey says, which is a portrait of the problem at Kent State.

There is little acceptance, he says — not a new problem for Dorsey, of course, but the struggle continues. "We're still working on acceptance at Kent State. We have people who think we shouldn't exist. We have people questioning the money being spent on Oscar Ritchie Hall," Dorsey says. The hall is undergoing a $10 million renovation, and is the last of the oldest buildings on campus to be renovated.

"It goes to show you in 2007, that black people in Kent, Ohio ... are still invisible. And that's sad. That's tragic. But we're still here; we're still fighting," he says. "We're still fighting to get a piece of the pie. We should not have to be fighting."

Yet he is. The purpose of the Theatre, he says, is to bridge the ignorance gap and rid the university and community of racial attitudes by presenting a message of unity — a power of theater Dorsey learned when he and the other black students at North Campus took on "West Side Story."

"In spite of people's differences and conflicts, you've got to learn to overcome all those things to make it work," Dorsey says. "Part of the learning process has been helping people overcome their differences. Sometimes they have been gender issues, racial issues, class issues."

— S.B.
was there to stop the fights. Fists flew in the
bathrooms, in the three student commons, in the
hallways and outside.

In the theater lobby a crowd of 50 had gathered
for another fight. It was a white student against a
black student. No punches had been thrown yet
and Francis didn’t want to see the fight ensue.
He stepped between the two boys.

"I’ll fight you too, nigger," the white boy
said.

Francis planted one Philadelphia punch and
the white boy hit the ground.

A teacher had seen it all.

Several minutes later in homeroom, after
police had been called to settle the scene, the
morning announcements began.

"Francis Dorsey, report to the office," the
principal shouted.

Francis rose from his seat and walked straight
to his locker. He gathered his coat and his bag.
He knew

He was told by administrators to leave
school immediately and never come back.

Walking back to school, he began
thinking aloud; all of his thoughts were feed­
ing into a lyric. He repeatedly said, "so young,
so young," until a poem — Francis’s first —
was born.

...So Young, / I fight for what is
right. / So Young, / I have so
much might. / So Young, / I’m
a member of the black race. / So
Young, / Some whites think I’m a
disgrace. / So Young, / You can
be red, black, white or blue. / So
Young, / Don’t you know God
loves all of you ...

Francis walked back to his brick apartment
on Prospect Ave.

When he arrived home with the news, his
father was sitting up in his chair. He sat there
most of the time because of an illness not fully
understood by Francis — it was the reason he
couldn’t work. Sometimes his leg would swell to
the size of a small pumpkin. Sometimes he’d sit
there all day until someone helped him move.

Francis told his father about school. His
father rather said he was disappointed, but neither
angry nor surprised. The troubled race relations
in the township were no secret.

"You’ve got to learn to think with your
head and not your hands," he said to Francis.
The words stayed with him.

That Sunday, like every Sunday since ninth
grade, Francis attended Salem Baptist Church.

Despite the rest of the problems in his life, he
always went. At first, the girls who sang in
the choir attracted him to church, and then it
was the worship. That's where he met Rev. Dr.
Robert Smith, who both led the congregation
and chaired the Montgomery County Human
Relations Council.

Smith was a powerful and compassionate
man. He looked out for the children of his
church. His reaction to Francis’s news differed
little from his dad’s reaction. But unlike Francis’s,
Smith could do something about the expul­sion.
Maybe he could get Francis back into
school. After all, the administration’s leading
claim against Francis was that he was a constant
trouble-maker, which hadn’t been true since the
beginning of eighth grade.

Smith investigated and found that some
teachers had lied to get Francis kicked out of
school.

No one besides those who were behind
the closed doors in the administration building in
January 1967 knows exactly what was said, but
soon thereafter Francis was granted his second
chance at school.

This time, he came with backup. In church
he met a woman named Betty Campbell, who
became his surrogate mother and mentor. She
picked him up every day after school to keep
him away from bullies limited. She gave him
structure and love. She saw to it that Francis
understood you cannot become what you
detest, trying to keep Francis from becoming
like his racist himself. Francis focused intensely on
school, and the rest of 10th grade passed with
few problems.

Often during this time, Francis would
spend the evening at Campbell’s house. They
talked about history and philosophy, race and
religion, and eventually, Campbell shared
her poetry with Francis. And having become
somewhat a poet himself, Francis shared his
with her. One read ...

...I exist in a world of my own.
These are my words. / My heart
speaks them; / From my lips they
come. / I am a poor Black Man.
/ It is your conscience you hear. / Tearing your heart apart. / It is
you, whom you are afraid of.

The power of poetry led Francis to better
understand the power of theater, which he thought
was poetry in motion. He became increasingly in­
terested in theater and discontent with its negative
portrayal of blacks.

Frustrated, Francis and his friends created the
Negro Theater Workshop. Blacks were going to
have positive, major roles in theater at last. But the
group accomplished little before summer came.

Eleventh grade brought many new experi­
ences to Francis, including a new school, South
Campus, and a new name for the production
company, Black Theater Workshop. The group’s
advisor, Brad Smoker, was white, but he was fair.
He helped the group tell the stories they wanted to
tell. Until then, theater at Abington was composed
of white storylines written by white playwrights,
which were performed by white actors in front of
white audiences.

On Dec. 6, 1968, however, Francis group
presented the successful program, “An Evening
in Black.”

From knowing nothing about theater to tak­
ing the stage, the black students of South Cam­
pus were given a chance to smash stereotypes.
The group took “An Evening in Black” on tour
to the community. Word got out that there was
talent on stage.
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Where You'll Find Us!

It wasn’t long before Smoker approached the Black Theater Workshop with a stunning question: Would they be part of the school’s official spring production of “West Side Story”? The musical follows the story of competing racial identities in the same town. Smoker said the stage would be integrated.

With careful consideration, Francis’ group agreed, but on one condition: they would play the Puerto Rican “Sharks,” and the whites would play the American “Jets.”

The group had only a few months to take the play to stage, and those standing on opposite sides of it were really as opposed to each other as those in “West Side Story.” During practice fight scenes, all-too-real punches were thrown. But both groups had two things in common. Each enjoyed theater and wanted the musical to make it on stage.

It’s unclear when it happened, but at some point, Francis stared his fictional enemy in the eye and saw a friend. Hate had died, replaced by a sense of unity. Francis understood what that meant, and he considered the impact. The “Jets” in the play were some of the most influential people in school — football players, group leaders. Maybe the racial barriers in the school would soon fall.

“West Side Story” opened on Thursday, March 20, 1969. For three nights, Francis performed before a packed house. Blacks in the audience sat next to whites. Whites sat next to blacks. At the play’s end, everyone stood, and the sound of applause seemed to chase away the thought of race.

After the play and its official cast party had ended, no one wanted to go home. Instead, much of the cast, both the whites and blacks, went to Dwight Harris’s house for a party. He was a black student who had played Bernardo, the “Shark’s” commander. The whole group danced and laughed and slept and woke and danced and talked, passing each hour until morning.

It was an extraordinary sunrise over Crestmont that Sunday, as blacks and whites stood together on the front lawns, on porches and in the street.

For Francis, it was the beginning of the end to a struggle. No longer did the white kids at school taunt. And the teachers, for the first time, taught everyone with respect.

Steven Bushong is a senior newspaper journalism major. This is his first story for The Burr.

Making the beanbags
What you need

- Material: Duck cloth (Dimensions: 15” square before fitted with corn)
- One pound shelled corn per bag (requires 8 bags, 4 per team)

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The Burr

STORY BY SARAH STEINER
PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY

The game of Cornhole is taking
storm. If you don’t know me,
ones such as “Cornhole” me,
ances with an offer to play.
days tossing beanbags. According to the
Association, the game began in Germany
the hills of Kentucky and Southern Ohio
into the hearts of College Street elites. You
Pong ball into a plastic cup becomes too.
now move your game outside and toss
out of plywood.

Andrew Schmidt, senior marketing a
playing Cornhole at various tournaments.
Ray’s Place in Kent. He plays regularly:
“It’s a fun game. Really fun and great for
Missing out on the fun? We’re here to
or family reunion or just to enjoy.

The pheneromone
The game Cornhole is taking college campuses and graduation parties by storm. If you don't know much about the game (other than the fact that a name such as "Cornhole" makes you want to turn down anyone who advances with an offer to play), think of it as a throwback to your childhood days tossing beanbags. According to the American Cornhole Association, the game began in Germany and found its way to the hills of Kentucky and Southern Ohio. Now, it has traveled into the hearts of College Street elites. When tossing a Ping-Pong ball into a plastic cup becomes too challenging, you can now move your game outside and toss beanbags into a hole cut out of plywood.

Andrew Schmidt, senior marketing major, has won $300 playing Cornhole at various tournaments in Lakewood and at Ray's Place in Kent. He plays regularly at friends' houses and occasionally at bars. "It's a fun game. Really fun and great for tailgating," he says.

Making the boards

What you will need
- 4 - 2" x 3" x 48" (4 - 48" 2x3s for sides)
- 4 - 2" x 3" x 21" (4 - 21" 2x3s for top and bottom)
- 4 - 2" x 3" x 18" (4 - 18" 2x3s for legs)
- Screws

Directions
1. Cut a circle 6" in diameter in both plywood boards 3" from the edge of the board to the edge of the circle.
2. Make two frames out of the 48" and 21" - 2" x 3". Attach boards from Step 1 to the top of each frame.
3. Attach 2 - 2" x 3" pieces to each of the boards toward the end with the hole. These are the legs.

Making the beanbags

What you will need
- Material: Duck cloth (Dimensions: 6" square before filled with corn)
- One pound shelled corn per bag (requires 8 bags, 4 per team)

Directions
- Fold the square in half and sew two sides. Fill each bag with one pound of shelled corn. Sew closed with a triple stitch. Repeat for all bags.

The phenomenon of CORNHOLE
Where professionals say students should invest after graduation

Who wants to be a millionaire?

STORY BY DAVID YOCHUM

Want the blueprint for making an easy $4 million? According to finance instructor Ron Stolle, learning to generate personal wealth is as simple as “paying yourself first.” As college graduates enter the workforce, many are faced with the intimidating task of planning their financial futures. A few young professionals may take time and learn how to make money work for them; however, Stolle says many students simply “shut down” when they hear finance lingo such as 401(k), mutual fund or IRA.

“I’m scared of stocks, I don’t know what a bond is,” Stolle says, mimicking reactions of rookie investors.

So to ease finance anxiety, Stolle teaches students the basics of money management — debt, interest and credit. But perhaps most important, Stolle reveals what people in their early-20s need to know that can make them rich.

“When you have crushing student debt, the last thing you want to think about is investing,” Stolle admits. “But you have to create a budget and pay yourself first.”

By “paying yourself first,” Stolle means setting aside a portion of each paycheck — from the first paycheck onward — and dumping it in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs, or significant, early contributions to a 401(k) retirement plan.

Investment Web sites such as The Motley Fool (Fool.com), which is dedicated to educate, amuse and enrich, new investors, say 401(k) plans are “free money” given their tax advantages and the possibility of employer matching.

But Stolle doesn’t need phrases like “free money” to advertise the 401(k). He uses eye-popping statistics.

“Pretend you have too much debt when you graduate and decide to start contributing to a 401(k) at age 32 instead of 22,” Stolle says. “With an average starting salary of $41,500 (6% of which goes to a 401(k) with a 3% match from a company), this reduces your contribution from $24,000 to $12,000, so you contribute $12,000 less.”

However, instead of that 32-year-old investor having $4.3 million in retirement money, Stolle points to a chart showing he or she would only have $2.1 million by age 67.

“That’s the compounding value of money right there,” Stolle says. “You delay 10 years to start saving for retirement and you’re in deep waters.”

While the 401(k) may sound like the ultimate investment tool, 401(k) money isn’t typically be withdrawn until many reach retirement age. If a student wants to accumulate interest for the immediate future, Stolle recommends putting money “anywhere other than a savings account, because some savings accounts offer as low as 0.25% interest.”

Depending on an individual investor’s goals and tolerance for risk, certain options could be better than others.

For example, Stolle advises mid-cap stocks have had average annual returns of 10.5% and corporate bonds get about 6.5%. But he cautions against stocks and bonds high-risk and volatility.

Investing terminology demystified

- **Bonds** — An interest-bearing or discounted debt security issued by corporations and governments. Essentially, loans made by the investor to the issuer in return for interest payments.
- **CD (Certificate of Deposit)** — An insured, interest-bearing deposit at a bank, requiring the depositor to keep the money invested for a specific length of time.
- **Equities** — Shares of stock in a company.
- **IRA (Individual Retirement Account)** — A tax-deferred retirement account. Contributions may be invested in many types of securities such as stocks, bonds, money market funds, CDs, etc.
- **Mutual fund** — A fund that pools the money of its investors to buy a variety of securities.
- **Securities** — A fancy name for shares of stock, bonds or any tradable financial asset.

Investing terminology demystified

- Bonos: An interest-bearing or discounted debt security issued by corporations and governments. Essentially, loans to the issuer to the investor in return for interest payments.
- CD (Certificate of Deposit): An insured, interest-bearing deposit at a bank, requiring the depositor to keep the money invested for a specific length of time.
- Equities: Shares of stock in a company.
- IRA (Individual Retirement Account): A tax-deferred retirement account. Contributions may be invested in various types of securities such as stocks, bonds, money market funds, CDs, etc.
- Mutual fund: A fund that pools the money of its investors to buy a variety of securities.
- Securities: A fancy name for shares of stock, bonds or any tradable financial asset.


Investing after graduation

If you are graduating with debt, what should you do with your money?

If you have $6,000 in credit card debt built up over your college career, your very best bet is to put that $6,000 in cash toward your credit card as soon as possible. Most credit cards carry APRs that are higher than 30% per annum, so you'd want to pay them off as soon as possible. It would be worth your while to call your credit card company and negotiate a lower APR, or at least one that's not quite as high.

If you have student loans, your first priority should be to make your payments on time and avoid default. If you have private loans that have variable interest rates, you might consider refinancing them to a fixed rate to lock in your interest rate for a longer period of time. This can help reduce your monthly payments and save you money in the long run.

If you have federal student loans, you may be eligible for loan forgiveness programs such as the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, which can forgive your remaining student loan debt after 10 years of qualifying payments.

It's never too late to start investing. Even if you think you're too young or don't have enough money to make a difference, you can still make a strong impact on your financial future. Even a small amount of money invested regularly over time can grow into a significant sum over time due to the power of compounding interest. Whether you're just starting out or have been investing for a while, there are many ways to get started and build your wealth.

The Motley Fool contributor Matt Koppenheffer says there are two key things to keep in mind when it comes to investing:

1. Start small: Even if you don't have a lot of money to invest, it's important to start small and build up your investments over time. This can help you establish a habit of saving and investing, which is essential for long-term financial success.

2. Be patient: Investing is a long-term game, and it's important to be patient and not to get discouraged by short-term fluctuations in the market. Remember that the stock market can be volatile, and it's important to stay focused on your long-term goals and avoid making impulsive decisions.

Investing q&a

Q: I'm graduating with debt. What should I do with my money?

A: If you have $6,000 in credit card debt built up over your college career, your very best bet is to put that $6,000 in cash toward your credit card as soon as possible. Most credit cards carry APRs that are higher than 30% per annum, so you'd want to pay them off as soon as possible. It would be worth your while to call your credit card company and negotiate a lower APR, or at least one that's not quite as high.

Q: What are some investing tips for college graduates?

A: There are many tips and tricks for college graduates looking to start investing. Here are a few:

1. Start small: Even if you don't have a lot of money to invest, it's important to start small and build up your investments over time. This can help you establish a habit of saving and investing, which is essential for long-term financial success.

2. Be patient: Investing is a long-term game, and it's important to be patient and not to get discouraged by short-term fluctuations in the market. Remember that the stock market can be volatile, and it's important to stay focused on your long-term goals and avoid making impulsive decisions.

3. Diversify your investments: It's important to spread your investments across different asset classes and industries to minimize risk and potentially increase your returns. Consider investing in a mix of stocks, bonds, real estate, and other assets.

4. Stay informed: Staying informed about the financial markets and economic trends is essential for making smart investing decisions. Consider reading financial news and attending investing seminars or courses to help you stay on top of the latest developments.

5. Set realistic goals: Before you start investing, it's important to set clear, realistic goals for your investments. Consider what you want to achieve with your investments, whether it's saving for retirement, buying a house, or simply growing your wealth over time.

Q: Where would you recommend putting my money today's market?

A: If you were looking to invest today, you would look in emerging markets such as Latin America or China. I would recommend putting your money into these markets given their potential for growth and strong fundamentals.

Q: How would you invest $5,000 in the market?

A: If you were investing $5,000 in the market, I would recommend putting your money into a mix of stocks and bonds, depending on your risk tolerance and investment goals. Consider diversifying your investments across different asset classes to minimize risk and potentially increase your returns.
Say hello to the newest wave in the English language

"Will the soon can u wait?"
Has this message popped up on your cell phone or e-mail lately? Jargon and abbreviations like these naturally roll off the fingertips of the "users of new technologies" who are driving a change in the way we communicate. But if you’re not a technological innovator, these messages can be frustrating to receive, let alone decipher. It can be an expedient way to communicate, but can’t we stop and take the time to type “I will be there soon”?

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It can be an expedient way to communicate, but can’t we stop and take the time to type “I will be there soon”? "No hurry can’t.

"No hurry can’t.

Once considered a service only used in Europe and Asia, text messaging is emerging as an important form of communication in the United States. Forty percent of the nation’s 220 million mobile phone users are sending texts, according to 2006 research from the NPD Group, the leading global provider for marketing research. "I think it can be a wondrous, marvelous invention," says Barbara Karman, full-time lecturer for the English department. "But I think it’s often misunderstood." Some people don’t appreciate the abbreviations used. "& wnt?" It makes the message tedious to translate for people not familiar with the shorthand, often times creating a 21st century annoyance.

Vada Miya, sophomore Pan-African studies and pre-law major, sends about 10 text messages a day, but does not use the abbreviations. Misra says: "I don’t feel it should be bunched.

Yet for Christina Haas, text messaging is a new and exciting development in the English language. "Living languages, like English, are constantly changing," says the associate English professor. A UNIQUE COMBO GONE HI-TECH

Text talk is starting to be used by students and professionals in their e-mails. Haas wasn’t surprised by the overlap. "This makes perfect sense to me," she says. "In both cases, you have technology that makes communicating fast, and using IM/MM abbreviations makes communication quicker. Time is money, as they say, so facilitating rapid communications makes sense in the business world. Of course, this usually happens when people are communicating with other people within their own social group or community." A UNIQUE COMBO GONE HI-TECH

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TIME GONE BY

Such developments are not unique. "If you look at a lot of personal letters from the 16th and early 20th centuries, people freely abbreviated," Haas says. "And recall that for many centuries, spellings were not consistent, nor even in the works of Shakespeare." The latest medium for abbreviations before cell phones? "Notes to each other that we passed in high school," Karman says. "Think about it: How did we write <3 u? It’s the same thing."

Also adding to its popularity is the fact that cell phones are accessible, portable and fairly inexpensive.

The next time "R u ok?" pops up on your cell phone - what do you do? Do you text back? In a world that’s forever changing and fast paced, what can you do but try the newest and newest cell phone and join in the exchange? R u game?

PromQueen.tv
A high school mystery is the basis for this Internet series of 60 episodes, each only 90 seconds long. The show includes personalized MySpaces of cast members, proving that even 90-second episodes can make big bucks. Prom Queen sets to change what viewers consider television.

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Nick Schrenk, junior organizational communications major, has text messaging family, friends and co-workers for two years sending about 2,000 a month. But his text talking shortcuts stay there.

"If it's somebody at work, I don't use that jargon, so to speak," he says. "It's not professional. But to my brothers or friends, yes. They understand it."

Schrenk doesn't send much e-mail, but when he does, he feels it's OK to use abbreviations with family or friends.

"But I keep it professional when it's to a professor," he adds.

Misra never switches between the writing styles despite receiving texts with abundant abbreviations.

"A couple of people have asked me 'Why do you waste the time?'' she says. "But I'm constantly writing papers for school, so I don't want to mess up my grammar or English."

A LASTING IMAGE

Those hidden consequences are something Margaret Garmon, instructor for the School of Communication Studies, warns about.

"Keep in mind those e-mails live forever," Garmon says. "I tell my students 'You start marketing your image right now. Your e-mail address @kent.edu shows you're with an academic institution - don't use the nicknames when you're dealing with a potential boss.'"

Combining language and writing allows for quicker communication, but you sacrifice structure to save time. Is it worth it?

"Oh, it would have to be expedient I guess if you're text messaging that quickly," Garmon says. "You're basically almost communicating in conversation only in text format as quickly and efficiently as we do in a spoken format. You really would need that 'in' language of jargon, abbreviation and acronyms for it to work."

TIME GONE BY

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"The next time 'R u thr?' pops up on your cell phone - what do you do? Do you text talk back? In a world that's forever changing and fast paced what can you do but buy the newest and newest cell phone and join in the exchange?"

R u g'm? b

Jennie Hardenbrook is a senior magazine journalism major. This is her second story for The Burr.
Tuition well spent

Be honest, you know you learned something in your lecture lessons

The universe is getting warmer by the second.

Adam Gibson, freshman integrated social studies major, Seven Ideas That Shock the Universe

"Well, I suppose the statement is true but terribly misleading," says assistant physics professor Jonathan Secaur. "It's like saying that you are closer and closer to death every second — technically true, but implying that the end is imminent." Secaur explains that "heat is the lowest quality form of energy, and since energy always runs 'downhill' from higher to lower quality forms, energy is constantly going from storage in one form or another into heat. But it's not necessary to break out the Slip 'N Slide just yet. "The temperature of empty space is only about three Kelvins, or three degrees above absolute zero," he says, "so it could warm up a lot, and we'd never notice."

Freshwater fish don't drink.

Emma Corrigan, sophomore conservation major, Biological Foundations

While saltwater fish actively drink seawater as their gills process and remove the salt, freshwater fish do not, say the experts at Qeok.com. Instead, they absorb water through their skin and gills. A fish like salmon, that says its eggs in fresh water and migrates to the ocean, drinks salt water. Upon its return to the stream to reproduce, the salmon absorbs fresh water through osmosis.

In sex class, male college students are still just a bunch of 10-year-old boys.

Nathan Bushrey, senior communications studies major, Human Sexuality

A 2004 study conducted at Australia's Monash University showed men are more likely to laugh at a sexual joke than women. The experiment consisted of more than 400 people surveyed. Participants were asked to score 50 jokes on a scale of "not at all funny" to "very funny" and to identify the humor element in each joke. Don't blame us, science said it.

Christopher Columbus was a prick.

Patrick Bensi, sophomore pre-journalism and mass communication major, U.S. History Formative Period

To be fair, Columbus was a courageous explorer whose overseas voyages had a profound impact on the history of the world. That being said, Columbus was a bit of a prick. And a greedy one at that. Thousands of indigenous people were enslaved and, subsequently, killed at his holier-than-thou command after his quest for gold fell short.

The banjo is of African American origin.

Jason Haley, junior geography major, Geography of the U.S. and Canada

An instrument most commonly associated with "Deliverance," the banjo originated centuries ago in Caribbean and North American cultures. The earliest models were crafted by African slaves from gourds, twine and animal hide.

Tycho Brahe lost his nose in a bar fight.

Katie Walsh, junior criminal studies major, Seven Ideas That Shock the Universe

Credited as having the most accurate astronomical observations of his time, Tycho Brahe was nothing short of a brilliant, hairy man with a metal nose, according to the Thé Galió Project. In 1566, Brahe engaged in a duel with another student, resulting in an idiosyncratic nose. This just goes to show that even geniuses have lapses in judgment when it comes to mixing alcohol, resentment, bad lighting and swords.

Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address on a napkin while riding a train.

Michelle Cumer, sophomore fashion merchandising major, Criticism of Public Discourse

"Actually, some believe this to be true while others believe it to be myth," says adjunct communication's instructor Evy Kleinman. "Some believe that Lincoln wrote the GettysburgAddress while riding on a train from Washington to Pennsylvania shortly before the speech." She says the Library of Congress states the speech was written on "notebook," or cheap tablet paper, and was constructed while in Gettysburg. Don't J.K. Rowling write on a napkin, too?

A woman is more likely to be abused by her partner when she is pregnant.

Jessica Ryaet, junior nursing major, Foundations of Assessment and Communication in Nursing

College of Nursing professor Claire Draucker says the research is mixed as to whether women who abuse their partners during pregnancy, though, "are more likely to perpetrate severe or lethal violence," she says.

Women are attracted to mature, dominant and affluent men.

Brenna Romano, freshman English and TESL major, General Psychology

In short, women are picky. A University of Pennsylvania study that surveyed more than 10,000 customers of HurryDate, a speed-dating company, reported that women received a positive response from about half of the men they met, but only one third of the women gave a man the thumbs-up. According to a similar study conducted in Germany, women prefer tall, educated men who generated a sizeable income.
Christopher Columbus was a prick.

Brett Benedict, sophomore pre-journalism and mass communication major, U.S. History/Formatative Period

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Credited as having the most accurate astronomical observations of his time, Tycho Brahe was nothing short of a brilliant, hairy man with a metal nose, according to the The Galileo Project. In 1566, Brahe engaged in a duel with another student, resulting in his slipped sneezer. This just goes to show that even geniuses have lapses in judgment when it comes to mixing alcohol, knives in war, bad lighting and swords.

Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address on a napkin while riding a train.

Michelle Curren, sophomore fashion merchandising major, Criticism of Public Discourse

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A woman is more likely to be abused by her partner when she is pregnant.

Jessica Ryan, junior nursing major, Foundations of Assessment and Communication in Nursing

College of Nursing professor Claire Draucker says the research is mixed as to whether women are more likely to be battered during pregnancy as opposed to other times during marriage. Men who do abuse their partners during pregnancy, though, "are more likely to perpetrate severe or lethal violence," she says.

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A Message from the President

Dear Students,

As we count down to the end of fall semester, I want to thank you for your many contributions to Kent State’s growing, positive momentum—from winning prestigious scholarships to winning Golden Flash games; from serving as university ambassadors through your work as volunteers and interns, to serving as the conscience of our community by standing up against racism and other forms of intolerance.

A major focus of my presidency continues to be building an environment that supports the success of all students. That means providing you with high-quality academic programs and services; keeping our campuses safe; and working to make every member of our community feel welcome, included and respected. Kent State’s leadership team and I are working diligently on all these fronts. But when it comes to creating an environment in which all students feel free to express their views and to simply “be,” each of you has a critical role to play.

The majority of Kent State community members understand how valuable — and how wonderful — it is that our university comprises a rich diversity of people with a multitude of experiences, talents and beliefs. Yet I want to acknowledge the continuing need to use this understanding to become the best university we can be. As we look to a new year, I ask you and the entire university community to join me in these resolutions: Let’s make a conscious effort to treat everyone with kindness at best and civility at the very least. And let’s support the rights of others in word and deed. Giving lip service to the Golden Rule is one thing. Let’s put it into action every day.

Everyone knows what happens to most resolutions. But knowing the caliber and character of our community — including an accomplished and caring student body — I look forward to significant progress in building a more welcoming and inclusive environment in the months ahead.

In the meantime, I wish you success in completing the semester, and a happy and healthy holiday season.

Lester A. Lefton
President
After a full day of classes, studying and maybe a test, there's nothing better than sitting down to a home-cooked meal, such as an enormously cheesy dish of pasta to satisfy the hungry taste buds of college students everywhere.

However, living on campus definitely has its limitations when it comes to dinner. Sure pasta sounds great, but unless you want to leave your dorm, walk outside and head over to the nearest cafeteria, a microwaveable dinner is your only choice; all you'd have to do is pop in a Lean Cuisine and you're good to go.

Yet students aren't as limited in dinner options as it seems. Almost every dorm on campus provides students with access to a kitchen with a stove or a microwave. Some also provide pots and pans, but investing in your own would benefit you more.

Grab some friends, head over to your nearest campus store and try out these recipes other students have found to be quick and as close to homemade as possible.

**APPETIZER**

**Game Day Nachos**
- Tortilla chips
- Red Hot hot sauce
- Kraft cubed cheese or deli cheese
- Optional ingredients: sour cream, jalapeno slices, olives, tomatoes and lettuce.

Place chips on microwave-safe plate. Cut up cheese (as much as desired) and place on chips. Bake in microwave for 1 minute or until cheese is melted. Sprinkle Red Hot over dish and serve.

**MAIN DISH**

**Vegetable Spaghetti Casserole**
- 4 cups of spaghetti or elbow noodles
- 1 can or jar of spaghetti sauce
- Ricotta cheese
- Chopped vegetables according to your craving (we recommend squash and eggplant)
- Provolone cheese
- Parmesan cheese for topping

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Boil noodles in a large pot. When noodles are done, layer cooked noodles, ricotta cheese, sauce, chopped vegetables and provolone cheese in an oven-safe pan. Continue to layer ingredients until pan is full. Cover with foil and cook 30-40 minutes. Remove foil, sprinkle some cheese on top and cook 5-10 minutes.

**DESSERT**

**Strawberry Shortcake**
- 1 individual angel food cake
- Fresh strawberries
- 1 cup vanilla pudding
- Whipped cream

Cut strawberries and mix in vanilla pudding. Spread over angel food cake and top with whipped cream. Enjoy!

Still hungry? View more recipes at [www.theburr.com](http://www.theburr.com).

"Most ingredients can be found at Eastway Deli or Rosie's."
What word makes you think about our generation?

LINDSAY RINEHART
junior English major

JUSTIN CANTONI
senior English, TESL major

ANNA HAMELLY
freshman Russian translation major

SARAE CHANEY
freshman communications major

DAVID KRETZSCHNAR
junior business major

GARETT KOKAL
freshman economics major

ERIN DWINNELLS
freshman English major

Fast forward to February 2004. A Harvard student creates a social networking site that will grow to 8 million users. Now, it’s the second largest social network on the Internet.

Last spring, 33 students, including the gunman, were killed in what would become the deadliest college shooting ever.

Sept. 11, Facebook, Virginia Tech — these events help define Millennials, the generation born between 1982 and 2002. College students doing keg stands on Thursday nights, tweens worshiping “High School Musical” and kindergartners taking midday naps all belong to the same generation — a generation that outnumbers the Baby Boomers by nearly 10 million. A generation that is, according to many who study it, poised to leave a bigger mark on history than its parents did.

Everything I’m about to tell you may be wrong.

Twenty years from now, my thoughts, along with those of five expert sources, may prove incorrect.

**Feeling reassured? Keep reading. It gets better.**
Like most of you reading this, I'm a Millennial. I grew up on a diet of Nickelodeon, MTV, digital pets and Weekly Reader. Now my meal plan includes Facebook, unlimited text messaging and YouTube videos. Like you, I have no idea how we will change America. We all have our assumptions, our hopes, our fears — but that's it. We are the future, but we don't know how it's going to turn out.

With Baby Boomers, everything was a rebellion, from their clothes to their values. Millennials, however, are the perfect children this country has been waiting for. We obey authority and follow the rules. We work well with others, value intelligence and constantly worry about our futures.

Millennials are changing the United States. Instead of holding protests, we volunteer in New Orleans. The business world is taking note, too. Companies hire business consultants to study Millennials so they know how to market to everyone from age five to 30. Higher education continuously changes to keep up with increasing student demands. These same people are also more motivated, more stressed and more likely to involve Mom and Dad.

The generation that lived for boy bands and PlayStation is coming of age, and America is taking note.

**MILLENNIALS TAKE ACTION ...**

A pathetic" is a word that's thrown at Millennials without mercy, and Sean Wilentz is tired of it.

"I've been hearing about apathy of the younger generation for 30 years now, and I never quite believed it," says Wilentz, a historian and history professor at Princeton University. "Young people have a lot to think about besides politics. You have to think about your lives in a way we didn't."

When Baby Boomers were in college, they had the Vietnam draft, sexual freedom and civil rights on their plates. Today, college students worry more about passing their next exam than organizing a sit-in against the war. This doesn't mean young people aren't involved; they just aren't the ones carrying the megaphones.

"Demonstrations don't really work anymore. They kind of played themselves out," Wilentz says. "There's political action out there, but it's of a different nature. I think now there is a greater willingness of young people to work within the system. It's a lot less visible, it's a lot less radical, but there is still an interest in politics."

Zach Wiita has worked within the system. The self-proclaimed "political science geek" spent last spring in Washington, D.C. as an intern for Sen. Joseph R. Biden (D-Del.). Wiita participated in the Washington Program in National Issues, a 15-week program where select juniors and seniors of any major intern at a D.C. office or organization. Wiita, now a senior political science major, says the experience was an opportunity he couldn't pass up.

"I come from a relatively poor working-class family in an economically depressed area," he says. "The thought of being able to get the kinds of experiences and connections that these internships would entail was really exciting."

Wiita says college students tend to be less politically aware, because events like building a career and starting a family spur political concern. Still, he says, Millennials are becoming more active.

"Our generation has had to cope with the dual traumas of 9/11 and the Iraq War," he says. "We've become more politically aware."

College students are participating where it matters: the polls. According to Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement, voter turnout among college students has increased for the past two elections. The National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, a survey of 80,000 undergraduates, also reported that almost 80 percent of the college students say they were registered to vote.

Another highlight for young people is volunteering. After Hurricane Katrina, college students around the country spent their spring breaks helping clean up the Gulf Coast.

"I felt bad that New Orleans was ignored, and I wanted to help," says Doron Kutash, who graduated with his MBA in May. Kutash went on the Kent State United Alternative Spring Break trip to New Orleans in April with members of Hillel and has participated in numerous volunteer campaigns.

Kutash says his life goals are centered around volunteering.

"We are a generation that wants to change the world for the better," he says. "It starts with high school when we are told we need to volunteer to get into college. Then we come to college and are told to build our résumé by volunteering. We keep volunteering because it makes us feel good."

Between 2002 and 2005, the number of college students volunteering increased by 20 percent, according to a survey released last year by the Corporation for National & Community Service. The CNCS also said teenagers, along with Baby Boomers and older adults, are leading the increase in volunteering, and have been doing so since 1989.

**RYAN JOHNSON**

graduate assistant, Intro to Ethics

**AARON TAYLOR**

freshman finance major

**WHY LAZY?**

"Just with the statistics of this school. Half the freshmen don't make it to senior year."
But while some young adults are finding their own niches in civic life, some Baby Boomer parents want their children to pick up where they left off.

"Boomers have this image of the feminist agenda or the Christian Crusade," says William Strauss, author of "Millennials Rising." "Whatever the agenda is, they want their children to finish it, and history never does that. Their children find their own agenda."

Millennials still have time to find their agenda, but that doesn’t mean Mom and Dad won’t have any influence.

"It has less to do with what we think and more to do with what you think," Wilentz says. "So much will depend on how we taught you."

The desire for parents to play a supporting role in their children’s lives seems obvious, but it’s more prevalent with Millennials. When Baby Boomers went to college, their parents dropped them off and said goodbye until Thanksgiving. Now, parents are dropping off, unpacking and checking into a hotel.

Enter the helicopter parent. These parents hover over their children to make sure nothing threatens their happiness, success and, of course, safety. Lillie says safety is a huge issue for parents at Week of Welcome for a number of reasons.

"Part of it is the environment," Lillie says. "When I was a kid we would be outside after dark. No one does that anymore. Parents watch over their kids."

Strauss says another reason parents are so involved is, since their children were toddlers, they have worked to make sure their children have the best of everything.

"It’s to give their children what they always wanted," Strauss says. "They’ve been working to get their children to good colleges, and now they’re working to make sure their experiences are good."

The work that parents are doing is second to the work their children are doing. Millennials are highly motivated students and they expect their college to work just as hard.

"In higher education, they are dealing with this avalanche of highly motivated students, and colleges have to prove their money is worth it," Strauss says.

A survey reported in the fall 2007 Chronicle of Higher Education Almanac Issue, said the most important factors to students in choosing a college are a good academic reputation and whether or not graduates get good jobs.

This isn’t all college students expect. They also expect to work in groups, and they expect authority to have the answers. These are basics to Millennials but new ideas to the mainly Baby Boomer college officials.

"Working in groups is something your generation has been conditioned to do," says Mark Kretovics, associate professor in Kent State’s College of Education. "With the Boomer generation, you were conditioned to be an
Who said it?

Test your trivia skills with these sound bite-worthy quotes of the '90s. (See page 43 for answers)

1. "My defense is impregnable, and I'm just ferocious. I want your heart. I want to eat his children. Praise be to Allah!"

2. "If it don't make sense, you should find for the defense."

3. "My mama always used to tell me, 'If you can't find somethin' to live for, you best find somethin' to die for.'"

4. In 1994: "I see little commercial potential for the Internet for at least ten years."

WHY FLAKY? "The vast majority doesn't have the attention span to look outside their own world and see what's going on."
individual. There wasn’t any group activity in the classroom.”

Although some worry constant group work will lead to less individualism, Kretovics doesn’t see anything to worry about. “I don’t think it’s hindering individualism. I think it’s realizing that we are interdependent,” he says.

However, our interdependency may be the root cause of our label as a naive and sheltered generation, Strauss says. “You assume that people have your best interest at heart,” he says. “There’s an impression that you have softness about you.”

**Why we’ll change education:**

Choosing the right college is becoming more and more important to young people. Millennials’ highly motivated personalities could lead higher education to focus more on the changing needs of students in and out of the classroom.

“Millennials mind their business...” says more Millennials enter the workforce, they will either leave the softness label back at college or they will change the traditional workplace. Lindsay Schutte of Magid Associates is going with the latter.

“We’re starting to feel the impact of the Millennials now,” Schutte says. “It’s only going to become more important to understand this generation as time goes on.”

Schutte has spent her life trying to understand Millennials. She is the director of the Millennial Strategy Program, a market research and business-consulting firm that’s part of Magid. The program conducts surveys and works with consumer companies to decide the best ways to reach Millennials.

“We discover the statistically significant trends, ideas, thoughts, attitudes and behaviors of the Millennial generation,” Schutte says. “We also conduct in-home interviews where we try to understand how a Millennial lives in a way statistics cannot.”

So why are companies hiring groups to tell them how to market to Millennials? One reason is the size of the Millennial generation. Schutte says they will be even more influential when they turn 30 than their parents were at that age.

“They will have a large influence on how politics, business and commerce play out over the next 20 years. They are becoming the people who will decide the fate of our country.”

**Why we’ll change business:**

The sheer size of the Millennial generation will bring them more power in all facets of society. Millennials accept diversity, and they have the resources and technology to create more international collaborations.

**WE ARE THE FUTURE. NOW WHAT? ...**

It’s safe to say there a lot of people rooting for the Millennials. Every generation has its naysayers of course, but what matters is how a generation overcomes that adversity and leaves its own mark.

Who are we? We’re motivated, involved, competitive, ambitious and naive. We set high standards, and we expect others to do the same. We work well in teams but know the importance of individual success. We love our parents but we probably won’t be anything like them.

Why will we change America? We know we will because every generation before us has. We’re working within the government and we’re helping those who need it most. More and more of us attend college, and our different ways of learning are influencing higher education. We’re making the workplace more competitive, but in a healthy way. We have the power to break down barriers, both in this country and across the world — whether it’s in business, politics or commerce.

There isn’t any 12-step plan to changing America. There’s just one word of advice. “Be kind. Be kind to yourselves, be kind to each other,” Wilentz says. “I don’t have any prescriptions for you guys, just take the world we gave you and make it better.”

Everything I told you could be wrong. But I hope I’m right. b

Brittany Moseley is a sophomore magazine journalism major. This is her second story for The Burr.

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5 “Are you still master of your domain?”
6 “I didn’t beat her. I just pushed her out of bed.”
7 “People that are really very weird can get into sensitive positions and have a tremendous impact on history.”
8 “I want to be an artist that everyone can relate to, that’s young, happy and fun.”
9 “It’s true, I’m a Rageaholic... I just can’t live without Rageahol!”
10 “I’d rather be dead than cool.”
Bands respond to the evolution of the listener, leaving musical production as you know it with the grunge and glam of yesteryear.

STORY BY JOE SHEARER | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GAVIN JACKSON
Around the world, they fill venues, sell loads of CDs and are, at times, greeted by screaming fans as they get off the plane. But here in the United States, they claim a scattered number of “accidental” fans, most of whom have heard the band’s music on film soundtracks, background music in television shows, video games or the rare airing of a music video on MTV2. You may or may not have heard of Northern Ireland rock group Ash, despite its best efforts — and the better part of its career — to make an impact. But whether they just haven’t had the right song at the right time, a good strategy for success or were simply the product of plain bad luck, U.S. success still eludes Ash guitarist Tim Wheeler, bassist Mark Hamilton and drummer Rick McMurray. As Hamilton puts it, “It’s a lot of hard work, and it doesn’t always pay off.”

So, about three weeks before the European release of its fifth album, “Twilight of the Innocents,” Ash announced this would be its final album.

The band is not parting ways, but rather pushing itself forward into a new era. With CD sales at new lows and people opting to download songs individually rather than take a chance on 10 others they might not like, Ash became the first band to officially announce its dedication to producing only singles.

If this decision sticks — and more importantly, helps the band’s success — the question becomes a matter of when, not if, other artists will follow. Ever since Internet music downloading emerged in the late '90s, listeners have relied less on buying compact discs, and more on picking and choosing their favorite songs off an album. This usually translates into downloading the radio-play songs and ditching the other tracks.

An album isn’t simply a singles collection, or radio stations would air every song that is thrown on CD. But unlike the '60s and '70s when albums came on vinyl — you know, those big black records your parents have stashed away — they are now released on compact disc, which allows the listener to easily skip the non-singles. Downloading songs make it simpler than ever: People don’t even need to own the other songs.
In the words of The Jam's Paul Weller, "the public wants what the public gets." The album may have served its purpose, but it is no longer a necessary function of the music industry.

Ash, it seems, could be taking the logical path in separating from the industry norm. Hamilton believes this radical change will result in less pressure from the record labels, and free the band to go in new directions.

"We can be completely spontaneous and release what we want, whenever we want," Hamilton says. "We don't want to spend three years between each album. Three years is a long time. People tend to forget after a while, and you have to reintroduce yourself."

No one knows this better than Ash. In 1996, it wowed critics in the United Kingdom with its indie-pop-punk debut album, "1977." Since then, the time in between releases has either led to great achievement (a platinum-selling album, "Free All Angels"), or great disappointment (two critical bombs in "Nu-Clear Sounds" and "Meltdown," the band's second and fourth albums, respectively).

Ash is aware fame can come and go at any time. The public is fickle. With its latest and final album not moving as well as the band hoped, the Irish trio is banking on a new outlook for success, and you can bet other artists will be watching this experiment closely. If the process of making an album can be bypassed, younger acts can constantly keep their name familiar to listeners by preparing songs whenever they feel the time is right.

our pick: 25 most influential albums

1. The Beach Boys "Pet Sounds" (1966)
   In response to The Beatles' "Revolver," the Beach Boys demonstrated their layering abilities and slick production.

2. The Rolling Stones "Aftermath" (1966)
   Their first album with all originals also helped define the band's image with tracks like "Under My Thumb."

   One of the greatest albums of all time. Listen for the words, "Paul's dead," in the noisy outro.

4. The Doors "The Doors" (1967)
   A great collection of songs, but interestingly enough, "The End" was originally censored because of its repeated use of the f-word.

5. The Who "Tommy" (1969)
   Known as a rock opera, this was later turned into a movie, and another "Tommy" album was born in 1975.

   Strangely enough, this album has no official title. A couple of other working titles are "ZoSo" and "The Fourth Album."
"Because the music industry’s changing so rapidly from day to day, within a very short amount of time, I don’t think we'll have physical products anymore. Who wants to buy CDs when you can just go online to get it?"

“It’s shifting the goal posts on a delivery system that’s been unchanged in 40 years,” Hamilton says. “It’s an old concept that’s not so relevant to the current environment.”

THE SITUATION

According to Billboard Magazine, the average compact disc costs about $10.75 to make. Everything imaginable is accounted for. Production, marketing, distribution and shipping, royalties and everything else that goes into making a CD is figured into this final estimate. Retail markup is $6.23, and before you know it, you’re paying $16.98 for a song or two you heard on the radio.

It’s no surprise listeners are opting to buy tunes online, rather than buying the whole album. According to Nielsen SoundScan, which tracks music sales, consumers are and have been buying fewer CDs every year since 2001, with the exception of 2004. As of October, CD sales were already down 18.5 percent from where they were the same time last year.

All the while, digital downloads continue to rise. The NPD Group provides market research and reported earlier this year Apple’s iTunes beat out Amazon in music sales to become the third largest music retailer in the United States. Wal-Mart leads the pack, followed by Best Buy. The downloading service crept to the top 10 only two years earlier at number seven.

The problem faced by the music industry is that downloads can’t make up for the CD’s cost. Look at this way: If you simply buy two songs from iTunes off your favorite artist’s new album, you’re only spending two bucks toward the $10.75 CD cost the record company was hoping to score, a skimpy 20 percent.

This all leaves artists in a very interesting predicament. It’s obviously a lot cheaper to distribute music online than it is to put together an album that includes a CD, booklet, artwork, packaging, time, etc.

MYSPACE MUSIC

Way back when, before downloading became just another habit, people relied heavily on the radio and music television to hear new bands and music. And while those media still play a big role today, the situation is much different in that smaller artists not getting airtime can now be heard more readily than ever before.

That’s where MySpace comes in. The Raveonettes, whose minor U.S. hits include “Love in a Trashcan” and “Attack of the Ghostriders,” frequently released demos on its MySpace page for the surf-rock duo’s upcoming album, “Lust Lust Lust.” Lead singer and guitarist Sune Rose Wagner says he would write and record the tracks and then post them online shortly after. Like Ash, Wagner is a big proponent of music and the Internet.

“It’s just going in the digital way, which I think is great because you’re more in contact with your fans, and you can post songs whenever you want to,” Wagner says.

Even if artists can do cool things with album-making, such as share songs with their fans before they’re even professionally released, MySpace still promotes the single mentality. Most groups only post four songs, usually popular hits or fan favorites. In the rare case of the Raveonettes’ where all four songs are demos off an upcoming album, an intimate relationship between the album and fans can be created. But not even Wagner seems to mind the change in medium from albums to single-song downloads.

“Because the music industry’s changing so rapidly from day to day, within a very short amount of time, I don’t think we’ll have physical products anymore,” Wagner says. “Who wants to buy CDs when you can just go online to get it? So in a sense — if that’s going to happen for sure — that means that the idea of an album is not really existent anymore. You can go into iTunes and listen to the new Beck album, but you don’t have to buy the whole record. You can just pick out a couple songs you like, and that’s it. I think that’s fine, because a lot of albums I buy, I don’t like half of it anyway; I buy it because of a couple songs.”

Although Wagner stopped short of making an official “final album” announcement like Ash, he hints his band may be headed in the same direction.

“This will probably be the last album we do,” Wagner states. “I seriously doubt that CDs will be around much longer.”

Sure, fans love the Internet because they hear new bands and snatch up the songs they want, while artists love it because they can connect with fans they might not have ever acquired otherwise.

Hamilton believes the Internet is key for Ash and any other musical act wanting to tap into new regions.

7. Pink Floyd
“Dark Side of the Moon” (1973)

Some say you can play this album to “The Wizard of Oz,” and it should go along with some of the scenes in the film.

8. Queen
“A night at the Opera” (1975)

The first of two Queen albums to be named after Marx Brothers’ movies. It features the unforgettable, "Bohemian Rhapsody."

9. Ramones
“Ramones” (1976)

The first real anti-album, its minimalist art lets the listener know what’s inside: three-chord rock and roll, loud and fast.

10. Elvis Costello
“This Year’s Model” (1977)

Lumped into the "punk" genre, critics didn’t know how else to classify the angry, Buddy-Holly-glasses-wearing singer.

11. The Clash
“London Calling” (1979)

Wondering what happened to the guitar about to be smashed? Look no farther than The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

12. AC/DC
“Back in Black” (1980)

Featuring the title track and “You Shook Me All Night Long,” it became the band’s best-selling album.

13. Michael Jackson
“Thriller” (1982)

Believe it or not, this here is the best-selling album of all time, claiming over 100 million copies sold.

— Album art from Amazon.com
"I think that with the Internet especially, the world's smaller in that if you're having success, usually the news of that will spread," Hamilton says. "Potential markets aren't so isolated."

EXTINGUISHING A CONCEPT ...

Before rock albums became a staple in the '60s, early rock 'n' rollers such as Buddy Holly and Chuck Berry were known for their numerous singles, not their albums. The same goes for the girl groups and Motown acts following shortly thereafter. Composing and producing singles was the main focus back in those days, and artists were always in the studio churning out another hit.

It wasn't until bands like The Beatles began to focus more on album composition that singles finally took a backseat to more elaborate endeavors. With albums as the new focal point, rock stars morphed into musical composers, discovering new sounds they never thought possible from their noisy guitars. In simple terms, rock and roll was less formulaic and more unpredictable. The work would take longer, but with every product you'd get something completely different from the last.

Even in all of its various formats, the album was the main deliverer of music from the mid-'60s until now. People can argue the numerous reasons why the album's popularity is waning — the quality of songs, the Internet, CD skipability, listeners' short attention spans — but the end result is still the same: Consumers are gravitating toward cheaper downloads.

This may be OK with some bands, but Eric Dover of the band Sextus isn't so thrilled with the situation. Dover was very active in the '90s rock scene making his rounds in bands such as Slash's Snakepit, Jellyfish and Imperial Drag. He even played with Alice Cooper. The 40-year-old musician has seen a lot change in the industry, but Dover says he doesn't think album making should be any less important.

"If you make an album, then you're selling an experience, and I think that people don't take that into consideration as much nowadays," he says. "It's kind of sad."

For artists such as Dover who have been around longer than a lot of the current hit makers, the prospect of producing only singles is unfathomable, a reason these guys grew up during the album heyday.

"My favorite records have that thread," Dover says. "It's almost indefinable. I'm always looking to the great albums for my inspiration. I guess it's part of the era I was raised in. I remember as a kid how I fell in love with music. I got 'Tommy' by The Who — not the original, the movie one, of course. And those things, with the movie... It just blew my little thrilled mind at the time. I know that's what people want. That's the good part of music. It takes you somewhere."

Nearing the completion of the Sextus album, "Stranger Than Fiction," Dover is a firm believer of what goes in, must come out. To him, it's not simply about the songs, but about the toll and time put into them.

"This record, embarrassingly enough, took 10 years (to complete). Life has gotten in the middle of it. But it does kind of go into making the record what it is, so I can't complain."

During some of that time, Dover contributed to two Alice Cooper records and also toured with the notorious rock star.

... AND OF A SOUND

Things get a little finicky for bands whose forte is making longer songs. Couple that with being a local act, and you find the odds stacked against you are even greater. Such is the story of senior marketing major Taylor Belling, senior electronic media design major Brian Yost and Akron University senior business major Jeff Gill — the shaggy haired members who make up the local band NJs and the Jeff.

The topic of albums is a touchy one for the three guys sitting across from the bowling alley in Eastway. They recently completed their first self-recorded release. Described by the band as an EP (extended play, which has more tracks than a single, but less than an album), the disc contains seven songs, but clocks in at 40 minutes.

Heavily influenced by blues, garage and classic rock, bassist and vocalist Belling, guitarist and drummer Yost frequently rock out songs longer than five minutes and sometimes near nine. Their sound and song lengths lend themselves to the album, not the modern single. They lament on the state of the recording industry and what it may mean for them if and when they break from the local scene.

"For people to sit down and listen to a whole album or double album from start to finish like they used to is pretty much lost," Belling says.

This is true for almost anybody these days. Even before the Internet, notes Belling, CDs made it all too easy to skip those songs needing to be heard more than once to be appreciated. If you don't fancy the opening riff... click, and on to the next track.

But NJs and the Jeff, don't believe doing that benefits new artists looking for inspiration, and certainly takes away from the listening experience.

"If you're influenced by a band, the only..."

our pick: 25 most influential albums (con't...)

14. Prince
"Purple Rain" (1984)

15. The Jesus and Mary Chain
"Psychocandy" (1985)

16. Replacements
"Tim" (1985)

17. Guns N' Roses
"Appetite for Destruction" (1987)

18. N.W.A.
"Straight Outta Compton" (1988)

19. Nirvana
"Nevermind" (1991)

It started a ton of controversy with the song, "Darling Nikki," which eventually led to those Parental Advisory stickers you loved so much as a kid.

The ultimate assault on the ears, these songs are noisy, guitar-feed back-drenched. Considered one of the first "indie" bands, these guys are still heavily influential.

This album knows how to rock out, but also knows when to turn the volume down. Some call it punk; others call it indie or emo.

One of those albums that helped rock evolve from '80s hair metal, it produced the single "Welcome to the Jungle."

A very controversial and influential rap album. You may know some of the members, Ice Cube, Dr. Dre, Eazy-E and MC Ren.

Quite frankly, it represents the death of hair metal and the birth of alternative rock. It probably also has one of the last memorable album covers.
way you can do that is by listening to their albums," Yost says. "If you hear one song, it's usually not what they sound like all the time."

Belling agrees.

"Really, putting an album together is an art. Look at 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.' If you can have them by the first song get into the album, then (they're) completely immersed in that album, and at the end song, you eject them from the album. It's an experience into the whole album instead of just individual songs."

Gill quickly interjects.

"I think that's kind of a dead art, though. Nobody does that anymore. It's just a different time.

Certainly, it is a different time. But Wagner of The Raveonettes makes an interesting point.

"It's like the good old days," he says. "You don't hear a Ronettes album because it never really existed. You hear the Ronettes because you like 'Be My Baby.' That's what it's going back to."

The noncommittal characteristics of the Internet make sense for pop-rock groups like Ash and the Raveonettes because their songs usually hover around the three- or four-minute mark, the ideal length of a song heard on the radio. But for groups like Sextus and NJs and the Jeff, "the good old days" probably refers to a different time.

TOMORROW NEVER KNOWS

Regardless, all of these artists speak very highly of the Internet as it relates to visibility. Probably because — whether they like or dislike the current circumstance — each one of them feels they have more fans today than they could without their MySpace pages and songs posted for download. In a way, maybe it's a Catch-22. Nobody's really anti-album, but everyone's pro-digital in some way or another. Perhaps it's the price the artists and we pay: We, the listeners, want it quick, and they, the artists, want us now.

Despite the chaos and uncertainty in the industry, no one can be sure what artists will be doing five or 10 years from now. The question isn't whether great albums can be made, but whether they would be accepted. The Internet may provide a new role for the album, but so far, that largely remains to be seen.

As for Ash, it hasn't completely abandoned CDs altogether, claiming it will periodically compile singles onto disc.

"We've really not set anything in stone yet, and it should be fun messing around with formats and seeing what the fans like best," Hamilton says. "There's still a big market for CD sales. Especially if you're a hardcore fan of the band, you want the actual physical product. People still do want something that they can hold and go, 'I own this,' rather than a bunch of 0's and 1's on their hard drive."

With digital bands leaving behind tangible evidence, and "album" groups hacking up material to please online users, Hamilton admits he cannot predict what's going to happen.

"It's kind of a new frontier; everything's changing, and I don't think anyone knows where it's going to go. People are buying 7-inch singles again."

Strange days have found us, indeed.

Joe Shearer is a senior magazine journalism major. This is his first story for The Burr.
You Go, Girl!
Yeah, I know. She hawks phlegm-globbers when she tries to sing the national anthem, but let’s admit it, the woman started one of the first shows to put an overweight, dominant, smart woman as the lead role, showing who really wore the pants in the family. “Roseanne” also showed women in strong female relationships openly speaking their minds.

Today’s Version: “Sex and the City”
Another radically female-empowering show, where journalist Carrie Bradshaw bares all to her readers about her and her friends’ aggressive sexcapades as well as the changing roles and definitions for women in society today. Props to Kim Cattrall who had to go full-frontal so many times, being the most dominantly promiscuous of the posse.

Feel-Good Family Show
Queue serious, lesson-learning music: At the end of every show, this violin-heavy, tear-producing music enters accompanied by a wise lesson from any of the show’s characters. The “sorrys” follow soon after along with lots of hugs and “awws.”

Today’s Version: “7th Heaven”
Not exactly the Tanners, but damn is that house full. Ending its eleventh season this year, each socially conservative, Protestant Christian episode deals with a moral lesson or controversial theme that the family deals with, but mostly they all have the same idea: Don’t do drugs, and remain a virgin until you’re married.

Show You Hid From Your Parents
Sneaking down to the basement, as quietly as possible, to watch two idiots late at night say: Butt-head: “Beavis ... huhhh huhh huh ... Have you ever noticed that Madonna is always masturbating during her videos?” Beavis: “Heh, heh, yeah, so am I.”

Today’s Version: “South Park”
Crude and openly offensive, yet approached in a different way. Outlawed by many parents, nonetheless. Episodes have parodied Paris Hilton in the “Stupid Spoiled Whore Video Playset” and “The Passion of the Christ” in “The Passion of the Jew.”

Get Real
This is the show that opened up so many possibilities to the gargoyle life that is reality TV. There was so much tension and newness to this reality on MTV. Producers actually cared to get a legitimately diverse cast and put them together.

transformation of the tube

R
eminiscing about buried and dead TV shows of the past is always depressing. All I have left are memories of shows like “Zoobly Zoo,” “Shining Time Station” and the old Nickelodeon which aired shows so close to my heart — “Pete & Pete,” “Salute Your Shorts,” “Rocko’s Modern Life,” “Are You Afraid of the Dark?” and “Legends of the Hidden Temple.”
But as we know, history often repeats itself. So does television: Replaced with nearly identical families, problems and plotlines. While they may not be as satisfying as our favorites from the past, they deserve an honorable mention. After all, not everyone can create an obscure and cool of a show such as “Dinosaurs.” So sit back, relax and take a peek into the past.

STORY BY JENNA GERLING
Hilarities


It’s a Wayans family take-down: Damon, Dwayne, Kim, Keenen, Shawn and Marlon — and each of them is funny as hell. Damon always seemed to have the best skits because he played Homie D. Clown, sporting a stuffed tube sock he’d whack over people’s heads. This show also helped Fly Girl Jennifer Lopez and funny man Jim Carrey get their big starts in stardom.

Today’s Version: “Chappelle’s Show”

Politics, the entertainment industry, celebrities, pot, PCP, crack cocaine, music: It’s all worth a laugh with Dave Chappelle. Popular skits include Samuel Jackson beer, a spoof off of Samuel Adams beer, and the crack addict Tyrone Biggums who loves to eat peanut butter and crack sandwiches.

After-School Special

Back-in-the-Day Goodness: “Saved by the Bell”

Zack Morris ... sigh ... What a total hottie. If it weren’t for his constant scheming, the show wouldn’t have much appeal — aside from the good-looking cheerleader, Kelly, that Zack had such a megacrush on.


This Nickelodeon hit chronicles the adventures of Ned Bigby and his best friends at James K. Polk Middle School. Ned shares tips and tricks on navigating junior high hurdles along with nifty lessons like how to claim the best locker. Way to go, Ned.

Today’s Version: “Survivor”

Just like “The Real World,” except dirtier. This is the true story ... of 20 strangers ... picked to live on a desolate island ... work together and have their lives taped ... to find out what happens when people stop being polite ... and start eating rats ... “Survivor.”

— Art from Amazon.com

Style DIY: THE NEW MOD

Perhaps the most exciting thing to happen to glue since the invention of macaroni art is also the trendiest craft project you’ve seen in a while — modpodging. Consider it a self-expressive, long-lasting collage you can put on everything from lunchboxes to suitcases.

What you’ll need:

- Something to modpodge. This can be a folder, pencil holder, notebook, chair, dresser, etc.
- Polyurethane if you will be working with bigger objects. Mod Podge brand glue should be used with smaller objects. If you’re decorating notebooks or something with paper, Elmer’s glue will work just fine.
- Old newspapers
- Paint brushes
- Rubber gloves and mask
- Paper cutouts from magazines or books. These can be of something inspiring, disturbing, sexy, profound, funny — whatever the mood suits you (the photo on page 54 of this magazine perhaps?).

Get gluing, guys and gals

- Lay down the old newspapers for your work space. Be sure to do this outside if using polyurethane.
- Make sure you have cleaned all items about to get the Mod Podge touch.
- With rubber gloves and breathing mask in place, lay paper cutouts on the item. Using a paintbrush, coat the top of the cutouts in polyurethane, Mod Podge or Elmer’s glue. Make sure your sticky substance of choice also reaches the object you are modpodging so it will stick.
- Continue the above step until you have reached modpodge perfection.
- Give your new creation time to dry. Polyurethaned items take about two days; glued items vary.
- You have yourself a seriously unique item. Now rock it.

— Jackie Mantey; photo by Gavin Jackson
School and country

This nursing major balances a schedule of cows and clinicals

The moon peaks from behind a cloud in the pitch-black sky blanketed with stars only visible in the country. Below, a thin layer of fog rises from the ground, enveloping the slightly rolling acreage of the farmland and barns. The only audible sound is a distant tractor preparing the cow feed. It’s 3:30 a.m. at Regnew Farms, a dairy farm boasting 350 cows in rural Dalton. The view from the quiet country road looks reminiscent of a movie scene: a peaceful farm asleep in the middle of the night, except for the occasional cat prowling the grounds. However, just beyond the threshold of the milking parlor, a designated barn on the farm, life is anything but quiet.
Junior nursing major Spencer Wenger paces up and down the aisle separating 24 cows hooked up to electronic milking machines on two platforms. Milk pumps through translucent yellow tubes on its way to a tank in an adjacent room. One cow grunts in discomfort. Spencer adjusts her milker, and she relaxes. Across the aisle, a red light indicates a slow-milking cow. A minute later, a blinking light alerts Spencer that cow No. 56 has not finished milking.

"It keeps me on my toes," Spencer says, smiling as he refers to the morning farm shift.

All problems are averted five minutes later. The milker attachments drop from the cows' udders, signifying the end of the milking session. The stall gates open and 12 cows on each side of the milking platform make a beeline for the door.

"Come on!" Spencer yells, nudging one disobedient cow through the door. One by one, the cows exit the milking parlor in a single-file line, heading back to their pens to await the arrival of breakfast.

Soon, the milking parlor is empty. Spencer rinses the platforms before he wrangles a new batch of 24 cows into their milking stalls — almost 50 cows milked, only 150 more to go.

A butterscotch-colored cat winds in and out of Spencer's legs, as if patrolling the operation to ensure the milk reaches consumers at the grocery store. Work on the dairy farm is hardly a new phenomenon to Spencer. He has worked on the farm since childhood to pay for his college education.

Spencer, the youngest of five sons, trades books for boots and heads back to the family farm alternating weekends to work during the school year, in addition to summers and extended breaks. There is no paycheck and never has been — just the promise of a higher education.

Spencer's father, Clair Wenger, made his sons a deal: The money saved by not hiring help on the farm due to his sons' work would go toward their college fund. As a result, all five sons graduated from Dalton High School and attended universities in Ohio. The four oldest sons already graduated. Meanwhile, Spencer continues to split weekends between Dalton and Kent, holding up his end of the bargain.

Sometimes the trips home mean missing his favorite college events and working harder to study away from the school environment, but Spencer says he still has plenty of time for normal college experiences. Besides, he's used to the regimented farm schedule.

Spencer's earliest farm memory involves sweeping cow feed into the mangers with a broom three times his size. By age six, Spencer was already milking cows.

Two years later, in third grade, Spencer began his true initiation of farm life — joining the ranks of his four older brothers and waking at 3 a.m. to complete farm chores before going to school.

Afterward, the sun's rising coincided with a mad dash to the Wenger household to clean up, change clothes and grab a bite to eat before hitting the books at school.

"I remember seeing how fast I could shovel down breakfast," Spencer says.

Soon, he converted the experiment to a sophisticated science: one egg, a banana, a bowl of cereal and a glass of orange juice devoured in five minutes flat.

But the farm work didn't end at the crack of dawn. Spencer began round two of the day's work directly after school.

Although still largely a farming community, Spencer's childhood was a rarity among his peers at school in Dalton.

Spencer's father, Clair, attributes the small number of farming children to the changing landscape of Dalton — a town he's witnessed double in size during his lifetime.

"When I was a kid, it was about every other kid who got up in the morning to work on the farm," he says.

Still, Spencer says his father's philosophy was to cultivate a work ethic in his sons at a young age.

"His goal was to start us out early on, which made sense because there's this saying — 'Idle time is the devil's workshop,'" he says. "We had
no time, or very little, to do much trouble.”

Spencer says the time crunch led to a constant balance of farm and school work with social activities — while still managing to get some sleep.

Staying out of trouble, however, did not mean an absence of fun. Spencer’s older brother Austin, 24, recalls his musically inclined younger brother singing and beating rhythms to pass time during chores — and one song, in particular, stands out.

“When Spencer was about nine or ten, he used to write songs,” he says. “One of the songs he wrote was called ‘The Old Wagon Wheel.’”

“The farm has provided more outlets than one,” Spencer says, laughing about his brother’s memory of his farm-inspired song.

In addition to the hard work ethic, the farm helped forge a bond between the two youngest sons — Spencer adding comic relief and Austin, now an accountant at Ernst & Young in Cleveland, acting as the role model.

“He was fun to work with because he was always pretty talkative,” Austin says. “There was always something going on with Spencer.”

Yet during his elementary school years, Spencer says it was difficult separating family farm commitments from normal childhood activities with friends.

“In elementary school, I wasn’t allowed to go to very many sleepovers,” he says. “That was really aggravating because I just really wanted to spend time with friends.”

As he became older, the lack of sleep became the largest sacrifice.

At one point during his senior year in high school, Spencer says his English teacher sent a note home to his parents because she was “concerned my head was hitting the desk” at a high frequency while falling asleep during class.

However, sleep deprivation did not prevent Spencer from, as he puts it, “living life beyond the farm, too.”

At the end of the day, Spencer and his father retreat to their ranch-style house, situated in a newer housing development two miles from the farm. A closet in the garage filled with farm clothes is the only hint suggesting a farming family owns the contemporary home.

“When we go out and do our jobs, we work at being efficient so that we’re not there all day and all night,” he says.

In high school, Spencer’s father encouraged him to excel academically and develop passions beyond the scope of the dairy farm — home to an assortment of stray cats and subsequent kitten litters, two family dogs and the heart and soul of the farm, the cows and calves.

For Spencer, those passions were numerous: music, cross-country and theatre to name a few. Of course, with all sons actively involved in school activities, Spencer says “it got pretty hectic at times” trying to cover for each other at the farm.

“A lot of farm kids are usually forced to be farmers,” Clair says. “I never did that.”

Clair speaks from experience. His parents expected the children to work on the farm — without the incentive of a prepaid higher education.

Ultimately, Clair enrolled at Kent State at the hands of his own checkbook, banking on a college degree to better his future career endeavors. After completing his accounting degree in 1972, he spent 15 years away from the farm before deciding to purchase it from his parents. He also bought a neighboring farm for a combined total of 275 acres.

“I decided that I didn’t really want to be an office executive,” he says. “After I got out into the world, I thought, ‘maybe it wasn’t as bad as I thought.’”

Even so, Clair says he felt that was a decision his kids needed to make for themselves.

“You need to go through that period in your life where you decide,” he says. “I like where I am, but that doesn’t mean they would want to be where I am.”

Yet, the hard work paved the way for a bright future. All five sons excelled in the Dalton public school system, with three graduating as class valedictorians, including Spencer.

“Some of the brothers wouldn’t let on that they liked it,” Spencer says. “In the long run, anyone’s roots will guide you later in life.”

And, that’s exactly what happened when Spencer arrived at Kent State — a far cry from Dalton (population: 1,600), a community east of Wooster that prides itself on being “America’s small town with a big heart.”

It’s the type of town where American flags still line the buildings and century-old homes on Main Street; Wicker chairs and swings occupy most front porches, speaking to the friendly atmosphere alive in this small, rural town.

Regardless of whether they have children, residents flock to high school football games on fall nights to cheer on the Dalton Bulldogs. And, in the high school, the sense of safety allows lockers to go without locks.

When Spencer hit main campus two-and-a-half years ago, he described the experience as a simultaneous “sensory overload and culture shock.”

“It was very odd going from a school that had 300 total kids, going to a university that boasts 25,000,” he says. “I thought I was living in the big city.”

Entertainment only footsteps away. Constant noise indoors and hustle outdoors and, of course, the legendary college parties.

“If there were parties or anything of that nature (in Dalton), you didn’t hear about it,” he says. “At Kent, you can find a party anytime you want.”

Upon his foray into campus life, Spencer says the notorious college parties even exceeded the realms of his imagination.

“I was like ‘wow, that does go on,’” he says. “I had only heard about that happening.”

Hailing from a fairly conservative background, Spencer says his initiation to college life, such as his visit to a fraternity party his third night at Kent, was a “big time eye opener” compared to hanging out at the local ice-cream venue, the Dalton Dari-ette, at home.
DEPARTMENT OF

J U S T I C E

The Department of Justice Studies offers a four-year program leading to the bachelor's degree. Students may choose to pursue a major or minor in justice studies. Additional options include an ABA-approved paralegal studies major or minor/certificate program. The Department also offers a Master's degree in Justice Studies.

The goals of the department are to provide students with broad understanding of the functions, roles and critical issue within all of the components of the criminal justice system, as well as to provide insights into the nature of the origins of crime and delinquency. We seek to equip majors with the necessary knowledge, insight and sensitivity to occupy positions in public and private criminal justice agencies and research institutions and to encourage further professional development and graduate education.

For more information on the department, visit our website: http://dept.kent.edu/cjsst/
Now, with the curiosity out of his system, Spencer prefers occasional trips to his favorite Kent haunts, playing and singing with local music groups and being a member of the Christian Navigators. "I realized that those things I was doing growing up — who knows if they are the right or wrong things — but they feel right to me," he says.

Spencer did not, however, need to adjust to the college class schedule. The 7:45 a.m. classes his peers complained about seemed like a luxury to Spencer, who considers seven hours of sleep per night a good amount.

"Going to college was kind of a big break for me," he says.

Despite the hour-long drive back from the farm, Spencer once again finds himself in the medical services profession, diagnosing illnesses and giving shots, except this time, his patients are humans, not cows.

"My inspiration for going into nursing was derived from many of my relatives being in the profession and also my responsibilities at the farm administering medicine to the cows and calves," he says.

But, the differences between his two types of patients are as black and white as the cows themselves.

"For one thing, cows don't talk back," he says. "They can just kick."

While nursing demands a gentle touch and individual attention for each human patient, Spencer says he must adopt a more assertive demeanor around the animals.

"While you still need to maintain gentleness with cattle, they have thick skin and are not always compliant," he says.

Aside from the parallels between nursing and his farmwork, Spencer says the suburban college setting in Kent grants him an experience unlike his life in Dalton.

"I miss the openness, the country air," he says. "It's just a totally different feel, but I enjoy coming to Kent and getting a different vibe."

Even so, Spencer credits the farm for much of his success.

"If I hadn't had the farm as my roots, I wouldn't have been taught many valuable skills that led to being successful as a person," he says, such as responsibility, loyalty, time management, working with others and patience.

Spencer says his upbringing on the farm has not only been a valuable experience for his future nursing career, but also life in general — calling it "on-the-job training for occupation and life."

"Now, when I look back on it, I wouldn't trade it for anything," he says.

Currently, Spencer is busy juggling the demands of schoolwork and nursing clinicals, but as graduation approaches in 2009, he's not ready to rule out a future in farm life.

"I guess that all depends where life leads me," he says. "I'd like to keep it a part of my life in some way, shape or form."

Jackie Valley is a sophomore newspaper journalism major. This is her first story for The Burr.
A program looks to help Cleveland’s sexually active youth—with the assistance of a van

Their laughter and youthful chatter can be heard a block away. Who knows what they are talking about, but a fair guess would be the opposite sex. Never mind that the streets they walk are home to a number of gangs. Never mind that drug deals go on all around them. Never mind that many of the homes they pass by are filled with broken promises and not enough food. For this one moment, oblivious to all else, they are doing what almost every teenage boy does — brag about, and most likely exaggerate, stories of their interactions with girls.

Like almost every other teenager, sex is a big issue in their lives. But there’s a harsh reality lurking in the shadows of their actions, and despite their confident attitudes, it only took a glance to know they were just a little scared to approach the van — a van that could change their lives forever; a van that could make them outcasts in society; a van that would tell them the cost of their interactions with sex.

This past January, the Cleveland LGBT Center launched the Metro Youth Outreach Program with the objective of reaching inner-city Cleveland youth and homeless teens between the ages of 14 and 24.

Every Thursday night, a van, equipped with all the amenities of a hospital room or doctor’s office, goes out to two different locations on the west side of Cleveland in order to reach the youth of the area and provide HIV testing, STD testing and counseling for those who need it. The MYO van provides sex and hygiene kits, and when it gets cold, warm clothing, winter coats and blankets.

Henry Ng, a doctor at MetroHealth Medical Center, and Mika Major, the LGBT Center’s director of programs, first began putting together a proposal for MYO in August 2005.

“We were concerned that a lot of health issues were not being addressed for youth in Cleveland,” says Ng who goes out with the van every Thursday night.

MYO, which receives a majority of its funding from the Cuyahoga County Department of Child and Family Services, has already reached and
provided services for more than 500 youths in the Cleveland area, double what the program directors had hoped for in the first year. The center also works with numerous other organizations in the area, such as The AIDS Task Force, the Free Clinic and the Westhaven Youth Shelter, to provide the service.

With additional resources provided from the Cleveland Clinic, the van transforms into a mini hospital room on wheels. Similar to the look of an RV, the van has two rooms with exam tables and medical supplies, a sitting area for counseling and its very own driver.

The first stop is at W. 89th St. and Willard Avenue, from 6 to 8 p.m. Round two is at the parking lot of the Hollywood Video on Lorain Avenue, from 8 to 10 p.m. Along with Ng the van is staffed with two counselors from the center and someone from the Free Clinic to do HIV testing.

Maureen Havelka, one of the counselors, says they provide services for an average of five people per night with the most being 12 in one night. Around 10 to 20 percent of the teens that MYO treats are homeless on any given night, Havelka says. About a half of them will get tested for HIV.

"I think people are a little intimidated by it all," she says. "It seems like the biggest protesters, the ones who make fun of it the most, are the ones who need it the most."

The van has also become a vital tool for the counselors to learn about the lives and concerns of many of the van's visitors. While waiting for their tests to come back, two young men entertain the staff with new street lingo for drugs — a "lick" is a person interested in buying drugs, a "blueberry yum-yum" is new term for pot and "Paris Hilton" is the new slang for cocaine.

While HIV testing may be one of the main services the program provides, it is not something MYO will perform for every young adult who gets treated at the program. The individual must ask to be tested. The program does rapid HIV testing which allows a young man or woman to know whether or not they have HIV within 20 minutes.

"I hope and pray that the test will come back negative," says Kalia Johnson, an HIV tester from the Free Clinic who does testing on the van. "Even with all the training, you never know how to tell a person they are positive for HIV."

The men and women who come to get tested have the option of doing so confidentially or anonymously. With anonymous testing, there is no identification required and their test results are not reported to the Department of Health, nor are they added to any medical records. Most opt for anonymous, Johnson says.

A big part of what Johnson does while she waits for the tests to come back, is talk to the teens about their sex lives while dishing out advice. Johnson says many of the young women who come to her to get tested don't use condoms because their partners refuse to.

One method she advises using is the "checking method." A girl will put the condom on the inside of her cheek and slip it on the man during oral sex. She also tells males who don't like the feel of a condom to put lube on the inside of the condom to simulate the feeling of sex without one.

"A lot of the kids in the neighborhood get left to fend for themselves," says Pastor Dave Bever Jr., whose own program, R Life, does drug prevention for inner-city youth. "There is a lack of parental care and guidance to take the kids to get tested. This program provides services for them to get the help that they need."

Sandra, who chose not to disclose her last name, is one of those young adults who has benefited from the help on wheels. She doesn't have medical insurance, but likes to keep herself up-to-date.

"I've got three kids. What is going to happen to them if something happens to me?" Sandra says. At the end of the night, the staff of the Metro Youth Outreach Program has handed out sex kits and has tested several individuals, but when it's all said and done, something else makes the program a personal success.

"It feels good to be able to help youth who normally would not have access to these services," says Travis Garry, the program specialist for MYO. "There is nobody going out into the streets like this. Our slogan is 'We are out on the streets with you,' and it is true, we are out there."

Sarah McGrath is a senior magazine journalism major. This is her first story for The Burr.

Looking at the numbers:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5,000</th>
<th>3,601</th>
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<tr>
<td>number of cases of HIV in 15- to 24-year-olds reported in the United States in 2005</td>
<td>number of Cleveland residents living with HIV or AIDS in 2006</td>
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- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
- The Cleveland Department of Public Health
Protesters take a seat

One student’s take on just what our silence means and where it may take us

The silent protest has become even quieter for this generation. It used to mean something different a few decades ago: a number of people sitting peacefully on the side of the road with handmade signs. College students are still sitting, but now it’s in front of their computers with handmade Web sites, counting their allies in “hits” rather than bodies standing beside them. True, it’s certainly a more comfortable protest, but is it as effective?

Following the incident at a forum with Sen. John Kerry when a student asking persistent questions was Tasered by police, television personality Stephen Colbert wondered what happened to young protesters. Colbert noted that in the video of the Taserer, the students sitting behind the man were doing just that. Sitting.

“If that young man who was Tasered was expecting his peers to rise up and protest,” Colbert joked, “he was asking the wrong generation.”

He went on to call this generation “conscientious ignorers.”

Maybe this really isn’t something to joke about. A generation so used to watching things happen may not really know how to make things happen. It would seem that when networks with large college student audiences have campaigns to get their viewers to take action, there would be some sort of effect. However, when MTV launched a 20 Million Loud campaign in 2004 asking for 20 million people ages 18-30 to vote (a 10 percent increase from the 2000 election), the goal was never reached. Many critics actually see the use of anything television related to be desensitizing to an individual. According to a study done by Princeton professor R.D. Putnam in 2000, television is responsible for as much as 25 percent of the decline in civic engagement.

Many would-be protesters have turned to their computers to show their disgust in the war, the president or the president’s opponents. I went on Facebook to see what type of anti-war groups someone from Kent would be able to join, and it was quite possibly the most obnoxious task I’ve ever attempted. I find it hard to believe that anyone is going to truly want to sift through hundreds and hundreds of what claim to be politically minded Facebook groups. Some groups are registered under “political activism,” but are in fact groups to “Get Shelly to Take Off Her Top Next Thursday!” But even the groups which are against the war could hardly be taken seriously. How can anyone expect to make a change in the world when they join or start a group called “aaaaaaaaaaaaa bush is a butt poop?” I could, of course, be wrong. Comedy could be the key.

I stopped looking for genuine anti-war Facebook groups after about 10 minutes. I can’t imagine people who were just curious would spend more than three frustrating minutes searching for a group that wasn’t created by some administrator named Dave who calls himself “Commando-in-Chief.”

Then came my quest for finding a physical protest happening in Kent. Finding when and where they happen, was almost impossible.

I stopped in a number of stores downtown and most of the people I talked to knew protests happened fairly often, but no one had any idea of
when or where. I finally found that the protests are scheduled for every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. For the first couple of weeks, I tried to go see these supposed protests, and each and every time there was absolutely no one even in the general vicinity. Toward the end of September on my way to work I saw a number of protesters on the corner of Lincoln and Main streets. But I couldn't be late for work, so I "honked for peace." Talk about being a conscientious ignorer.

There's obviously a communication problem. Life's not the way it was back in the '60s and '70s. You can't expect people to show up at something just because of word of mouth. In this sense we do need to use new technology.

Anna Carney, a sophomore business major who has been to multiple protests—including a march in Washington, D.C.—says she would love to attend more protests in Kent.

"Protests make a big impact on not only every-

one that takes part, but also anyone who even just walks by and reads a couple of signs that people are holding." She doesn't write off our generation as being pitiful, though. "People don't give us enough of a chance. We do care. I guess maybe we just don't show it publicly enough."

This generation has the rest of the world at our fingertips. We can contact anyone and everyone with a push of a button. We can either use technology to our advantage or to our disadvantage. We need to take all the "facts" that have been shoved in our faces— that we don't care, that we're a "me" generation—and prove all of that wrong.

Sarah Steimer is a sophomore magazine journalism major. This is her first story for The Burr.
‘No truce,'
Role playing and sword fights for Kent State’s Kingdom of Rotharin is all in the name of Dagonhir

In the Brecksville reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks, the bare branches of the towering oak trees scrape and clack together in the afternoon breeze. The sun is violently reflected on the helmet and pauldrons of a volunteer king who stalks before his ad hoc army.

His 25 troops shuffle their feet in the slosh of snow, mud and grass, hefting shields higher on left arms. Across the open expanse, the opposing army does the same.

At the cries of their kings, the armies sprint forward, their ranks melding into a jumbled mass of bodies. Swords thud and thwack on shields, arms and bellies, dully echoing in the grove. But there is no clang or bang as the frenzied blades collide.

The warriors’ weapons are made of foam covered in fabric, old socks and T-shirts secured with duct tape, electrical tape or athletic tape. The shields are foam and plywood. Instead of jeans or tennis shoes, there are surcoats, greaves and bracers.

Amid the fray, 10 Kent State students join more than 50 people who have gathered on a chilly Sunday afternoon to participate in a day of battles, war stories and fellowship.

This is Dagonhir.

no alliances’

STORY BY LESLIE ARNTZ  |  PHOTOS BY LESLIE CUSANO
Joe Cagle, sophomore visual communication design major, gets ready to strike a blow to Ben Altemus, sophomore history major, with a Dagorhir sword. Previous page, Altemus is a fourth star of Rotharin ranking Combat Archer, Swordsman and Commander in the Kent State Medieval Fighting Club.

It’s hard to believe J.R.R. Tolkien ever pictured anything like this when he wrote his “Lord of the Rings” trilogy. But Dagorhir, which means “battle lords” in Tolkien’s Sindarin Elvish language, seeks to combine the epic quality of his novels with historical medieval warfare. It fuses elements of role playing, medieval reenactment and a form of martial art.

There are about 80 official chapters in the United States. Many chapters are split into smaller fighting units, including Kent State’s Kingdom of Rotharin — part of the larger group of Einherjar.

“Sure it’s claimed that we are a bunch of dorks, but if you’re not OK with it, you can’t be in Dagorhir. They don’t know what it is, and they don’t matter.”

Sr Will Scarlit, vice president of Einherjar, springs onto a picnic bench and shouts for the weapons check. Swords, javelins, maces, axes, daggers and arrows are pulled out of duffle bags and tossed into piles. Rotharin’s weapons are marked with their crest: a bladed moon and four stars.

Scarlit, who never reveals his real name, picks up a sword, examines it, then beats a bent-over warrior across the back. He’s grinning wildly, his movements exaggerated. He’s part royalty, part jester, but his job right now is to make sure each weapon is up to standards.

“There are strict rules for safety,” says Ben Altemus, a sophomore history major better known as Alsander Aloncy, commander of the Rotharin armies. “They have to be checked at every event.”

A weapon’s core is made of PVC piping or fiberglass rods from driveway reflectors, which is typically covered in layers of blue camping foam. The padding is then covered by some sort of fabric and taped securely.

Scarlit makes sure the weapons meet the proper dimensions and don’t have defects, such as not enough padding or a core poking through the end. He’s searching for something unsafe. The rules of Dagorhir are very specific about
lengths, weights and materials.

"If you can make it and it's legal, it's good," Altemus says.

The weapons are the most important part of the game, and anyone wishing to earn his first rank in the Kingdom of Rotharin must help make a community weapon.

Out of 100 or so weapons on the floor, Scarlit throws about a dozen on the reject pile. The owners will have to repair them before using them in battle.

DONNING THE GARB

The maroon and gray flag of the Ravens of Vidar flaps near the fireplace. The Kingdom of Rotharin's crested flag hangs in the middle of the pavilion. As more units pull into the gravel drive, more banners hang from the rafters.

Jackets and hoodies come off. The warriors gather under the pavilion, pulling on boots, lacing up bracers and buckling leather breastplats.

In Dagarhir, armor of any kind grants an extra hit to the wearer from certain types of weapons.

Types of armor range from chain mail shirts to lace-up leather corsets. Almost all of it is handmaded.

In the Kingdom of Rotharin and many other groups, all members have to learn a craft—cooking, sewing, repairing weapons or leather working. Everyone contributes.

THE BATTLE BEGINS

"Kill whoever's not on your team! No truce, no alliances," shouts the herald.

The second battle of the afternoon pairs off warriors who must either kill or be killed by every other pair streaking across the field.

Green! Blue! Blue, blue! Double green! RED!

As a hit is made, the attacker shouts out the type of weapon he's using.

"Was that blue? No, red!"

If an unarmored limb is hit, it must be tucked behind the back—as if it were hacked off. A severed leg means dropping to the ground and hopping or crawling toward an opponent.

Dagarhir runs on an honor system. It's up to the two fighting to decide if a hit counts, if it had enough force to take off a limb, or slice open a gut, as if the swords were real.

"You! Don't count that. It was light."

Only archers, whose arrows may go unnoticed in the heat of battle, may inform an opponent he lost his leg, arm or life. No one else is allowed to call his or her own hits. Even if they know they hacked off all four limbs already, fighters can not say anything. Altemus says the best thing to do is just hit harder.

The warring armies spread their forces, pushing to the edges of the large field. Four heralds space themselves along the edge, trying to keep the warriors from running into a family playing softball.

When a group gets too close, the heralds cry, "Edge of the world!"

The family retreats across the road, plops

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**Ways to die**

Participants in Dagarhir keep a varied arsenal ready for battle, all of which are based on real weapons, but redone with safety in mind.

**Dagarhir model ① Real-life weapon ②**

### Blue weapons

**Types:** morningstar, flail, mace, sword, axe

Most new recruits begin with these one-handed weapons. A torso hit or the loss of two limbs results in death. Armor grants an extra hit.

### Red weapons

**Types:** polearm or halberd, battle axe, broadsword

Red weapons are used with two hands and greater force. They are larger and longer than blue weapons and can break shields with two solid hits. Armor is defenseless against red attacks.

### Green weapons

**Types:** pikes, spears, knife, dagger

These are weapons with a stabbing point. Red or blue swords may have a green stabbing tip. A solid, two-handed hit with a green weapon penetrates armor, while single-handed hits do no damage.

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**White weapons**

These "rocks" are made from leftover bits of foam and fabric. They only cause damage when thrown at the head, resulting in immediate death. The maximum weight for a rock is 1.5 pounds.

**Yellow weapons**

**Types:** arrows, javelins

Yellow weapons may be thrown or shot. These are one of two weapon types allowed to hit the head or neck. A head or torso shot results in death. Shots to limbs render them immobile, but do not count toward the two-limb death.
down on a park bench and watch — their game is forgotten.

A mother in a purple windbreaker mills about
in the midst of the medieval warriors. She’s here
to watch her son, and a camera dangles from a
wrist strap.

Cars stop in the gravel drive, passengers craning
their necks to see. A police cruiser stops. A picnic
table across the road has been occupied by the
same six people for the past two hours.

Members of the Kingdom of Rotharin experi-
ence this during their regular practices behind the
Student Center at Kent State University.

“A lot of the time, people are too afraid to
ask,” says Jess Schweitzer, junior biology major
and queen of Rotharin. “They just sit around and
watch.”

Above Rotharin’s practice field is the office
of a student official. In his window is a sign
proclaiming love for Rotharin. People often
sit on benches, watching, some spread out
blankets, stereos and food and hunker down for a
couple hours.

“I’m sure it’s claimed that we are a bunch
of dorks,” says Altemus. “But if you’re not OK
with it, you can’t be in Dagothir. They don’t
know what it is, and they don’t matter.”

Sometimes, the people watching will pick up
a sword and join in.

Rita Palkovic, junior middle childhood educa-
tion major, knew Altemus from high school.
He invited her to practices.

“I watched them for a semester in the fall. I
was just thinking: ‘Oh, good for them. They’re
comfortable enough to do that in public,’” she
says, smiling. “And this semester, I just em

GETTING INTO CHARACTER

To fight in official battles, participants must
sign a waiver. They fill out the usual: unit, age, address, name and real name.

For many, role playing is just as important as the
fighting. Each person creates a separate persona: a
character they become on the battlefield.

Schweitzer is the president of the official university
club, but she’s also Lynae Eydown Rothar,
queen of the Kingdom of Rotharin. Altemus is
Alsons Aloncy, commander of her armies.

“You’re being the person you fight with — when
role playing or on the field,” Altemus says. “It
sounds dorky, but that’s just how it is, and it’s fun.”

Each character chooses a name and develops a
back story — who they are and how they came to
the kingdom.

After joining, Palkovic became Winifred Re-
gina Lancaster, sister of Alsons.

“When we more and more people, you have
to figure out where people fit into the world,”
Schweitzer says. “They do role playing without
me so, I’m in the dark about what’s going on most
of the time.”

Role playing consists of having in-character
conversations, assuming the identity and manner-
isms of someone created solely for this purpose.

Cortnee Gaj, a sophomore integrated language
arts major, is most often found in the guise of the
Gage of the Pockets. Her voice becomes high and
squeaky, and she often stumbles upon personal
possessions that end up in her drawstring purse.

But not everyone has such a fully developed
alter ego they don as easily as their blue and silver
tunics.

“There are different levels of participation
based on comfort level,” says Schweitzer. “We’re
trying to incorporate people who want to do
whatever they do.”

In the Kingdom of Rotharin there are four
stars, or ranks, fighters can gain. There are also
non-fighting classes that are granted through con-
tribution of community crafts such as banners and
garb, or by assuming leadership roles.

Lisa Wilson, sophomore fashion design
major, joined the group to design and sew garb.
She says the group and what they do is very
interesting to her.

“It’s something slightly bizarre,” she says.
“You stock up on the Advil and come in. It’s fun
not being yourself. No one has to fight like this
anymore. It’s trying to regain your past — part of
our history.”

For most, Dagothir is about community.
Last year, about five of Kent State’s unit lived
in “Fort Harbort” Hall where Jerry Bartlett, or
Garack, was a resident assistant.

“I had to make sure that it was OK that I was
beating on residents and they were beating on
me — that it was all kosher,” says the junior math
education major.

He used the group as a way to foster interaction
among his residents.

“You get out there and exercise, and (do)
community building,” he says. “It’s a lot of fun,
you just have to be into that kind of fun. You have to be willing to learn.”

Altemus says many people show up for practice thinking they know everything there is to know, get beat up and go home angry. The ones who stick around, though, form tight friendships with the other members.

“You can trust most everybody,” Schweitzer says. “If you’re part of the group, you’re family.”

AWAITING RESURRECTION

Dagorhir bridges the gap between generations, bringing together the battle-hardened and the green. Two men in their 40s circle a younger group of five fighters. “Look at me, I’m old and slow!” one yells out.

“Not the distraction, not the distraction! Don’t look at me, I’m not the distraction,” the other taunts.

Glossary of terms:

- Ball and wall – fighting style of using a morningstar or flail and shield
- Bracers – armor worn to protect the forearms
- Florentine – fighting with two blue weapons
- Greaves – armor protecting the shins
- Herald – an announcer or referee for battles
- “Lay on!” – call made by official to start a battle
- Pauldrons – curved armor to protect the shoulders
- Sword and board – fighting style of using a blue weapon and shield

The five young warriors turn in unison, exposing their backs, and the seasoned pair lunges into the group, swords flailing — striking backs, shoulders and thighs. The clump goes down and the Dagorhir veterans jog across the field to apprehend the next group.

A steady stream of the “dead” walks off the battlefield, weapons held on the tops of their heads. They’re covered in mud, and bits of grass are caught in their weapons.

They gather in the netherworld of the sidelines, watching their comrades, lamenting the mistakes they made. They aren’t allowed to speak to the living.

They pace back and forth, swinging weapons and becoming more jovial as their comrades join them in temporary “death.”

The herald shouts, and the battle is over. The armies gather their ranks and reform. Armor repairs itself, eviscerated bowels are now intact and lost limbs regenerate.

Within minutes, the next battle is on. #

Leslie Arntz is a senior magazine journalism major. This is her first story for The Burr.
Preaching to the Remnant

Third parties struggle on and off campus

People slowly wander into room 312 of the Student Center coming in by ones and twos and taking seats around the table. They sit in small groups or by themselves eating pizza, drinking Diet Coke and talking. As starting time gets closer, the room gets quieter. They are waiting for philosophy graduate student Dmitry Chernikov to start the first meeting of the College Libertarians, a group he created this fall.

The attendees are from all walks of life, some dressed in suits, one in a fraternity shirt and another sporting Green Day apparel. Seventeen people come in and out of the room throughout the two-hour meeting. After the introductions, a speech by the group's creator and a discussion, the pizzas have disappeared almost completely.

Chernikov says he realizes libertarianism is not a mass movement. He equates it to a story from the Bible about Isaiah.

"We are preaching to the Remnant," he says. "Like Isaiah. Isaiah was very upset that people weren't listening to him, and God told him 7,000 or so people still believe in me and that's the Remnant. The way we speak to the Remnant is speaking to those who understand."

There are more than 50 minor political parties in the United States and each one is preaching to its own remnant. A minor, or third, party is essentially a political party that is not the Democratic or Republican Party. Their beliefs range from facism, such as the American Nazi Party, to legalizing drugs, such as the U.S. Marijuana Party.

There are parties everywhere in between a little something for everyone.

A high number of parties, sure, but not too
Third party
(third-party)

a political party organized
in opposition to the major parties
in a two-party system.

direct association with the Libertarian Party
while they do hold essentially the same beliefs.

Another difference? The idea is to promote
discussion and not necessarily get candidates
elected.

There is currently one exception.

"One of my ideas is to invite (representative
and presidential hopeful) Ron Paul here to Kent
State to speak or debate with other candidates," he
says.

Paul is a Republican presidential candidate
from Texas with a libertarian take on politics.
His entrance into the race has made politics
more interesting, Chernikov says.

Around 70 percent of the members of the
Libertarian Party are supporting Paul, accord-
ing to July statistics from the Web site of Steve
Kubby, the Libertarian Party's candidate for
president. Kubby is also endorsing Paul and
encouraging members to vote for him in the
upcoming election. Although Paul may have
third party beliefs, he is a member of one of the
major political parties, which gives him a major
advantage. Chernikov says the Libertarian Party
has no chance of getting a presidential candi-
date elected because voters often only recognize
the two main parties.

That struggle for recognition is something
Steve Lem, assistant professor of political
science, knows all about. Having done
research on political parties and the barriers facing
them, he says part of the problem third parties face
is that not many citizens (students included) know
anything about them.

"There's simply a lack of information about third
parties floating around because of the dominance of
Democrats and Republicans," he says.

Lem does not place all of the blame on students,
but says some of it has to do with the emphasis sec-
condary education puts on teaching history instead
of politics.

"We don't tell (students) an awful lot about the
political processes that govern in everyday life," he
says. "Even when students get to college, political
science college courses aren't necessarily part of
the curriculum."

Lem says some students do become involved
and exposed but others remain "blissfully
unaware of political events" that affect everyday life.

But the College Libertarians are not the lone
third party on campus.

In 2000, another minor party existed at Kent
State -- the Kent State University Greens. The
group was founded in part to round up support for
Ralph Nader who was the Green Party presidential
candidate that year. The group did not last long after
Nader's loss, and the only reminder the group ever
existed is a constitution in a file in the Center for
Student Involvement.

Another political student group does, however,
keep an alternative ideology alive: The International
Socialist Organization. Some of its members echo
Lem's thoughts about the detriment of required
coursework used today.

"Schools are supposed to produce socially aware
and conscious citizens, and ideally that's what
happens," says Stephanie Gentry, a 2006 alumna.
"In reality, what happens is they teach the things
capitalism needs in order to survive."

Gentry has been a member of the ISO since she
came to Kent State and still returns for its weekly
just how much of a response the group will get. Because the latter would give citizens more choices.

T
he policies behind the two alternative political groups on campus may not be similar, but the ISO also does not strive to get candidates elected. Instead, it promotes policies.

“When it comes to actually participating in the current system of voting, we are more concerned with voting on the actual issues and not for the representatives for a certain district or state,” says Tim Adkins, a senior Spanish and sociology major who has also been in the ISO for almost two years.

Twice a week, the ISO members promote their organization and ideals by providing literature to students. The organization also allows interested students to attend some of the meetings. Adkins says, pinpointing a common denominator for the survival of the third party groups — student involvement.

Beyond just talking to students, the College Libertarians promoted the group to students by hanging fliers around campus and sending a message over Flashline.

Chernikov says it is always a question as to just how much of a response the group will get. Although there are minor parties in the United States, it is really more of a two party system, he says.

Gentry says today’s two party system does not work as well as a multiparty system would because the latter would give citizens more choices. She cites the 2004 election as an example.

“It was Bush or Kerry. That was it,” she says, adding that people are trained to think, “hey there is this evil and then there is this lesser evil,” and so you have to vote for one of the two. I think that the education system doesn’t tell us there are other choices.”

Third party members aren’t the only ones who see their existence as important. The president of Kent State’s College Republicans, Stephen Ontko, says they are good for the country to have.

“Other parties put a check on what the major parties are doing,” he says “By simply existing, they make sure the major parties stick to the principles of their platform and do not simply become a mechanism for self interest.”

Although he thinks multiple parties can be a good thing, Ontko adds that the “two party system works well in the United States” because it provides enough competition among the two parties and citizens needs are “generally addressed in a significant manner.”

B
ut the education system is only one of many contributing factors third parties face in the struggle for change.

For example, Lem cites the parties’ inability to promote themselves as a reason for students’ lack of knowledge about their ideologies.

“The way we disadvantage third parties in the U.S. politically leads to less advertisement, less being able to mobilize and get their message out,” he explains.

While Gentry says the country’s education system has a big hand in not informing students, she admits the fault may lie in other places as well.

“Not enough students think about politics,” she says. “When I look at any of the groups — Democrats, Republicans, Socialists, what have you — all in all, with our groups combined we probably have 100 students. That’s not enough; there are 30,000 students that go to Kent State. That’s ridiculous.”

Gentry says most students, and citizens, need to realize there are more than two parties to choose from.

“Don’t feel you’re trapped into voting for dumb and dumber,” she says.

Patrick Gallagher, adviser to the ISO and associate professor of modern and classical languages, says funding plays a big role in why minor parties have a hard time at the state and federal level — a parallel that can also be drawn to this campus.

Two years ago, Gallagher says, the ISO tried to get money from the Undergraduate Student Senate to bring writer Dave Zirin to speak on campus. Zirin has written several books and penned for ESPN and Sports Illustrated.

Gallagher says the ISO asked for several thousand dollars but the USS refused to provide the funds, citing that Zirin was “un-American” and against the Iraq war.

“The meeting where we turned in our forms for funding was just surreal,” he says.

The ISO and several other campus organizations were able to bring Zirin to speak without funds from the USS and approximately 200 people attended the event.

Gallagher says the “student government is so biased” and only gives money to people it supports citing the USS wanting to give Bill O’Reilly $80,000 to speak on campus. The largest amount ever allocated by the USS was, in fact, $91,000 for College Republicans to bring O’Reilly to campus even though the appearance fell through, according to Daily Kent Stater reports from 2005.

Center for Student Involvement Business Manager Judy Ripple, wrote to The Burr in an e-mail that the ISO was not granted funding to bring Dave Zirin to campus; however, the organization was granted funding for two other events that year: a program called Black Liberation & Socialism and a Socialism 2007 Conference.

W
atever the barriers, these minor parties continue their fight nationally (Paul is gaining in the polls among moderates in for his bid for the 2008 presidential nomination as of October) and locally.

College Libertarians is still a mixing bowl of different kinds of people with generally the same political ideology. The next meeting started at the same time and in the same place as the first. The biggest change lies in the attendance — only nine of the original 17 have returned. The Remnant, even smaller than before, sit and talk amongst themselves, discussing the preachings of their “libertarian gods;” theorists and economists like Ludwig von Mises, Ayn Rand, Murray Rothbard and Lew Rockwell.

Ted Hamilton is a senior magazine journalism major. This is his first story for The Burr.
“It was my birthday yesterday!” she shouts and throws her menu on the floor for a third time. “Why can’t I...” she mumbles. “I just want a cigarette!” Rodd, the waiter, shakes his head as he sets another menu in front of her. “My brother-in-law gave me this ring for my birthday.” She extends her hand and the ring slips off her finger. It lands in front of me with plastic crash. She leans over to retrieve it and, in the process, catches a glimpse of my camera. “Do you take pictures?” she asks with a smile. “Yes,” I reply. Her friends start to cheer as she positions herself. “Will you take mine? I just had a birthday.” “Sure,” I say. “You’re lookin’ at a beat!” She turns, smiles and walks outside for a smoke.
Congratulations to the Burr and CyBurr Staff!

**NATIONAL AWARDS – 2007**

Magazine Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

Best Single Issue of an Ongoing Print Magazine: Editorial

The Burr, fall 2006, first place

Danielle Toth, editor; Jessica Lentine, art director

“The stories were engaging, the design was clean and modern, the writing was well-done and the cover itself was well-executed”

*Judge: Ashley Deahl, managing editor of Phoenix magazine*

Consumer Magazine Article: People

Brian Thornton, “Robbie’s Legacy,” spring 2007, honorable mention

*Judge: Dick Stolley, senior editorial adviser at Time Inc. and founding managing editor of People*

Consumer Magazine Article: Service and Information


*Judge: Ken Collier, editor of Family Handyman, a Reader’s Digest publication*

**REGIONAL AWARDS – 2007**

Society of Professional Journalists, Region 4

Best Affiliated Web Site

The CyBurr, spring and fall 2006, first place

Rick Salsberry, webmaster

Best Student Magazine

The Burr, second place

Katie Phillips, editor, spring 2006

Danielle Toth, editor, fall 2006

Best Magazine Non-Fiction Article

TaLeiza Calloway, “Kent State Student Rises from Homelessness,” spring 2006, second place
move over, beer pong
Cornhole takes the campus by storm  p. 11

a nation of plastic
Surgery, that is  p. 4

the album has left the building
Musical production as you know it is about to change  p. 26