millennials: who we are & why we'll change America
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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.
go ahead, taste it.
then go back for seconds.

theburr.com

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 (theburr.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 jam-packed with web exclusive content of these stories and more.

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

Cheers,

Special thanks to our patrons:

Melody C. Reilly
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Wednesday 9:30am-5:00pm
Thursday 8:00am-7:00pm
Friday 8:00am-5:00pm
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DEPARTMENTS (CONT'...)

33 ARTS & LIFE GLUE GONE GLAM Take any boring item from your room and shvoe it (into some polyurethane).

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"It's just a totally different feel, but I enjoy coming to Kent and getting a different vibe."

44

"It's something slightly bizarre. You stick up on the Adyil and come in. It's fun not being yourself ... It's trying to regain your past - part of our history."

— photo by Stephen Piscara
Make Me Beautiful

Story by: Sarah van Druten

Photo by: Leslie Cusano
Plastic surgery rises in popularity as it becomes more accessible to the masses

On men and women are increasingly taping and tucking, implanting and injecting, stitching and removing, all to better their self-appearances and health. More eager young adults are going under the knife as cosmetic surgery has become more accessible over the past five years. The cost has decreased while demand has jumped by 228 percent based on statistics published by the American Society for Aesthetic Surgery.

According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, nearly 11 million cosmetic surgery procedures were performed in the United States in 2006, a 7 percent increase since 2005. A year later, 34 percent of those were performed on those between the ages of 19 and 34.

Curves Craving

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.

The burr.com

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

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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>101,176</td>
<td>176,863</td>
<td>65,157</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>403,684</td>
<td>403,684</td>
<td>3,181,592</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, Inc.

Compiled by Brenna McNamara

The cost has decreased while demand has increased by 228 percent based on statistics published by the American Society for Aesthetic Surgery.

The cost of the surgery is approximately $25,000; however, because Vail's mother works as a Computer Programmer at the Cleveland Clinic in Euclid, 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 to undergo 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.
A production of ‘West Side Story’ changes a community

STORY BY STEVEN BUSHONG
PHOTO BY HEIDI WEBER

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 eldest. 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 when 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 peoples' 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 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,igger," the white boy said.

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

A teacher had seen it all.

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

"Francis Dorsey, report to the office," the loudspeaker commanded.

Francis rose from his seat and went 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 home from school, he began thinking aloud; all of his thoughts were feeding 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 said he was disappointed, but not angry or 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 dad, Smith could do something about the situation. 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 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 from getting into trouble.

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 of as a tool to spread positive messages.

Prostrated, 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 experiences to Francis, including a new school, South Campus, and a new name for the production company, Black Theater Workshop. The group's adviser, Brad Smoker, was white, but he was fair. He helped the group tell the stories they wanted to tell. Until then, theater at Arlington 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 taking the stage, the black students of South Campus 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.

...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.
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Making the beanbags
What you will 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 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 out on the fun? We’re here to help you create your own set to take to your favorite party, family reunion or just to enjoy yourself as a nice set of slanted coffee tables.

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
1. 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.

Making the boards
What you will need
• 4 - 2” x 3” x 48” (4 - 2” x 3” x 24” 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” 2x3s. 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.
Who wants to be a millionaire?

STORY BY DAVID YOCHUM

W

hat’s the blueprint for making an easy $4 million? According to finance instructor Ron Stolle, as students think about how to make money work for them, 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 educating, amusing and enriching 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 (62% of which goes to a 401(k) with a 3% match from a company), this reduces your contribution from $2,400,000 to $320,000, so you contribute $28,000 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 can’t typically be withdrawn until many reach retirement age. If a student wants to accumulate interest for the intermediate 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 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 specified 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.

We 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.

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Investing terminology demystified

- **Bonds** — An interest-bearing or discounted debt security issued by corporations and governments. Essentially, loans 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 funds** — 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.


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’d be in deep water.”

While the 401(k) may sound like the ultimate investment tool, 401(k) money can’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 at 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 says administering 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.

You might look at more secure CDs getting 5%,” Stolle says. “Still, the difference between 3% and 10% over 30 years is massive, so you’ve got to take a little time and investigate everything before making any decisions.”

But enough with the game-planning. If Stolle were “on-the-spot” and had to invest $5,000 after graduation, where would this finance guru put his hard earned cash?

“I would probably plunk it in a spier exchange traded fund, which is a mutual fund that trades daily and duplicates the S&P 500,” Stolle says. “Mutual funds are a great way to invest because they allow you to get into the market-place for fairly cheap and are a diversified investment.”

So personal finance reporters and columnists say they would also invest like Stolle. Then again, some wouldn’t. “If theStreet.com’s Greg Greenberg had $5,000 to invest, he would put it all into two or three index funds tracking the S&P 500 or the Russell 2000,” Stolle says. “That should be your base — set it and forget it,” Greenberg says. “Then when you get more money, you can start buying more speculative stocks.”

Motley Fool contributor Matt Koppenheffer says if he was a graduating student who wanted some spending money for his 30s, he would invest in stocks using a regular brokerage account.

“The time horizon should give you enough time to ride out bumps in the market,” Koppenheffer says.

But, Dan Caplinger, a financial planner and regular Motley Fool contributor, says a new graduate with $2,000 to $5,000 should look at opening a Roth IRA account because they are tax-free, flexible and easy.

“New grads generally don’t have a lot in taxes, so this doesn’t mean much upfront,” Caplinger says. “But over time, the taxes you’ll pay on investments outside a Roth — whether it be in regular or retirement accounts — are huge. With a Roth, you never have to worry about that.”

Caplinger adds that if a student put money in a regular IRA, the money is pretty much trapped in the Roth IRA, he says, but you withdraw the money initially deposited without any taxes or penalties.

That’s a nice feature,” Caplinger explains. “Especially if you want to use it for some pretirement purpose like buying a house.”

Koppenheffer says he would also put his money into a Roth IRA, but reminds there isn’t anyone “Fool standpoint” — or a necessarily right or wrong way to begin investing.

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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.

"I will be there soon" can you wait?"

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. "And why?" It makes the message tedious to translate for people not familiar with the shorthand, often times creating a 21st century annoyance.

Veda Misa, sophomore Pan-African studies and pre-law major, sends about 10 text messages a day, but does not use the abbreviations.

"I’ve always been a fan of the English language," Misa says. "I don’t feel it should be butchered."

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.

"This makes perfect sense to me," she says. "In both cases, you have technology that makes communicating fast, and using IM/TM 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."

Technology to keep your eyes on:

Last FM

The program records what songs, artists and albums each user listens to and then builds a detailed profile of the user’s tastes. The Web site can then recommend artists it thinks the user will enjoy.

GrandCentral

Giving people "One Number for Life," GrandCentral brings phone numbers to one place. Link your cell phone, house phone and any others to one number so all lines ring all once. You’ll never miss a call.

PromQueen.tv

A high school mystery is the basis for this Internet series of 80 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.

Last.fm is the world’s largest social music platform, as more than 20 million users sign in and allow their music to be "scrabbled." The program records what songs, artists and albums each user listens to and then builds a detailed profile of the user’s tastes. The Web site can then recommend artists it thinks the user will enjoy.

"It’s not professional. But to my brothers or friends, yes. They understand it."

Schoenk doesn’t send much e-mail, but when he does, he finds 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 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 carrying on a 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.’"
Nick Schrenk, junior organizational communications major, has been 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.

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TIME GONE BY

Such developments are not unique. "If you look at a lot of personal letters from the 19th and early 20th centuries, people freely abbreviated," Haas says. "And recall that for many centuries, spellings were not consistent, not 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 'i <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 th?' 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 gme?

Jennie Hardenbrook is a senior magazine journalism major. This is her second story for The Burr.
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 lays 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 Bushey, 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 colonies. 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 Tha Gala Project. In 1566, Brahe engaged in a duel with another student, resulting likely in a broken 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 Currie, sophomore fashion merchandising major, Criticism of Public Discourse

"Actually, some believe this to be true while others believe it to be a myth," says adjunct communications instructor Evin Kleinman. "Some believe that Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address 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 "foolscap," or cheap tablet paper, and was constructed while in Gettysburg. Don't JK, Rowling write on a napkin, too?

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

Jessica Rayant, 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 are pregnant are more likely to be battered during pregnancy as opposed to other points during marriage. Men who do 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.

Breana Romano, freshman English and TESL major, General Psychology

In short, we're pretty 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.
The banjo is of African American origin. Jason Haley, junior geography major Geography of The U.S. and Canada

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Tycho Brahe lost his nose in a bar fight. Katie Walsh, junior criminal studies major, Seven Ideas That Shook the Universe

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Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address on a napkin while riding a train. Michelle Cullen, sophomore fashion merchandising major, Credos: The Log of Public Discourse

"Actually, some believe this to be true while others believe it to be a myth," says adjunct communications instructor Eva Kleinman. "Some believe that Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address 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 "folklog" or cheap tablet paper, or was constructed while in Gettysburg. Didn't J.K. Rowling write on a napkin, too?

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STORY BY DOUGLAS HITE

Debunking the myths
Kent area gossip is put to the test

RUMOR: There is a secret tunnel with entrances in the Kent Stage and the former Franklin Hotel on Main Street.

This rumor is at least well-founded. There is a tunnel entrance underneath the Kent Stage directed toward Main Street. The passage is now sealed off by security. Tom Simpson, co-owner of the Kent Stage, has his own beliefs as to the purpose of the tunnel.

"It was opened around the time of prohibition. There was a lot of crazy stuff that went down there... a lot of gambling and illegal activity..." he says. "When we got this building, we had to clear out a lot of dirt and soil from down there."

While the tunnel may lead to other locations such as the Franklin Hotel building, it has been many years since it was ever used.

RUMOR: Brady's Leap on the Cuyahoga River is named after the only person to successfully jump across the divide.

In 1780, Captain Samuel Brady and his team was dispatched to Lower Sandusky to assess the size of British and Indian troops in the area. Natives captured every other man in his group, sending a fleeing Brady on a 100-mile run to what was then Franklin Mills. Upon arriving at the Cuyahoga, he leapt across the divide, which is now much larger than it was in his day due to the creation of the Ohio-Pennsylvania Canal in 1840. After his heroic leap, an injured Brady made his way to safe-haven near what is now named Brady Lake.

RUMOR: While a student at Kent State, Mark Mothersbaugh, of Devo fame, lived next to what is now Einstein's Attic. His neighbor was the Eagles' guitarist Joe Walsh.

This rumor seems to be completely unfounded. While attending Kent State, Mark Mothersbaugh commuted regularly from Akron.

"I never actually lived in Kent," says a surprised Mothersbaugh. "We practiced in a lot of areas in town, but never in that building. We had a studio on Water Street that we did some recording in."

But the band's roots are grounded in the town and especially in the university. "I remember playing a lot in the Kiva. After a while, we were playing all over the community... in houses and stuff."

The first Devo show was sponsored by the A&I Campus Programming Board and took place in what is now Cartwright Hall. The band's first video, "Jocko Homo," predating MTV by seven years, was filmed primarily in the Governance Chamber on campus.

- appuphoto.com

THEBURR.COM 17
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.


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**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 chips 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)
- Pecorino 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!

*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 HAMELLEY
freshman Russian translation major

SARAE CHANEY
freshman communications major

DAVID KRETZSCHNAR
junior business major

GARETT KOKAL
freshman economics major

ERIN DWINNELLS
freshman English major

mi
Who we are

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.

and why we'll change how America works
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 one from age five to increasing student demands. These same people are also more motivated, more volunteer intelligence and constantly worry about our futures.

"But that's it. We are the future, but we don't know how it's going to turn out."

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.
**Headline hindsight: The sad, funny and ironic**

**LA in flames after ‘not guilty’ verdict**  
April 29, 1992, BBC News regarding the Rodney King Trial

**Marking the moment life changed forever**  
April 27, 1995, The Washington Post regarding the Oklahoma City Bombing

**Pope won’t speed up sainthood for Teresa**  

**BASTARDS!**  

**Clinton denies affair with intern, cover-up attempt**  
Jan. 21, 1998, AllPolitics (CNN)

**AT&T to provide its customers with free access to the Internet**  

**Microsoft offers Y2K patch for Office 95**  
March 17, 1999, CNET News.com

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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.”

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Why we’ll change civic life:  
*Our generation’s desire for hands-on, grassroots volunteerism could spark a demand from the country’s officials to act, not just talk. As they see this as a generational priority, their priorities will eventually parallel it.*

**MILLENIALS GO TO COLLEGE ...**

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."
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.

Why we’ll change education:

"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'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 Associates.

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.

"The Millennial generation, purely because of its size is going to be similar to the Baby Boomers because of the money they make and the power they're going to have," she adds.

"That's where the similarities between Millennials and their parents end. Schutte says the research her program has done points to the fact that Millennials will never become their parents — at least not in the consumer world. Millennials and Boomers consume media differently and buy different products. This has led companies to think of more effective ways to reach young adults.

"Marketing is becoming increasingly difficult," says Strauss, who is also a partner of LifeCourse Associates, a speaking and consulting firm that helps businesses, organizations and agencies understand different generations.

"You're hard to reach, unless through your parents or your friends. Products have to be worth the money and allow for consumer feedback."

Millennials aren’t just changing marketing; they are also changing the workplace. Borders are no longer barriers.

"Millennials are open to international discussion and collaboration," Schutte says. "They are not yet in a position to change the way global business is taking place, but their openness to the world makes them highly competitive in today’s marketplace."

This competitive nature gives Millennials a bad reputation in the workplace to some employers. Schutte says Millennials' desire for freedom confuses their Baby Boomer and Generation Xers' bosses, who think freedom takes more than a year of experience to earn. She doesn't know how Millennials are going to change the workplace, but Schutte says they will, and when they do, their impact will be great.

"They will have a large influence on how politics, business and commerce play out over the next 20 years," Schutte says. "They are becoming the people who will decide the fate of our country."
Bands respond to the evolution of the listener, leaving musical production as you know it with the grunge and glam of yesteryear.
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-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.

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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.”

3. The Beatles
   “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” (1967)

   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.

6. Led Zeppelin
   “Led Zeppelin IV” (1971)

   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. Wal­Mart 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 skinny 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.

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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 anti-riot 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.

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"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.”

EXTINCTION OF 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 back seat 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 the situation. Dover was very active in the ’90s. 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 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 ...)
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. No one does that anymore. It’s just a different time.”

Certainly, it is a different time. But Wagner of The Ronettes 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 Ronettes 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.
transformation of the tube

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.

Reminiscing 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

Back-in-the-Day Goodness: "In Living Color"
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."

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

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 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 bustle 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.
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 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/cjsjst
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.

Spencer fills several buckets with a mixture of milk replacement and warm water to feed the newborns calves located outside of the milking parlor. Newborns are immediately taken off their mother's milk and taught to drink the replacement instead.

"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 clinics, 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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<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

— The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
— The Cleveland Department of Public Health

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

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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 Taser event, 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 igniners.”

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 Dagorhir.

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 Dagorhir.

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.

"I'm 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."

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.

**THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE**

**Syr 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 Alander 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 breastplates.

In Dagorhir, 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

"K"ill 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.

Dagorhir 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

Ways to die

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

Dagorhir 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.

- illustrations by Stephanie Park

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 experience 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 education 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 Lynaeve Eydowen Rothar, queen of the Kingdom of Rotharin. Altemus is Alsat 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 Lancaster, sister of Alsatnder.

"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 mannerisms 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 contribution 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 Harbour" 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.”

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 joivial 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
of adults said they were affiliated with the Republican Party and 37.3 percent with the Democratic, according to Rasmussen Reports, an electronic publishing firm specializing in public opinion polling information. That’s almost 70 percent of voters divided between two parties.

Despite the wealth of choices, only the major two are regularly mentioned by the media or hold office at the federal level. Minor parties have struggled and fought throughout the United States’ history to gain a foothold in the political arena.

There’s a struggle for ballot entry, votes and escaping from under the shadow of the Democrats and Republicans, which many third party supporters argue are one in the same.

The groups and their ideologies do not just struggle nationally or statewide — some have put up a fight to be recognized at Kent State.

In his opening speech, Chernikov describes libertarianism as the “beliefs in the goodness of uncircumscribed private property in both consumer and, especially, capital goods, freedom and peace.”

He formed the group hoping to get like-minded people together to discuss issues and ideas. It is an outlet for libertarian ideology similar to the purpose of College Democrats and College Republicans.

One difference, though, between the political groups is that College Libertarians has no 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, according 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 candidate elected because voters 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 secondary 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 meetings.
meetings. The group believes that "workers and workers' labor is what makes this country run, and workers should have more say in the production and distribution of their product."

The 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."

But 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.

Whatever 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.
"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