THE BURR

TIMELESS FALL FASHION FOR ANY ERA

RED SUN RISING, WOODSON UNSIGNED AND NOT ACTING LIKE IT

SIX WEEKS LATER: WHAT HAPPENS TO KENT STATE FOOD?

UNDEAD, THIRSTY, RAW AND BLOODY

VAMPIRES TURN FROM HORROR CREATURES TO SEXY STARLETS
Congratulations to The Burr and TheBurr.com staff!

**NATIONAL AWARDS – 2011**
Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

*Investigation and Analysis*
Second Place, Spring 2011
Joey Pompignano, “In an Instant”

*First Person*
Second Place, Spring 2011
Mark Haymond, “Jess and Mark: A Stage-three Love Story”

Student Society for News Design Contest

*Overall Use Of Photography*
First Place, Spring 2010
Kristina Deckert, art director

*Overall Design of a Magazine Special Section*
Third Place, Spring 2010
Kristina Deckert, art director

**NATIONAL AWARDS – 2010**
Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

*First Person*
First Place, Fall 2009
Jinae West, "My Family I (Don’t) Have To Know"

Third Place, Spring 2010
Kelly Petryszyn, “The Best-Kept Secret”

*Single Issue of an Ongoing Print Magazine: Design*
First Place, Fall 2009
Adam Griffiths, art director

*Single Issue of an Ongoing Print Magazine: Editorial*
First Place, Spring 2010
Sarah Steimer, editor

*Single Issue of an Ongoing Print Magazine: General Excellence*
Third Place, Spring 2010
Sarah Steimer, editor

**NATIONAL AWARDS – 2010**
Blank Slate, 11th Annual Design Contest for College Students

*Magazine Cover*
Second Place, Fall 2009
Adam Griffiths, art director
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For all things Kent,

kentwired.com
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Luna Negra is Kent State's literary publication dedicated to publishing poetry, short stories, photography, and artwork.

Visit our website lunanegramag.com or e-mail us at lunanegramag@gmail.com
THINK BACK TO YOUR FIRST VAMPIRE ENCOUNTER. Is it grandpa from "The Munsters," "Nosferatu" or "Dracula" by Bram Stoker? Probably not. Think younger than that. What about Edward Cullen or "The Vampire Diaries" men? Possibly. The answer: It's most likely Count Chocula cereal or Count Von Count from "Sesame Street."

Whether you hate things that sparkle or love the Vampire Sheriff of Area Five on "True Blood," this month, we jumped from the pages of Anne Rice's "Interview with a Vampire" to the streets of New Orleans and got sucked into Living Vampyre culture. Discover what makes these bloodthirsty creatures of the night so desirable and the history of fangdom.

If the cover story sucks you dry, replenish your brain with literary goodness or read about the latest philanthropic corporate trend. One writer shares his story about destroyed knees and dashed dreams while another documents food preservatives conquering mold and bacteria.

This cover story attests to this semester's "revamp" of The Burr, and I am grateful to have been a part of the chaos that coincided with all the hard work.

JENNIFER SHORE
editor-in-chief
Soften A Tough Economy With The Right Skill Set
from the College of Arts and Sciences

Employers agree that college graduates should have the following:

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- Latin (B.A.)
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- Spanish (B.A.)
- Spanish Translation (B.S.)
- Teaching English as a Second Language (B.A.)
- Zoology (B.S.)

FINE-TUNE

PAGE TO STAGE
If headphones are your favorite accessory or you’re just in it for the lyrics, we’ve got two unsigned bands and some literary notes.

photo THOMAS SONG
FINE-TUNE

HOME GROWN ROCK

words CONNER HOWARD photos THOMAS SONG

"Seeing us live is like seeing five best friends play rock 'n' roll. We're not a glamorous band.

---

HISTORY:

When four best friends from Cortland, Ohio, decided to pick up instruments together, they never imagined where their band would wind up.

Woodson was born in 2007, with founding members Eric Courtney, Greg McCumber, Mike Braunegg and Ryan Harrison. Each band member lived within a few blocks of the others.

When Courtney discovered that his neighbor had a makeshift recording studio in his basement, Woodson found a place to record.

After high school, the members of Woodson scattered to various colleges across Ohio and beyond. Difficulties arose when trying to meet for practice, but the band made every effort to come back to Cortland to keep their skills up and play gigs in northeast Ohio. There is no downtime for Woodson. Nearly all breaks from school are spent practicing and recording.

"No Christmas breaks, no Thanksgiving breaks," Courtney said. "Studio all the time."

Lead guitarist Luke Prifogle joined Woodson in 2010 when several of the original members attended Kent State with him. Now a five-piece with a revitalized sound, Woodson went on to hit the Ohio music scene with fervor.

Youngstown serves as the band's usual stomping grounds, Woodson can be seen at venues across northeast Ohio.

INFLUENCES:

Woodson takes cues from artists such as Bruce Springsteen and My Morning Jacket, not so much musically, but more in relation to the character of these musicians. Any artist that has the ability to elicit an emotional response through music is a potential source of inspiration for the band.

"We get compared to bands like Kevin Devine and Manchester Orchestra," Courtney said. "I think a lot of the time, it's not even the music. Bands that have character who work really hard, bands like Dawes, My Morning Jacket, Bruce Springsteen, are all of our heroes."

"Portugal the Man spit out an incredible album every year, and you don't really see that anymore," McCumber said. "It's something that inspires you to try and get to that point."

BIGGEST GIG:

When Woodson opened for The Dear Hunter at the Grog Shop in Cleveland in August 2011, Courtney came to regard the show as a massive success both in terms of merchandise sales and volume of new fans, even though they were missing their lead guitarist, as Prifogle was unable to make the gig.

"The most rewarding night of my life was when we played the Grog, and we had a line at our merch table after we played," Courtney said. "People thought we were touring with The Dear Hunter!"

FUTURE PLANS:

Having been featured prominently on AbsolutePunk.net and with offers to tour with The Dear Hunter in California, Woodson is perched on the precipice of hitting it big.

In the meantime though, school and work throw a wrench into the creative process. The guys would be thrilled to record and play gigs more often, but life gets in the way. For the time being, Courtney said he's happy just to be playing music with his best friends.

"We do what we love to do as well as try to set ourselves up for the future," McCumber said.

EXPECT FROM THEIR SHOWS:

A folksy, down-to-earth and honest indie-rock experience built by passionate and personable individuals.

"Seeing us live is like seeing five best friends play rock 'n' roll," Courtney said. "That's it. We're not a glamorous band; we don't claim to be."
A gig was Prifogle was

weird night of my life

and the Grog, and we

said, “People thought

with The Dear Hunter!”

FUTURE PLANS:

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GET YOUR OWN SHOWS:

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ence built by passionate

like seeing five best

Roll,” Courtney said,

a glamorous band;

on.

FROM LEFT:

GREG MCCUMBER

lead guitar

LUKE PRIFOGL

lead vocals

ERIC COURTNEY

guitar, lead vocals

MIKE BRAUNE

bass

RYAN HARRISON

drums

WOODSON
How hard work, hard chance and a bit of luck led to the band's rock 'n' roll experience.

FROM LEFT:
MARK JENDRISAK
Drums

MIKE PROTICH
Lead Vocals, Rhythm Guitar

RYAN WILLIAMS
Lead Guitar

MITCH BANDEL
Bass, Backup Vocals

HISTORY

Getting to the top is all about the hustle, and every so often, the music band Red Sun Rising put in the effort and dedication of the basements and stadiums.

Formed in 2007, Red Sun Rising is the result of lead guitarist Ryan Williams (now leaving his previous band) wading through dozens of auditions but not quite finding the right people looking for The solution, of all places. With liquid courage, Williams then-stranger Mike Protich, who had been looking for Williams ever since, phoned Williams "just one man" and asked him if he had the rest is history.

The early gigs came with Williams' past experience in the music game. Armed with just a few friends, venue owners and sound, Red Sun Rising began to rise to the top of the rock music scene. Their list of friends grew as fans became friends.

One key to the band's success is...
INSIDE RSR'S 'METEORIC RISE'

How hard work, chance and a gas station led to this band's rock 'n' roll experience

**HISTORY:**

Getting to the top of the music game is all about the hustle, the hard work and every so often, the music. Akron rock band Red Sun Rising exemplifies the effort and dedication it takes to get out of the basements and bars and into the stadiums.

Formed in 2007, Red Sun Rising was the result of lead guitarist Ryan Williams leaving his previous band (called Hideaway) and looking to start something fresh. Williams held tryouts for singers, wading through dozens of intense auditions but not quite finding what he was looking for. The solution came at a gas station, of all places. Fortified with some liquid courage, Williams approached then-stranger Mike Protich, who according to Williams "just looked like a front man" and asked him if he could sing. The rest is history.

The early gigs came easily, thanks to Williams' past experience in the amateur music game. Armed with connections to venue owners and a dynamic rock sound, Red Sun Rising enjoyed a meteoric rise to the top of the Akron/Kent music scene. Their listener base swelled as friends of the band became fans and fans became friends.

One key to the band's success is self-promotion. By giving away demos and downloads, Red Sun Rising wins over new listeners and keeps fans happy through the power of social media and free music.

"The funny thing is now, artists, the most money they're making is not on the music itself, it's everything else; it's the experience," Williams said.

**INFLUENCES:**

Artists that impact Red Sun Rising creatively include Stone Temple Pilots, A Perfect Circle, Audioslave, Metallica, Tool, Soundgarden, Deftones, Alice in Chains, Muse, Foo Fighters, Radiohead and a handful of others.

Red Sun Rising is careful to make a distinction between taking inspiration from more established bands and sounding like them.

**BIGGEST GIG:**

To date, the guys of Red Sun Rising say the most memorable gig they've played was when they opened for Candlebox at the House of Blues in 2011.

"It was cool to play a packed House of Blues show. That night was one of those nights where we were just on it," Protich said. "In the middle of the show, Ryan's guitar cut out right before his solo. The band kept going, and it didn't even matter. I said something along the lines of 'Hey, Ryan's guitar went out but he'd be playing a solo for you right now,' and the crowd just went nuts."

**FUTURE PLANS:**

Red Sun Rising is currently in talks with professional music labels, including Atlantic, Interscope and several small indie labels.

The band took the month of September 2011 off from touring to find their "hit," and they are recording and coming up with new material.

"We're going to put all our time and energy in the next couple of months into really making the best product we can because I think the next step for us is to do a national push," Williams said.

**EXPECT FROM THEIR SHOWS:**

Energy. A lot of it. Red Sun Rising focuses entirely on putting on a powerful rock concert. Getting the crowd into the music is the band's top priority.

"Even if you don't like the music, you're not going to get a bad show," Protich said. "I've never had anybody walk away and at least not say they respected what we were doing."

FROM LEFT:

MARK JENDRISAK
Drums

MIKE PROTICH
Lead Vocals, Rhythm Guitar

RYAN WILLIAMS
Lead Guitar

MITCH BANDEL
Bass, Backup Vocals
DURING A TOUR OF THE United States in 1969, Led Zeppelin band members Robert Plant and Jimmy Page wrote the song "Ramble On." Their lyrics take us to "the darkest depths of Mordor," and "Gollum" shins off with the singer's love interest. If you know even the least bit about pop culture, you know that Robert Plant did not dream up creepy, slimy Gollum. Like many songwriters, Led Zeppelin pays homage to a favorite artist or work of art by including literary allusions in their songs.

Allusions aren't always merely name-dropping. There are deep similarities between the storytelling of literary works and the act of songwriting. Page and Plant paraphrase a poem from J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy in "Ramble On," and further nods to Tolkien can be found in "Misty Mountain Hop" and "Stairway to Heaven."

So, how does a rock band borrow a fantasy poem and compose a song with it? And do so successfully?

"I think music and poetry are inherently linked. There's no other literary art form that uses musical elements the way that poetry does," said Catherine Wing, assistant professor of poetry and creative writing at Kent State. Wing said song and poetry are two trunks of the same tree and that rhyme and meter clearly live there.

Speech and poetry are intrinsically musical. Compound sounds became compound words, which became symbolic patterns; thus, speech was invented. As the creation of art evolved alongside speech, an overlap began to occur. Bards, or professional medieval poets, played instruments but were also expected to sing an accompanying story. Much later, even operatic composers like Richard Wagner and Giacomo Puccini drew inspiration from novels for operas and ballets.

"It seems like the whole realm of creating [art] work is done as a community," said Katherine Orr, assistant professor of poetry and creative writing at Kent State.

When we create, we draw on emotions and personal experiences to strengthen the threads that connect us to others. Orr said she thinks there is a bond between the poet or songwriter and the listener.

Songwriters who use their craft to retell another's story, whether by singing about a novel, painting or poem, often deeply identify with that story. "They may not have had the concrete experience of that person, but in some way it's their experience, too. Their subject matter is our subject matter," Orr said. "There's someone who is saying what I have not yet been able to say."

In some ways, alluding to great authors or novels can be like a mnemonic device. "You hear about the Troubadours. I think the reason why they chose to sing their stories is so they could remember them, and a way you're going to remember it is to put it into this [song]," said Wing.

Much like the American author John Steinbeck, songwriters like Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen use their medium to comment on social distress and the enduring spirit of average Americans during times of hardship.

Springsteen's "The Boss" explicitly mentions "The Grapes of Wrath"; the song feels as though it's Steinbeck's Dust Bowl, retelling stories, and drawing attention to a topic that must not be forgotten.

There are countless examples in music, among them Neil Young's "Living with War," which highlights the Middle East. Springsteen's "Stranger" by Albert Camus, and Dylan's "New York Times" laureate of American poetry. Lord Byron's "Don Juan," the famous Victorian poet, also nods. "The Light Brigade," the poet's "The Iron Maiden's song"...

So the next time you hear a rock band or give an old album or give an old copy, unfold the jacked-up, dusty copy, unfold the jacked-up, dusty copy. What's inside may be a story that's just waiting to be retold.
during times of hardship.

Springsteen’s “The Ghost of Tom Joad” explicitly mentions the protagonist in “The Grapes of Wrath,” and the song feels as though it is an extension of Steinbeck’s Dust Bowl classic. In choosing to retell stories, songwriters elevate and draw attention to art or history that must not be forgotten.

There are countless literary allusions in music, among them the Cure’s “Killing an Arab,” which highlights “The Stranger” by Albert Camus; Modest Mouse’s “Bukowski” profiles the “poet laureate of American lowlife;” and the famous Victorian poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson wrote “The Charge of the Light Brigade,” the poem that inspired Iron Maiden’s song “The Trooper.”

So the next time you buy a new album or give an old one a fresh listen, pay close attention. If it’s a tangible copy, unfold the jacket and browse the lyrics. There’s a great feeling of pieces sliding into place when we connect the paths hidden right in front of us.

"They may not have had the concrete experience of that person, but in some way it’s their experience too. Their subject matter is our subject matter."

katherine orr

"Stairway to Heaven" (references to Tolkien)
LED ZEPPELIN
THE PLACE IS RAY'S
135 FRANKLIN
KENT, OHIO

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO KENT IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO RAY'S!

MUCH GREAT BEER!

LOVE RAY'S FOOD!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!

WHO LOVES YOU?!

OF COURSE - RAY'S!
PRETTY VINTAGE

Your guilt-free chance to be completely vain about outward appearances. That’s what’s great about fashion, right? You’re welcome.
miniature telescopes, compasses, cutlery, scissors, feathers and envelopes strung across necklaces and bracelets — items like these are sold through Etsy.com and Listia.com. Both websites sell handmade and resell products and stand apart from others because of their originality and creativity.

Etsy, the popular handmade retailer, sells categories of products that include clothing, art, accessories, vintage, ceramics, furniture, geekery, jewelry, knitting, woodworking, pet accessories and music.

The website provides a platform for crafty sellers and buyers who are looking for one-of-a-kind products.

Barbara Baughman, Kent State sophomore pre-fashion design and merchandising major, uses Etsy to sell her jewelry because it's all-inclusive.

“I love the convenience of a well-rounded website where I can add my items and communicate with my buyers,” she said. “You don’t have to deal with any other sites on Etsy, everything is there for you.”

Baughman's Etsy account, Toony Jewelry, includes “whimsical” pieces like tiny telescopes and mini compasses and harmonicas that work.

“You can’t find [my jewelry] anywhere else,” she said. “It’s only me.”

Baughman explained that Etsy is unique in that it allows for personal connection between buyer and seller.

“Rather than buying from huge websites like Amazon where there is no personal touch, Etsy gives you that close personal encounter with the artist,” Baughman said. “You can directly communicate with that artist.”

Jaclyn Youhana, fellow jewelry seller and Kent State journalism alumna, agreed that Etsy is known for its close-knit community. She explained that sellers communicate and use each other's skills to make products.

“I’ve had someone actually give me some clip-on earrings of their grandmother’s, and she asked me to remake them into dangle earrings so she could wear them to a wedding,” Youhana said. “That’s kind of neat — the idea that Etsy really does encourage communication and contact in sellers.”

“A lot of times, with hand-made stuff, a lot of the appeal is how personalized it is,” she said. “You know, you’re not getting it in a box from a nameless person.”

Youhana’s shop, JacAndElsie, sells a variety of baubles, lockets and vintage pieces.

“I like playing with things a lot, and I like pulling stuff out and just fixing them,” she said. “I’ll find something that I like and isn’t broken and just needs to be cleaned.”

“Then you go to the thrift store and you find a really cool piece. Then you take it back and clean it and just fix it up so it’s usable.”

Both Baughman and Youhana have been making jewelry to sell on Etsy for three years and have seen their businesses grow on the site.

“People can’t ‘like’ your whole page, so they can’t ‘like’ your item,” Baughman said. “But they remember when only you have an item per month, but you have it every week, so it’s a way to keep people interested.”

Jewelry is a big market on Etsy, which can help Youhana get more views.

“The one thing about Etsy is that it is so inundated with people that are there, Youhana said. “But the front page and clicking through a number of items and getting attention is mind blowing.”

Along with selling her own jewelry, Youhana buys jewelry from others. “I love buying new items and taking them and making them into vintage,” she said. “I love working with others.”

One purchase Baughman made from Etsy is from Decoy Lab.

“They make really cute things that are in the shapes of porcupines and owls and dogs,” Baughman said. “I just got one of their phones and I was so happy.”

Another website for Baughman is Listia.com. Listia differs from Etsy because it is an auction site, and users bid with points.

Brittany Nader, junior pre-fashion design and merchandising major, discovered Listia.com last summer and began entering items.

“You earn the points by selling things or by entering things,” Nader said. “You can use your points to bid on things. If you win items, you have to pay for shipping, but you can use the points to pay for it.”
"I like playing with vintage pieces a lot, and I like pulling them apart and reusing them," she said. "A lot of times I'll find something that is awesome as is and just needs to be cleaned or fixed."

"There's a handful on there that I didn't make, I just found at a state sale or thrift store that was kind of banged up and just fixed it."

Both Baughman and Youhana have been making jewelry to sell for about three years and have seen their business grow on the website.

"People can 'like' your stuff on Etsy, so they can 'heart' your shop, and they can 'like' your item," Baughman said. "I remember when only one person 'liked' my item per month, but now multiple people 'like' it, and multiple people buy it every week, so it's awesome."

Jewelry is a big market on the site, which can help Youhana and Baughman get more views.

"The one thing about Etsy is that it is so inundated with jewelry that it is by far the most saturated section in there," Youhana said. "If you just go to the front page and click on jewelry, the number of items and pages that come up is mind blowing."

Along with selling her own, Baughman buys jewelry from other sellers.

"I love buying jewelry and definitely vintage," she said. "I buy so much vintage from Etsy."

One purchase Baughman recently made from Etsy is from a shop known as Decoy Lab.

"They make really awesome clocks that are in the shapes of animals, like porcupines and owls and stuff," she said. "I just got one of their clocks, and they are so fun."

Another website for selling items is Listia.com. Listia differs from Etsy because it is an auction site where, rather than spending money on products, users bid with points.

Brittany Nader, junior journalism major, discovered Listia during the summer and began earning points to win items.

"You earn the points primarily by selling things or by listing things," Nader said. "You can also earn them by doing different things on the site, like if you fill out surveys or recommend people to the site and stuff like that."

Listia is a safer form of eBay, Nader explained. If someone wins an item they bid on, they are not losing money if something happened and they did not receive the item.

"I think it's a bit like OK, well, maybe you lost 200 points, but it's not that big of a deal because it's just points," she said. "It's not like you can use the points for anything else in your life."

Nader said quality of products is a big difference between Etsy and Listia.

"I think that on Etsy the quality of the items are a lot better than the things on Listia," she said. "There's a section on Listia that's called arts and crafts, and people sell things that they make, but it's always just kind of junk."

While Etsy is known for its hand-crafted pieces and has a loyal following, Listia is a relatively newer website, so most people are unfamiliar with it.

"Listia I think has only been around for a little over two years, whereas Etsy has been around for a while," Nader said. "A lot of people know the name Etsy, they're like, 'What is Listia?'"

Although the quality of items may not be as great as Etsy, Nader enjoys using Listia as a way to sell things she doesn't need.

"I personally really like it because I just had piles of old clothes I didn't want anymore, and I was like, 'Oh, I'll take these to a consignment shop and maybe get $20 for all of this, or I'll give it away and then kind of regret giving it away," Nader explained. "But on that site, it's kind of a longer process because you have to take a picture of the item, write a description and then ship it out."

"I think it's worth it because I've gotten a lot of stuff, probably equal value or more," she said.

Youhana said she stays loyal to Etsy, despite the growing list of other websites that feature handmade products.

"Etsy was the first site I had heard of that was like that," Youhana said. "I know there are other ones now, I am familiar with them, Art Fire and Big Cartel, but I definitely think Etsy has the biggest following, and I definitely think the most set of eyes see [my products] on Etsy."
Dior's Timeless 'New Look'

On Feb. 12, 1947, Christian Dior launched his first fashion collection for Spring and Summer 1947. When Dior's "New Look" took center stage of the fashion world, the war was ending, and it was a time of rebuilding. This style shows an enduring class ingrained in all of us, and it reflects elegance in design. The clothing's signature played a major role in shaping our concept of a person's form.

photos THOMAS SONG
STAY WARM IN WINTER WOOL

Stylist Danielle Victory highlighted Devin’s refined features by showing off the elegance of her bone structure. Victory backcombed Casper’s hair at the crown and smoothed it into a round shape, which paired well with a wool dress from Banana Republic.

ACCENTUATING ACCESSORIES

Tara Long, a Paul Mitchell graduate, chose to lift hair with pin curls to revitalize her style. She also did a roll because it was an enduring hairstyle in the past period. The hat and tights are iconic pieces.
ACCENTUATING ACCESSORIES

Tara Long, a Paul Mitchell graduate, chose to Lauren’s hair with pin curls to reflect the era’s style. She also did a victory roll because it was an empowering hairstyle in the post-war period. The hat and the gloves are iconic pieces.
RACY LACE

The stylist emulated a vintage style by adding medium curls and rock ‘n’ roll color to Kristen’s hair, which added a pop of color to her lacy and dressy look.
RACY LACE
The stylist emulated a vintage style by adding medium curls and rock 'n' roll color to Kristen's hair, which added a pop of color to her lacy and dressy look.

SUIT UP IN STYLE
The stylist chose to do a modern take on a pompadour — it was one of the most popular styles for men in this time period. A simple suit pops with a gold accented tie.
TV 2 KSU

Newscasts
- Mon-Fri @ 5:30 p.m.
- Monday @ 9 p.m.
- Tuesday @ 9 p.m.
- Wednesday @ 9 p.m.
- Thursday @ 9 p.m.
- Friday @ 9 p.m.

Turn us on! This is your station.
FITNESS FANATICS

Admit it or not, fitness is a force. We're bringing you insights into a few lives changed by a love of sports.
When I was 14, entire life was football. I played it long and hard, and as an incoming senior at Firelands High School, I knew I loved football more than anything in the world.

In my hometown of Norwalk, Ohio, kids didn’t spend their time practicing football. Kids where I grew up were working odd jobs; I was paid $50 for first the 40-yard dash in the backyard, then the parents’ ranch.

I started playing football in sixth grade. As I crossed the zone, scoring my first game-winning touchdown against the Paterson Vermilion Recreational League, I fell in love with football. The rush was incredible. I was added to the list of the kids who didn’t mind being knocked out while running.

Like most kids who are into athletics, my dad was probably the most influential person in my life. When I was 5 years old, he taught me how to hold a baseball bat.

Ever since that day, I’ve wanted to make my dad proud. Having my dad as being the best football player on the field, I knew I could do that. I had to. I had to go into the back yard, and score touchdowns without being tackled. Because he was 6’4”, I ran around him, but that way of playing football didn’t work. I had to find a way through him. I got tough in the backyard.

All summer before my high school, I worked tirelessly, running speed and agility as if the trees were the defense. I had to find a way to run and score touchdowns. Each day I would push myself more with the hope of playing back as a freshman on the football team.

The night before my first football practice, I sat quietly in my room in anticipation for what was going to happen. I was one of my first full-pad practice. I was a high school athlete. I had trouble sleeping all night. Each time I rolled over, the clock seemed to move slower...
When I was 14 years old, my entire life was 100 yards long and 53 1/2 yards wide. As an incoming freshman at Firelands High School, I knew one thing: I loved football more than anything in the world.

In my hometown of South Amherst, Ohio, kids didn't spend the majority of their time practicing for athletics. Kids where I grew up were farming and working odd jobs; I was practicing my 40-yard dash in the backyard of my parents' ranch.

I started playing football when I was in sixth grade. As I crossed into the end zone, scoring my first game-winning touchdown against the Packers in Vermilion Recreational League, I was in love with football. The rush of playing was incredible. I was addicted. I was one of the kids who didn't mind being nearly knocked out while running the ball.

Like most kids who are serious about athletics, my dad was probably the most influential person in my life. When I was 5 years old, he taught me how to swing a baseball bat.

Ever since that day, I've always wanted to make my dad proud, and by being the best football player on the field, I knew I could do that. We would go into the back yard, and I would try to score touchdowns without him getting to me first. Because he was 6-feet-4 inches tall and 280 pounds, I had the speed to run around him, but that wasn't my dad's way of playing football — I had to run through him. I got tough fast by playing in the backyard.

All summer before my first year of high school, I worked tirelessly while running speed and agility drills; I acted as if the trees were the defenders, and I had to find a way to run around them. Each day I would push myself a little more with the hope of playing running back as a freshman on the varsity football team.

The night before my first day of practice, I sat quietly in my room in anticipation for what was going to come of my first full-pad practice as a high school athlete. I had trouble sleeping all night. Each time I rolled over, the clock seemed to move slower and slower.

Finally, 7 a.m. came around. Practice was in one hour.

I frantically got ready and headed to the field. We started out with stretching, and I yelled out the 10-count as we stretched out our legs, arms and back muscles. Up next was the tackling drill — the drill that changed my life forever.

I lined up against Steven Simmerman, who was a 300-pound defensive tackle. When Coach Lias blew his whistle, I ran like hell and cut to the right. In the process of eluding Steven, I felt my cleats dig in the dirt, and my left leg dug in a little deeper than usual.

I heard a pop from my left knee, and it sounded like knuckles cracking. I immediately fell to the grass and clutched my knee. I looked up at the sky and wondered, "What in the hell was that?" The pain wasn't bad. I thought I just twisted my knee wrong.

When I got up off the ground, my knee buckled, and I fell down. Coach Lias's face went ghost white. This was unusual for Coach Lias. He was a tough man. He expected us to play through the usual bumps as bruises in football. Playing through minor muscle strains and soreness was a must.

"Brad, come over to the side for a minute; ' Coach Lias said. "Take a breather and go see the trainer~" The trainer came over to talk to me and run some tests on my injured knee. The tests concluded what I was hoping for — a sprain. A few restless nights followed as my knee swelled up to the size of a grapefruit.

Surprisingly enough, the pain wasn't excruciating. The fact that I wasn't able to move my knee past a 30-degree angle worried me more than anything.

I made it to practice Monday morning. Putting my shoulder pads on, I wondered if I was going to be all right. I just didn't feel right, but the trainer said I'd be fine.

My first sprint had the same result as three days before. I fell down in a heap, and I realized I was seriously injured.

Coach Lias went and told my dad, who was watching practice from his truck in the parking lot. My teammates helped me walk to the truck where my dad was waiting with a worried look on his face.

I was devastated. My entire life was ruined. I felt a tear run down my cheek as we set up the date for Dr. Kolczun to surgically repair my knee.
"How bad is it?" he asked, and I replied with a subtle, "I don't know, Dad." We made an appointment to meet with Dr. Michael Kolczun of the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Kolczun specializes in knee injuries, and my parents wanted to know what the problem was.

As I waited in the office for Dr. Kolczun, I shook. I could hear my teeth chatter as the receptionist called me into the meeting room. He examined my knee, running the same tests the high school trainer did the week before. Dr. Kolczun gave me the worst news I've ever heard.

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As I waited in the office for Dr. Kolczun, I shook. I could hear my teeth chatter as the receptionist called me into the meeting room. He examined my knee, running the same tests the high school trainer did the week before. Dr. Kolczun gave me the worst news I've ever heard.

A torn anterior cruciate ligament — the major ligament that controls stability in the knee. I felt a chill down my spine when he told me the news. It was the news I dreaded all along. A torn ACL meant at least four to six months of rehab, and the entire season disappeared before my eyes.

I was devastated. My entire life was ruined. I felt a tear run down my cheek as we set up the date for Dr. Kolczun to surgically repair my knee.

The surgery was a success. My knee was repaired, but I still had months of rehab ahead of me. The first few weeks were terrible.

Every time I got out of bed, I felt a burning sensation throughout my entire body, like something I'd never felt before. My mom would come in and help me out of bed. She had tears in her eyes almost every time.

"I wish I could take it all away," she said. I wouldn't have wished this kind of pain on anyone. It was excruciating.

I went to rehab twice a week, and each day, I slowly regained my strength. Each day, I regained the motion in my leg. Each day, I felt more confident of my return to football the following season.

The next six months went by. I was immobilized by a large leg brace for the first six weeks after the operation. I'd wake up with unbearable pain. I could feel a heartbeat in my knee.

That pain eventually wore off after a few weeks. As time went on, I became more anxious. I started dreaming of myself back out on the field.

Once I was able to start running drills in my back yard, I went full force, only this time with a large metal brace on my knee. On off days, I would rehab and work on strengthening my ACL.

Firelands introduced a new head football coach that summer, Ty Grude, a middle school teacher at South Amherst Middle School. I was anxious about getting to come back with a new coaching staff.

Coach Grude was a first-year head coach at the high school level. He was a collegiate punter at the University of Toledo. It was rumored around the school that he even tried out for the Cleveland Browns when they came back in 1999. He was the real deal.

I met the coaches a few days before the first 7-on-7 practice at Ashland University. I was slated to run some drills at running back for the varsity team.

I made it through stretching and, finally, my first drill.

One year before, I was lying on the turf wondering if I would ever play football again, and now here I was finally fulfilling my dream of playing varsity football.

I ran a No. 5 — the route where I was going to run 5 yards and cut across the middle of the field to catch the ball. The quarterback fired the ball, but I overran the ball. I reached back and caught the ball.

My right foot stuck in the ground. Pop.

It happened again.

I remembered that kind of pain. It was an all too familiar pain. I knew I had just torn my ACL in my right knee.

The doctors confirmed it. A total of three surgeries and $60,000 later, I knew I would never play football again. I didn't know how to do anything other than play football.

After all the rehab, pain and suffering, I was an athlete who couldn't play anymore. The next few months were a blur of depression. I cried to myself each night and wished I could take back the first day of practice when I got hurt.

This wasn't supposed to happen to me. I was supposed to play college football one day. I had all of this pictured in my mind. I went through the motions of school the next couple years, not going to a single football game or practice since the last time I was on the field. The final game of my senior year, I went. I had to smell the fresh grass one more time and see all the guys again in their crimson uniforms. It made me feel like I was a part of their team.

But I wasn't.

I stood against the chain-link fence when Coach Lias walked up and took a spot next to me. I still remember the exact words he said to me that Friday night.

"Man, I would have loved to see what you could have been out there," he said. I looked away, tearing up in the process, all the memories in my head of running over defenders and scoring touchdowns.

I looked up at him and said, "Coach, me too."
for the varsity team. Through stretching and a regular drill.

Therefore, I was lying on the field, questions if I would ever play

And now here I was finally on the team of playing varsity

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to catch the ball. The

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defenders and scoring

him and said, "Coach,
MMA-mazing

MEDINA GYM IS KICKING ASS IN ALL KINDS OF WAYS

words RACHEL JONES photos THOMAS SONG

MAIN PHOTO: Sean Serfass rests in the ring after sparring with a partner during a weekly Monday night training session. TOP: Ryan Madigan, the instructor of Evolve Performance Fitness, is a world champion kickboxer. MIDDLE: Tommy Deroia fights in the NAAFS and trains at the academy. BOTTOM: Kenny Jackson poses after an intense workout.
Evolving Performance Fitness was once just a small gym in Medina, Ohio. Now, it's one of the top Mixed Martial Arts academies in the Midwest.

The gym opened in 2007 to work with athletes and train some MMA fighters in strength and conditioning. When owner John Cook began to prepare two fighters for the Ultimate Fighting Championship, the small back room evolved into an MMA training space, but it wasn't enough to contain all the fighters and MMA enthusiasts in the area.

"Before I knew it, I had about 100 members and 40 competitors," Cook said. "We were in the NAAFS [North American Allied Fight Series], the largest mixed martial arts promotion in the Midwest, and we were the 2011 Team of the Year."

MMA is a combination of kickboxing, wrestling, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, judo and American boxing. It brings together the most effective aspects of these sports to create the ultimate form of self-defense.

"Training in mixed martial arts is not just for the person who wants to compete in a cage," Cook said. "It's for anybody who wants to learn real self-defense. It builds tremendous discipline, high levels of fitness and self-confidence."

Evolving Performance Fitness does offer programs for children and beginners, but its main focus is on the fighters. So far, the gym has sent two fighters to compete in the UFC, which is the highest level of competition, and won more than 25 championship belts in local promotions. Fighters have also competed in Bellator and Strike Force, which are the largest promotions in the world behind UFC.

"We've done this in four or five years," Cook explained. "Most schools take 15 years before they are even able to build a program where they can get guys to fight at a high level. I think the reason why we are able to do that is we run our facility professionally and cover all aspects of the sport."

Cook wanted to start an MMA gym because Ohio is a hotspot for the sport, hosting more promotions and fights than any other state in the country. His background in wrestling and martial arts mixed with a love of the sport became the real driving force behind the idea.

"Really, just helping these guys — it sounds kind of cheesy — realize their dreams and giving them everything they need to go as far as they want to go in the sport and also offer it to a noncompetitive sector as a way to learn real self-defense and general fitness. I've coached elite athletes pretty much my whole life. This is just the purest form of sport that there is."
## MONDAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-10 AM</td>
<td>The Opening Kick-Off</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>morning sports talk</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-12 PM</td>
<td>The Monday Morning Mixtape</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>listener request and student news</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-2 PM</td>
<td>The 24/7 Daydream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>upbeat music mix</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4 PM</td>
<td>Kaleidoscopic Vibrations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>psychodelic and progressive rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8 PM</td>
<td>The Cypher</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>old school hip-hop and R&amp;B</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-10 PM</td>
<td>The Fourflake Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hip-hop, R&amp;B, campus news and controversy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12 AM</td>
<td>One Night In B-Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sex talk and advice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-2 AM</td>
<td>The Real Is Back</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hip-hop, R&amp;B, relationship talk and campus news</td>
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## TUESDAY

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-12 PM</td>
<td>Lunch Lounge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>eclectic music mix</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-2 PM</td>
<td>Mile High Radio</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hip-hop, R&amp;B, gospel and local music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4 PM</td>
<td>Pretty Hair And Thunder!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hair-metal, comedy and talk</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6 PM</td>
<td>Hitchin' Kitchen</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>music connections</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-8 PM</td>
<td>Hot &amp; Angsty</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>indie, alternative, folk, rock and pop-punk</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-10 PM</td>
<td>The Sub Shoppe</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>house, drum and bass, and psychedelic music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12 AM</td>
<td>Rik And Rob Radio Rockstars</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>rock and alternative good times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-2 AM</td>
<td>Burn</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>late-night alternative and electronic</td>
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## WEDNESDAY

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-10 AM</td>
<td>The Final Countdown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hard rock, alternative and morning talk</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-12 PM</td>
<td>Goathouse Radio</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hip-hop and Top 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4 PM</td>
<td>TimRox</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>uptempo rock, pop-punk and alternative</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6 PM</td>
<td>Oddio Philes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>folk, blues, reggae, jazz and live music</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-8 PM</td>
<td>Ambient Expedition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>post-rock, indie, jazz and chill alternative</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-10 PM</td>
<td>The Squirrel Attack Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>indie, folk and classic rock</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-12 AM</td>
<td>The Core For STDs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>jazz, blues, soft rock and other study</td>
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<td></td>
<td>sleepy music</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-2 AM</td>
<td>The Fizz</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>weekly topics, movies, TV, classic rock and</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>indie music</td>
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## THURSDAY

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-10 AM</td>
<td>Sports With Shock</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>morning sports talk</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-12 PM</td>
<td>Thursday Kickoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sports talk</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-2 PM</td>
<td>In The Mix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>eclectic rock mix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4 PM</td>
<td>The New Breed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hardcore, rock, metal and punk</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6 PM</td>
<td>That's Nice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mash-ups, covers and remixes</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-8 PM</td>
<td>The Hit List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Top 25 and entertainment news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-10 PM</td>
<td>Just Kidding With Jori &amp; Mindy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pop and silliness</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-12 AM</td>
<td>Hot Dog, Egg Roll and Taters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pop, international music and campus news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-2 AM</td>
<td>Late Night Special</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>late-night eclectic</td>
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## FRIDAY

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-12 PM</td>
<td>3Way</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pop, Latin, celebrity news and opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-2 PM</td>
<td>News In A Nutshell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>all the news you need, pun intended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4 PM</td>
<td>Fangirl Fridays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pop-punk, indie, interviews and music news</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6 PM</td>
<td>Finders Keepers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pop-punk, alternative and unsigned/discovered bands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8 PM</td>
<td>Never Sit Still</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>punk, hardcore and music news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-10 PM</td>
<td>The Meaning Of The Word Is</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>political talk</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-12 AM</td>
<td>Animalistic Affirmation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>political talk, debate and rock</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-2 AM</td>
<td>Internal Liquidation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>metal music and news</td>
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## SATURDAY

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-10 AM</td>
<td>Here And Now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>local and live music</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-12 PM</td>
<td>From The Basket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pop-punk, indie and underground music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-2 PM</td>
<td>Rubber City Rockhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>live and local rock and alternative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4 PM</td>
<td>MC Weekends</td>
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<td></td>
<td>music through the generations</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6 PM</td>
<td>Random Radio</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>alternative, indie, pop and student news</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-8 PM</td>
<td>For Lovers Only</td>
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<td></td>
<td>slow jams</td>
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<td>10-12 AM</td>
<td>Radio Gravy</td>
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<td>music mix, listener requests and crabbone dancing</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-2 AM</td>
<td>Backseat Bingo With Jack B</td>
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<td></td>
<td>rockabilly, doo-wop, soul and oldies</td>
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## SUNDAY

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>8-10 AM</td>
<td>The BSR Rewind</td>
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<td>a replay of the current Featured Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-12 PM</td>
<td>Plastic Inevitable</td>
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<td>indie music past and present</td>
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<td>12-2 PM</td>
<td>Wake Up Hungover With Victoria and Tyler</td>
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<td>live comedy</td>
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<td>2-4 PM</td>
<td>Celtic Fire</td>
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<td>Celtic music</td>
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<td>4-6 PM</td>
<td>This Unforgettable Sound</td>
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<td>indie, folk rock, classic rock and pop culture</td>
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<td>6-8 PM</td>
<td>The Stat Sheet</td>
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<td>sports talk and interviews</td>
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<td>8-10 PM</td>
<td>Radio ReBoot</td>
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<td>90s alternative, indie and interviews</td>
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<td>10-12 AM</td>
<td>Independent Playground</td>
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<td>indie, hip and local music</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-2 AM</td>
<td>Nerd Rage</td>
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<td></td>
<td>gaming, comic books, movies and gamer culture</td>
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**VA-VA-VROOM**

The next few brilliant. Sinky fangdom and vampire culture

photo THOMAS SONG
Terror

From a distance

Blood

Encouraged by the persistent and excellent work of the police and the military, the people of the city have begun to feel a sense of security and stability.

A troubled and restless crowd gathered outside the city hall, hoping for answers to their questions and demands. The mayor, in a rare public appearance, addressed the nation from the balcony, promising swift action and comprehensive reforms.

In the streets, streets, and streets, the people sang and danced, their spirits buoyed by the hope for a better future.
From a distance, it appeared to be like any other Halloween party in New Orleans. The music pulsed as dimming lights accentuated a crowded dance floor. Encouraged by much liquor and minimal clothing, attendees from across the world relished in a comfortable and sexually liberated setting, indulged in naughty pleasures and wore fangs. With fake blood smeared on their necks and thighs, the floor and the walls, these modern day Living Vampyres left their mark. Living Vampyres don't have sparkling skin, tussled hair and six-pack abs, but they also don't resemble the creature in "Nosferatu." Hoards of screaming fans don't follow their every move. They don't constantly run around in capes with the slicked-back hairstyle of the 1930s. They don't usually live in dusty, old castles. These are real people, but they have been influenced by familiar characters — like the ones you watch on television, see in films and read about in books.

Fictional vampires frequent nightclubs, have jobs, attend high school and dress just like you, which seems to be a reflect of today's time. Vampires obviously haven't always been like us, so what changed?

THE EVOLUTION

In 1897, Irish author Bram Stoker published "Dracula," which is arguably the most famous piece of vampire literature. "Dracula" is about a lonely, old vampire who lives in a Transylvanian castle. Count Dracula is described as a gangly man with white hair, hairy hands, pointy ears, red eyes and really bad breath. Dracula decides to move from his castle to England with the help of Jonathan Harker, who soon learns that the Count isn't just a normal old man. Dracula begins tracking Harker's fiance and her friend. Harker needs the help of Abraham Van Helsing, a skilled vampire hunter, to kill Dracula and save his girl. After a series of long chases, they succeed in killing the vampire, but it is just the birth of the vampire genre. Not long after Stoker's publication, "Dracula" was transformed into a play and the silent film "Nosferatu" in 1922, which was an unauthorized adaptation. The vampire in this film is simply called "vampire" due to legal restrictions. After this batty vampire, the infamous Bela Lugosi personified Count Dracula in the 1931 film, "Dracula." Lugosi's vampire has the iconic Romanian accent, the slicked-back-hair and cape. After the 1931 "Dracula," a few other "Dracula" sequels and adaptations were released.

In the 1960s, vampires were geared toward a family audience with the release of "The Munsters" and "The Addams Family," and both have vampire characters. A plethora of vampire books were published in the 1970s, and the most notable novels were Stephen King's "Salem's Lot" and Anne Rice's "Interview With a Vampire." Rice was one of the first female authors of the horror genre. Also during the decade, four "Dracula" remakes and spoofs were released on TV and in theaters.

In the 1980s, Anne Rice continued on her vampire-writing kick and wrote two more "Vampire Chronicles" books. The film "The Lost Boys," which geared toward a teenage audience, was also released. There was a major spike in vampire media as well as popularity in the 1990s. Francis Ford Coppola directed the film adaptation of Bram Stoker's "Dracula." The TV show and film versions of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" were released. The butt-kicking cheerleader defeated evil and managed to fall in love with her enemy — multiple times. Wait, there's more to that cable drama — the "Buffy" spin-off TV show, "Angel," also aired on The WB.
Meanwhile, the film version of “Interview with a Vampire” debuted. The film stars Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise as romantic vampires who struggled with their humanity.

The new millennium brought more vampires to the big screen; the “Blade” and “Underworld” sagas entered the supernatural realm. The television show “Moonlight” aired on CBS, which starred a crime-fighting vampire with a conscience.

The vampire realm appealed to a younger generation when Stephenie Meyer penned “The Twilight Saga,” and the subsequent film adaptations released and turned into a billion-dollar franchise.

Now, “The Vampire Diaries” and “True Blood” sink their teeth into television audiences, and although they have a decent amount in common, the most noticeable is the exceedingly attractive cast.

Looking back at the history, you can tell that vampires have evolved from horrific monsters to humanized boyfriends.

THE SEXUALIZATION

Vampires were once symbolic monsters representing fears and problems of society throughout generations. Today, they’re hot and romanticized, like Eric Northman, the tall, blond Viking, or Edward Cullen, the devoted love interest.

They are no longer the night stalkers of horror movies. So now, instead of girls screaming and running away from those blood-sucking creatures, they run affectionately toward them.

What changed to make vampires not so scary? They now date humans — usually teenage girls and the occasional 20-something. They’re also younger, more attractive and stylish.

Eternal love sounds great, even if the guy has abnormally sharp canines and sometimes stares longingly at the veins in your neck.

Trevor O. Munson, author of “Angel of Vengeance” and co-producer/creator of the CBS show “Moonlight,” said he became intrigued with the vampire genre after watching “The Lost Boys.”

He said his interest in vampires continued over the years, and he watched and read everything vampire related.

Munson said he believes vampires are so popular because of the immortality aspect.

“I think the idea of breaking death’s hold and living on indefinitely as a beautiful and powerful being is understandably alluring to many of us,” he said. “How cool would it be to have the time and resources to learn, do, see and experience everything our world has to offer? Personally, however, I see vampires as beautiful tragic creatures, who make a Faustian bargain to give up their humanity in order to become immortal.”

The popularity of vampires also increased with the sexiness. Most distinctly, the vampire “look” has changed from that grotesque guy in “Nosferatu” to the cape-wearing Dracula to the classic sophistication Lestat and Louis.

You can’t deny that the more recent vampires are hot and stylish, which attracts “fangbangers” and desperate middle-aged women.

Vampires attract humans, and this fandom is spreading faster than any pandemic.

SCARED AND SEDUCED

Vampires, on a variety of platforms, have always represented the fears of society.

The hideous vampire in “Nosferatu” represented the societal fear of disease and pestilence. He had pointy ears, claws, and other rat-like features to portray this.

Mark Dawidziak said vampires today represent the fear and anxiety of “fitting in.”

Dawidziak is the television critic for “The Plain Dealer” and a journalism instructor at Kent State — where he teaches a special topics course on vampires in film and television. He wrote “The Bedside, Bathtub & Armchair Companion to Dracula.” Needless to say, he knows his stuff.

“There are many divisions in the world, socially, economically, politically, religiously,” he said. “There’s a lot of uncertainty. There’s a lot of the ‘us versus them’ mentality. The vampires we see today encompass all of that through the vampires versus werewolves or vampires versus humans. The divided world is in all of the recent vampire stuff.”

Dawidziak said HBO’s “True Blood” is a perfect example of vampires representing today’s fear of rejection and anxiety of acceptance. He said there are many worlds in “True Blood,” and it shows the struggle for all of them to coexist and live together.

Charlaine Harris, who wrote the novels that inspired the show “True Blood,” tries to illustrate the differences in society through creating a very diverse supernatural world. Her series, “The Southern Vampire Mysteries,” focuses on the life of a small-town, southern barmaid named Sookie Stackhouse.

Sookie deals with supernatural drama and her mind-reading ability. The vampires in the series, like the show, are out of the coffin and not so secretive.

While Sookie spends most of her time with vampires, werewolves, witches, fairies and shifters, it doesn’t mean that Harris’ vampires are accepted by all the humans. The other mystical creatures remain a secret from the “normal” for most of the series. There’s even a group that centers on an anti-vampire agenda.

“It shows a struggle, a violent struggle at some points, but this is very accurate,” he said. “The vampires are romanticized, but that’s to be expected when they have been with us for years. They’re evolving because we humanize them. They’re really the easiest monster to humanize.”
Eternal love sounds great, even if the guy has abnormally sharp canines and sometimes stares longingly at the veins in your neck.

maura zurick
I think the idea of breaking death's hold and living on indefinitely as a beautiful and powerful being is understandably alluring to many of us.

trevor munson

Dawidziak said the connection people make to the books is similar to what some see in "Twilight" or "Harry Potter" because they are all about a girl's search for a perfect boyfriend.

"They're romantic, eternal, strong," he said. "I think a lot of us want that?"

THE LIVING VAMPIRES

Living Vampire is a subculture which has made itself into a popular form of Pagan beliefs. They often have the fangs and consciences of a spirit and a sexual,

spiritually symbolic role in the worship of vampires and of the living dead. For the people who are just fans of the books they can actually become vampires themselves.

There are three types of vampires: the Living Vampire, the Living Vampire and the Black Vampire.

Some consider the Living Vampire to be the real deal. With a wife and his tradition, Father Sebastian, is the vampire subcultures' spokesperson. He is the party host.
Dawidziak said Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" characters portray that uncertainty of high school. He said high school is a time of drama where everything is heightened and seems like a tragedy.

"High school is that awkward period of worry," he said. "The worry to fit in, get a date to the prom, to make friends, to get into college and all while growing and transitioning. It's easy to see why teens today are drawn to the vampires of "Twilight" or "The Vampire Diaries."

Dawidziak said college students and adults might not understand the connection people have to "Twilight" or "The Vampire Diaries" because they are past the high school stage.

He said in many ways "Twilight" is a girl's search for the perfect boyfriend, and vampires in general have mass-audience appeal.

"They're romantic, sexual, seductive, eternally young, incredibly strong," he said. "Who wouldn't want that?"

THE LIVING VAMPIRES

Living Vampyres are members of a subculture who immerse themselves into the vampire lifestyle and Pagan beliefs.

They often have custom-made fangs and consider vampires to be spiritually symbolic, and they represent a spiritual life of immortality and passion.

For the people who are more than just fans of the living dead, they can actually be called vampires themselves.

There are three types of vampires: the Living Vamyre, psychic vampires and blood drinkers.

Some consider the most notorious Living Vamyre to be Father Sebastiaan. With long wavy hair and his trademark cowboy hat, Father Sebastiaan is involved with vampire subculture as a writer, spokesman, Master Fangsmith and party host.

Father Sebastiaan is the author of "Vampyre Sanguimonicus: the Lexicon of the Living Vampire."

Every Halloween, hundreds of Living Vampyres and fans gather in New Orleans to attend The Endless Night Vampire Ball, which was rated the No. 1 Halloween party in the world by TripAdvisor.com in 2010. This allows people with similar passions to express themselves, have fun and meet like-minded individuals.

Father Sebastiaan, who serves as the ball's Impresario, said the three types of vampires make up the majority of the people involved in vampire subculture.

"The Living Vampyres also known as Strigoi Vii, believe that life is a spiritual journey, an immortal journey, where magic, beauty and pleasure are a part of daily life," Father Sebastiaan said. "Psychic vampires are the opposite. They bring out negative energy from people. They're just depressing. Blood drinkers are exactly what their namesake suggests."

For blood drinkers, their bite is obviously worse than their bark. These vampires do wear fangs, which are usually made from dental acrylic by professional fangsmiths.

As a Master Fangsmith, Father Sebastiaan crafts custom fangs, which range from $125 to $399, and often awaken the buyer's "inner vampire."

"Fangs and costumes are just for fun," Father Sebastiaan said. "We focus mainly on the beauty of life in all aspects like mind, body and soul. Fangs and sex go hand-in-hand for some people. It's a [sexual] fetish thing."

These Living Vampyres also really love their parents. According to Father Sebastiaan, a Living Vamyre should have a very strong bond with his or her family.

"The basic tenets of honor, love and intelligence mirror the fervor felt in Strigoi Vii relationships," Father Sebastiaan said. "The Strigoi Vii are very passionate and have good relationships with their birth family and their Vamyre family."

Vampire subculture isn't just all "goth" kids who wear a lot of black. This subculture also isn't a private or underground anymore. It's open and becoming more popular.

Father Sebastiaan said with the increasing popularity of vampires, many people learned to accept it as a subculture.

"I know people who are completely open about being Strigoi Vii and no one threatens or bothers them," Father Sebastiaan said. "People are infatuated with them. We're not depressed — we're the opposite. We attract people; it is part of our glamour."

192 YEARS OF POPULARITY

That guy who sits next to you in class might be a Living Vamyre. Maybe one of your professors is a vampire enthusiast. Maybe you know people who are just fans of the genre. This acceptance brings out more interest in the subculture.

Dawidziak said the vampire genre will continue to be "hot" in the next several years with more seasons of "True Blood," "The Vampire Diaries" and the release of new vampire-based movies.

"'True Blood' still has some juice left," he said. "I think this show is the closest example of what vampires will be like in the next few years. I think we can expect them to be a little less romantic and a bit nastier. There will always be action."

Dawidziak said vampires have always had periods of intense popularity, but they've never really had any low points since the genre began hundreds of years ago.

"All vampires are hard to eradicate, literally and metaphorically," Dawidziak said. "They have been popular since 1819. I think it's safe to say that they'll be around for a very long time."

Trevor Munson
If you haven't seen us lately, you haven't LOL'ed.

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illustration RACHAEL CHI
Whether you’re devoted to a politician or trying to save the world while shopping, we bet you’ve got a little faith in something.
Businesses
that give back

words ALYSSA DEGEORGE

There’s a new trend major retailers are incorporating into sales tactics, but it isn’t solely to reach sales goals — they are turning profits into philanthropy.

As individuals become more aware of their impact, companies are also getting involved in the movement of social consciousness.

“Seeds have been planted for the last 20 years about giving back,” said Kathleen Bergh, Program Director of the Certificate in Nonprofit/Human Service Management at Kent State.

Bergh teaches about cause marketing and social entrepreneurship. Both are ways companies align with charitable causes to create a positive image for the company and to play a role in bettering society.

Consumers have higher expectations for the role companies play in the world, Bergh said. No longer can companies rake in the cash without giving back.

Johnson explained that in one business model, the money from one production costs, so the company has to sell the product at a potentially higher price if they didn’t make any donations. However, the company might be able to sell the product at a potentially higher price if they didn’t donate.

For Yoder, purchasing her shoes was worth it. She thinks people will pay more for socially conscious products.

“With such a ‘halo effect’ (one-for-one model), you start expecting your purchases to make everything right,” Yoder said.

IT’S ALL ABOUT YOU

Bergh said a potential problem with cause-marketing campaigns is that consumers may consider products socially conscious products to be high-priced.

Johnson said that although the movement is far from being a problem, it generally is.”

Sarah Warren, a senior fashion merchandising major at Kent State, said she’s somewhat skeptical of how much money is going to the cause or if the cause-marketing campaigns are used to convince consumers to purchase the product.

“I don’t think that a company would ever say they’re donating and then not, but I question how much they’re donating,” she said.

The overall shift away from companies writing a check to contributing in some way puts a focus on the individual, Johnson said.

If the company has been giving $100,000 for years, it may have a marketing campaign that gives 10 cents for every product purchased, up to $100,000.

“If the impact on the company is ultimately still the same,” Johnson said, “What’s different is the impact on the consumers and the impact on the company’s brand image.”

Herron said she thinks Sir Richard’s Condom Company is successful because of its one-for-one model.

“People like to support companies and brands that have a greater mission,” Herron said. “It’s really the soul of the foundation that inspired me to work for them.”

THE RIGHT WAY TO DO IT

Neil Blumenthal, co-CEO of Warby Parker, said that he and his partner湍

TOMS

Research shows that consumers feel more involved with these products and respond positively to companies that use cause marketing, Johnson said.

Rita Yoder, a senior fashion design major at Kent State, said the 60 pairs of shoes she used to own was a ridiculous number, but purchasing TOMS shoes didn’t feel as indulgent.

TOMS incorporates one-for-one giving as a part of its business model. For every pair of shoes purchased, the company donates a pair to children in developing countries to protect their feet from rough terrain, infection and soil-based diseases.

“It really is guilt-free shopping,” Yoder said. “Giving shoes to someone who has never worn any gives you a great amount of personal satisfaction.”

Inspired by TOMS’s efforts, Yoder got rid of the majority of her shoe collection and started her own fundraising campaign in which she plans to wear the same pair of TOMS every day for a year.

Johnson said consumers are more likely to buy from socially conscious companies because it gives them a “warm glow.”

“Warm glow is that warm fuzzy feeling you get,” she said. “It’s that positive feeling you get when you have done something to help someone.”

Social implications encourage consumers to purchase these products, Johnson explained. If a person interacts with a group of people that value social consciousness, they gain social status in that group by, for example, wearing TOMS shoes.

However, the standard rules of the marketplace still apply and people will only buy products they consider worth the cost.

Johnson explained that the social consciousness of a purchase is an added bonus, but not necessarily a deciding factor.

“If the product sucks, you’re not going to buy it just because it’s socially conscious,” she said. “The social consciousness just sort of acts as the cherry on top.”

ONE-FOR-ONE GIVING

Sir Richard’s Condom Company also built one-for-one giving into its business model. For every condom purchased, the company donates a condom to a country in need, and its first affiliation of donating was to Haiti.

“With the ‘buy one, give one,’ it’s very easy to wrap your mind around what will happen as a result of your purchase,” said Mia Herron, who is the director of marketing and communications at Sir Richard’s.

She admitted these products are often at the higher end of the market when it comes to the price the consumer pays.

Julie Martinelli, freshman fashion merchandising major at Kent State, said she’s somewhat skeptical of how much money is going to the cause or if the cause-marketing campaigns are used to convince consumers to purchase the product.

“I don’t think that a company would ever say they’re donating and then not, but I question how much they’re donating,” she said.
Johnson explained that in a one-for-one business model, the money for the donation comes from the profit left after production costs, so technically the donation is coming from the company's profits. However, the company may not have been able to sell the product at that potentially higher price if they didn't advertise that they were making the donation, so the consumer also plays a major role.

For Yoder, purchasing her TOMS shoes was worth it. She thinks it's wrong for them to raise prices but acknowledges that it is still a for-profit company. "With such a 'halo-esque' business model, you start expecting them to do everything right," Yoder said.

ONE GIVING

A Condom Company also has a donation program where people in third-world countries can buy condoms without paying for them. The company pays for the condoms to be made and shipped, so the consumer doesn't have to worry about paying for the product. This program is modeled after the TOMS one-for-one model, with the same success.

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

Bergh said a potential problem with cause-marketing campaigns is that consumers may consider purchasing socially conscious products a replacement for making monetary donations to non-profits. It's important for people to do both, she said.

Johnson said that although this could be a problem, it generally evenens out. "It's a bit of a tradeoff," she said. "There may have been people who would have donated before but are now donating by buying the shoes or buying the yogurt, but there are also people who would have just bought yogurt or shoes anyways who would not have donated to these charities."

The overall shift away from companies writing a large check to individuals contributing in some way puts more focus on the individual, Johnson said. If the company has been donating $100,000 for years, it may now run a campaign that gives 10 cents for every product purchased, up to $100,000.

"The impact on the charity is ultimately still the same," Johnson said. "What is different is the impact on the consumers and the impact on the company's brand image."

Herron said she thinks Sir Richard's is successful because of its cause marketing. "People like to support organizations and brands that have a great social mission," Herron said. "It's really the heart and soul of the foundation of the company. It inspired me to work for the company."

THE RIGHT WAY TO GIVE

Neil Blunenthal, co-CEO of Warby Parker, said that he and his colleagues founded the company because they weren't happy working for organizations that weren't focused on making the world a better place.

"If you're spending 14 hours a day at work, you should be using that time to do good," he said.

Warby Parker's one-for-one model donates eyeglasses to more than 30 countries including India, Bangladesh, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Blunenthal said they're committed to creating a positive work atmosphere for their employees and counting the company's carbon emissions with carbon offsets.

"For-profit companies can be active problem solvers with the problems we face today in our global community," he said. "Those problems are too complex for government or non-profits to solve on their own."

Blunenthal said it's important to make the right kind of donations to those in need. "People are people, regardless of socioeconomic patterns," Blunenthal said. "You're not going to wear a pair of glasses if your neighbors are going to make fun of you and you look foolish. I've literally met people that would rather be blind than wear a 1970s pair of cat eyes."

If used glasses are donated from a different part of the world, they may not fit into the cultural fashion of another. Similarly, Sir Richard's also customizes its donations. The company works with Partners in Health to design condoms appropriate for the people and culture in the areas the donations are going to.

"It's a fact of living in the 21st century and being a company in the 21st century — knowing there are so many issues that need to be addressed," Herron said.

Blunenthal said by a culture of dependency in the countries that receive products from these different philanthropic companies.

Warby Parker works with Vision-Spring to train various low-income entrepreneurs in developing countries. By doing so, they can sell the glasses to people in need for a few dollars, which also helps to spur the economy in those areas, and it ensures that glasses are continually distributed.

"Everything that we're doing is not unreasonable to ask every company to do," Blunenthal said. "I think going forward, it's not enough to just have a celebrity attached to a brand. It's got to stand for more because that's what our generation cares about."

Yoder said the success of these companies reflects on the consumers. "If TOMS can make $5 million in profit asking people to buy two pairs of shoes and only receive one, that's pretty impressive," Yoder said.

As consumers strive to take a more active role in the world, the companies they buy from will have to continue to do the same, and for this reason, Bergh said she thinks the philanthropic trend will continue to grow.

"I don't see it ever going back, and I don't want it to," Bergh said. "I think this collaboration, this looking out for one another, is hopefully here to stay."
Politicians tend to have debatable character. 
Now, they're definitely caricatures.

They continuously are the biggest internet gossip. Their sex scandals are top news. They have their own reality shows. They are constantly scrutinized in the public eye.

Nope, we're not talking about Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan or Britney Spears. We're talking about the politicians who run this country. While Bill Clinton's sexual indiscretions and Sarah Palin's pregnant daughter might be at the height of pop culture in the 20th and 21st centuries, politicians weren't always in the spotlight.

"The pop culture machine that we know of is really a late 19th century into the 20th century invention," said Shawn Selby, an adjunct history professor at Kent State.

While politicians were almost always in the public eye, the evolution from politically famous to just plain infamous took almost two centuries.

1700s
George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin

"The founders were icons because of being founders," Selby said. Since these were the only political figures at the time, it was a little easier to find them admirable.
1800s
Andrew Jackson

One of the first political campaigns that included marches, speeches, songs and “buttons.” His supporters wore pieces of hickory pinned to their coats because “Old Hickory” was Jackson’s nickname.

“He really consciously crafted a persona for himself,” Selby said. “It sort of started the ball rolling for other characters to turn themselves into popular figures.”

1920s
Herbert Hoover

His Depression-era presidency brought about criticism in literature and music, Selby said. This sentiment was recaptured with the song “We’d Like to Thank You Herbert Hoover” in the 1977 musical “Annie.”

During his presidency, shantytowns were given the nickname “Hoovervilles,” and newspapers were “Hoover Blankets.”

Hoover was actively criticized, but Selby said it was never outside of the political realm.

1960s
John F. Kennedy

While JFK and Jackie O. are now the embodiment of the American 1960s, Selby said he was not quite an icon at the time.

“Some of that is a mythology placed on him afterwards.”

What did exist was speculation that he was having an affair with bombshell Marilyn Monroe, whose particular rendition of “Happy Birthday” has become infamous.
1970s
Richard Nixon

Before "Saturday Night Live" made exaggerated characterizations of politicians popular, there was the Nixon mask bearing a caricature likeness of the president with an unrealistically large nose.

This mask marked the first time criticism of a president stepped out of the political world, Selby said.

"I think the experience of Watergate damaged the reputation of the presidency, not just him as an individual," he said. "It made it easier for critics and comedians to actually poke fun at the person."

Thus was born the presidential parody and the complete presence of politicians as pop culture icons.

1990s
Bill Clinton

Though Clinton's demeanor, accent and features were often made fun of and parodied, his presence in pop culture comes down to just one sentence: "I did not have sexual relations with that woman."
For a failed vice presidential candidate, Sarah Palin certainly has found her place in the pop culture realm since the 2008 election. There was a memoir, a reality show and plenty of opinions on, well, everything. Even if she never tries to make it to the White House, Palin will certainly be ranked among the most infamous in the political world.

**THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

George W. Bush

At the dawn of the new millennium, there came one man to shake the presidency to its core. This man was George W. Bush. With so many notable quotes that “Bushism” calendars were born, if nothing else, President Bush at least gave political satirists something to mock for eight years.
MAKE SOME MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME

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Is what you spend on food as important as what goes into those processed foods? Doesn't matter. We've got both topics dished up.
What can you buy for 18 cents?

Twelve minutes at a parking meter, a two-minute call to the Philippines, almost two text messages and a drop of gasoline.

For Kelly Chaffin, 18 cents can buy her three 2-liters of Diet Coke. While Chaffin, Kent State senior fashion design major, is not as extreme as what's seen on TV, she is a couponer.

With shows such as "Extreme Couponing" and many people trying to save a buck, couponing has become popular not just among moms but among college students, as well.

Amanda Maroush, Giant Eagle assistant office manager in Stow, said that on a weekly basis the grocery store receives about $6,000 worth of coupons. The store accepts printed, manufacturer and store coupons. They only accept one coupon per item, and they double coupons up to 99 cents.

Chaffin was introduced to couponing about a year ago by a friend. Since then, she rarely goes shopping without a coupon.

To find coupons, Chaffin searches online and at times buys up to five Sunday newspapers. Then, to help her find deals, she said she uses "mommy-blogs" such as dealsseekingmom.com to tell her where items are on sale and where she can stack coupons.

Stacking is when you use two different coupons for one item. There are two different types of coupons: manufacturer, which is from the maker of the product, and store, which is put out by the store.

CVS and Target are just two of Chaffin's favorite places to coupon, she said. CVS allows coupons to be stacked, is known for giving coupons for free items and gives "Register Rewards" depending on spending. Register Rewards is money given back to you as store credit. Target also produces their own coupons so you can stack those with ones you would find online or in the Sunday paper.

Chaffin does a lot of her grocery shopping at Giant Eagle because of their couponing policies. Chaffin has saved more than $200 shopping there.

Chaffin said her roommates rolled their eyes when she started couponing. They were worried she would turn into a "hoarder, but now they all benefit from it."

Alisha Driggs, one of Chaffin's roommates, has mixed feelings about couponing.

"It helps us out, but I think it's a little too," Driggs said.

Chaffin is notorious for piling coupons in odd places around encouraging her roommates.

"Right after I went to bed one night, I heard her outside my door. When I got up, there was one on the floor and outside my room," Sagar, who is another one of Chaffin's roommates.

As well as in front of Segar, Chaffin leaves coupons stuck in roommates' fans so they have to see them when the fan is on.

"It's beneficial for our health," Driggs said.

Segar agreed, and she still
FOOD

Chaffin shows off her stockpile of purchases, and she bought most of the items for little to no cost through her use of couponing.

“I stocked up a lot over the summer; it filled my void of boredom, but I don’t buy unnecessary items.”

Kelly Chaffin

now they all benefit from it.

Alisha Driggs, one of Chaffin’s roommates, has mixed feelings about Chaffin’s couponing.

“It helps us out, but I think it’s crazy, too,” Driggs said.

Chaffin is notorious for leaving coupons in odd places around her house to encourage her roommates to use them.

“Right after I went to bed the other night, I heard her outside my door and when I got up, there was one on the ground outside my room,” said Bekah Segar, who is another one of Chaffin’s roommates.

As well as in front of Segar’s door, Chaffin leaves coupons stuck inside her roommate’s fan so they have no choice but to see them when the fan is turned on.

“It’s beneficial for our house though,” Driggs said.

Segar agreed, and she said thanks to the couponing, she gets things she wouldn’t buy for a good price, which she does a lot with hair products. She also can’t complain about the unlimited amounts of free toothpaste, toiletries and food Chaffin shares with the house.

“Now whenever they go shopping, they check with me for coupons first,” said Chaffin.

For the most part, Chaffin stocks up on toiletries and non-perishable foods. She said she has enough toothpaste and body wash to last her and her three roommates the rest of the school year.

“I stocked up a lot over the summer; it filled my void of boredom, but I don’t buy unnecessary items,” said Chaffin.

Some other deals Chaffin has taken advantage of include getting a free hair dryer; getting 22 pens, three toothbrushes, one tube of toothpaste, three containers of floss and a package of “Wet Ones” for $5; and 11 razors plus a package of razor cartridge refills for $5.

“Couponing is an adventure,” said Chaffin. “It is challenging, but it is fun to see what you can get for as little as possible.”
WHY WE’RE AFRAID OF PRESERVATIVES

AFTER SIX WEEKS IN OPEN AIR, SOME OF KENT STATE’S MOST POPULAR FOOD ITEMS JUST WON'T ROT

words JESSICA WHITE photos MATT HAFLEY

Have you ever wondered what happens when you let it sit out for weeks? We’ll answer that question for you: not much.

Have you heard of the Kent State University Project? Sally Davies, a New York City–based artist, bought a McDonald’s Happy Meal in April 2010 and set it on a table to document its gradual decay. After more than a year, the chips and fries looked exactly the same.

It’s pretty much common knowledge that you don’t head to campus for a healthy treat, but what about the food you buy at Kent State, where more than 15,000 students are served every day?

It turns out that consumer interest in getting preservatives added to common foods in on-campus meals.

THE EXPERIMENT

In September, several students from The Burr went to Eastway Market and the first-floor Student Market to buy some of the most popular food items at Kent State.

We bought a cheeseburger, chicken fingers, banana nuine, mixed fruit cup (in syrup), "To Go" prepared salad (with peppers, feta cheese and sliced tomatoes), and fries.

We left the food on an open display case for six weeks, documenting and photographing its decomposition.

Week 1

BURGER

CHICKEN

FRIES

FRUIT
Have you ever wondered what happens to an Eastway cheeseburger when you let it sit out for six weeks? We’ll answer this question for you: not much.

Have you heard of the Happy Meal Project? Sally Davies, a New York City-based artist, bought a McDonald’s Happy Meal in April 2010 and set it out on a plate to document its gradual decay. After more than a year, the burger and fries looked exactly the same.

It’s pretty much conventional knowledge that you don’t head to McDonald’s for a healthy treat, but what about Kent State, where more than 15,000 meals are sold every day?

It turns out that consumers are also getting preservatives, additives and fillers in on-campus meals.

THE EXPERIMENT

In September, several staff members from The Burr went to Eastway, Rosie’s and the first-floor Student Center market to buy some of the most popular food items at Kent State.

We bought a cheeseburger, fries, chicken fingers, banana nut muffin, mixed fruit cup (in syrup) and “Simply To Go” prepared salad (with romaine lettuce, feta cheese and sliced tomatoes).

We left the food on an open shelf for six weeks, documenting and photographing its decomposition.

The fruit and salad began to smell after a week and shriveled after two. But on day 42, the burger, fries, chicken fingers and muffin looked similar to how they did on day one.

They didn’t smell, and the only change was that each item became as somewhat hard.

WHAT WE’RE REALLY EATING

The Food and Drug Administration has approved approximately 3,000 types of food preservatives. These preservatives prevent bacterial growth and color change, improve odor and flavor and extend shelf life.

“We still don’t really know if it’s going to cause harmful effects if we consume a diet high in preservatives,” said Jodie Luidhardt, dietitian and health sciences lecturer at Kent State. “We do find in research that people that eat more fresh fruits and vegetables and less highly processed foods are healthier and have less chronic diseases that are associated with diet — like diabetes, heart disease and cancer.”

Luidhardt said the best way to avoid food preservatives is to buy organic, but even then, chemicals were probably sprayed on your apples and oranges before they were shipped to the local grocery store.

“The best option is probably local organic produce,” she said.

Kent State tries to support Ohio farmers and producers, but that’s not always realistic, said John Goehler, senior associate director of Dining Services.

“We buy things in bulk for thousands of students every day,” Goehler said. “We can’t go down the road for 50 tomatoes when we need 50,000.”

Other than use-by and sell-by dates, there are no regulations for freshness at the university.

The Kent health department does random inspections twice a year to see that food is stored at the proper temperature and thrown out at the proper time, but Goehler said that’s often not necessary because Dining Services goes through food so quickly.

“There are definitely some weird preservatives,” he said.

A preservative is approved by the FDA if it has about a one in a million chance of being considered a carcinogen, Luidhardt said.

“In my opinion, they let too many things go by as safe, and they don’t do enough research to find out if it’s safe for humans,” she said. “They kind of wait until they see adverse effects.”

Preservatives are often listed in the ingredients list of a packaged product, but Luidhardt said manufacturers should also be required to list them under nutrition facts, so consumers know the percentage of chemicals they are putting into their bodies.
Some of those goods sit out for a long time, and you can just tell (they’re preserved).  

liz aulino

"It’s hard to see exactly how much of these things we’re consuming on a typical diet," she said.

For students looking for more natural options, Goehler said he plans to open an organic station in Eastway in January.

“We try to make everything as fresh as possible,” he said.

LOWER QUALITY; HIGHER PRICE

We showed before and after snapshots of the food to students eating in the Student Center and most were shocked.

Domenic Scaccchitti, a Dining Services student manager, said he has been wary of fast food and preservatives since watching “Supersize Me,” which is a documentary that explores the consequences of a McDonald’s-only diet.

“I didn’t expect this from Kent State food, especially since I work with it all the time,” said Scacchitti, a senior human development and family studies major.

“I didn’t feel like it was that bad. I’m astonished.”

Because Dining Services’ prices are much higher than fast food places, Scaccchitti said he expected the freshness and quality to be higher, but “clearly it’s not.”

Liz Aulino, junior zoology major, however, said she is not surprised by the food’s lack of decay.

“I actually feel really bad about eating on campus right now,” she said. “Some of those goods sit out for a long time and you can just tell (they’re preserved). It freaks me out.”

Despite taking six classes and working two jobs, Aulino said she cooks fresh meals from whole foods every day.

"I don’t want to be too preachy because people tune you out,” she said. “Our bodies just aren’t set up to process (preservatives).”

Aulino and Scacchitti both said the university needs more organic options.

“I don’t think that the university would lose a lot of money if it did switch to even just a higher percentage of whole foods,” Aulino said. “I don’t think there’s a push for it, but it’s the responsible thing to do.”

Burger Weeks 1-6

1 2 3 4 5 6

Remember: That is not what the orange is!
BURGER
The white stuff you see on the cheese isn't mold—it's just pieces of bread, but on the final week, a tiny amount of little, white fuzzy mold appeared on the bottom bun, touching the carton.

CHICKEN
Remember that embalming smell from high school anatomy? That is what the chicken fingers smelled like during week two, but by week six, they shriveled and lost all aroma—thankfully.

FRIES
Not much change happened to the French fries during the course of the test, but they did shrink a little bit. Any takers out there want to dip 'em in ranch dressing and eat? #DoubleDogDare

FRUIT
Is this the process of creating dried fruit? Probably not, but that's what the once syrup-coated fruit cup turned out to be by week six.

MUFFIN
The muffin did get a little stiff, but for the most part, it remained the same throughout the 42 days. Well, this might be a perfect time to go on that no-carb diet you've been considering.

SALAD
The salad and toppings quickly became a moldy mess, which in this case is a good thing. Time to load up on your (fresh) veggies.
Deck the Hall

November 25-27, December 1-4, 8-11, 15-23, 26-30
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HOROSCOPES

words LEIGHANN MCGIVERN

HOW WILL YOUR NEXT SEMESTER TURN OUT?

Aquarius
January 20-February 18
There is someone in your life who has been holding you back from reaching your full potential, whether in academic endeavors or personal life. You work best independently, so don’t be afraid to tell that person to relinquish control and let you succeed on your own.

Pisces
February 19-March 20
Next semester, someone will come into your life who won’t expect you to move mountains for him or her. Take some “me” time and realize you do deserve to be spoiled for once. So don’t fight it, Pisces, it’s about time you got a little pampering!

Aries
March 21-April 19
Watch your temper this semester, as it could get you into more trouble than it has in the past. If you keep it laid back and don’t stress too heavily, things will be smooth sailing.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
As a Taurus, you like to keep your private life private, and in some respects that’s a good thing. Don’t be afraid to open up to someone you’ve been harboring feelings for. Telling them is the only way you’ll know for sure if it’s meant to be, and the stars are looking good for you.

Gemini
May 21-June 20
You, Gemini, are all about the charm, and this semester you may need it. If you get into a difficult situation, work your charisma and everything will work out in the end. We even foresee a life-changing opportunity coming your way if all goes well.

Cancer
June 21-July 22
In relationships, you seek security, and it’s time you had some. If you’re in an unstable relationship, it may be time to walk away. Spend some free time getting to know yourself — even if that means being outside your comfort zone.

Leo
July 23-August 22
If you have been afraid to step up and become a leader, this semester is the time to do it. You have a lot of creative ideas and natural abilities to contribute, so don’t be afraid to put yourself out there.

Virgo
August 23-September 22
Your intuition will help a friend in trouble resolve his or her issues. The process will bring you two closer together, and the person will value your friendship even more.

Libra
September 23-October 22
You have trouble committing to an actual relationship because you don’t like change. Don’t be afraid to take a chance with someone you’ve been getting to know. This can give you the best long-term results.

Scorpio
October 23-November 21
It might be time to turn down the charm a bit, heartbreaker. If you lead on too many people, you’re going to break hearts, and your reputation might precede you when you actually fall for someone.

Sagittarius
November 22-December 21
Let’s face it, Sagittarius, you tend to be a bit of a commitment-phobe. You value your alone time, but letting others in could pay off this semester. Use your sense of humor to charm that girl or guy sitting next to you in class, and this could turn out to be your best semester yet.

Capricorn
December 22-January 19
You tend to be self-disciplined and responsible, but this semester, don’t be afraid to take some risks. Take a course you might not have thought to take, join a new student organization or branch out and meet new people. You’ll be rewarded in the long run.
**SEX SONGS**

**TOP 10 SONGS TO GET IT ON TO**  
words SETH COHEN

Before the lights go out (or stay on) and before the clothes come off, you feel as if you have all the game in the world to present to that special someone, but what about your music collection? In order to have a good time, you need good music. Whether you agree or not, take a hard, firm listen to this collection of the top 10 songs for sweet lovin’.

1) **Drake – “Show Me a Good Time”**
This track has reached the number one song to get it on to. With disc-scratching and beats to go along, it tells you and your partner to shout it out and let it out!

2) **Nine Inch Nails – “Closer”**

With lyrics like “I wanna feel you from the inside,” this song brings out the porn star in anyone, so when in play, listeners beware!

3) **The Black Keys – “When the Lights Go Out”**

Of course, an Ohio-native band has to be a choice. This classic rock has tame meets dream for those who like it slow and rough. It’s also great for when you don’t want your roommates to hear.

4) **Rhianna – “Skin”**

Men and women alike agree that this is a sex song, and all you need is to strip down to your skinsuit. To be blunt — be rough. That is all.

5) **Baths – “Lovely Bloodflow”**

This band has a mix of percussion, piano and electronica. The rhythm walks a fine line of not too loud, yet not too soft. “Ruffle these feathers” and tease before the real thing happens.

6) **Feist – “Brandy Alexander”**

This song is perfect for when there’s a rainy day when you don’t feel like going outside to brave the storm. Its soft vocals create a nice aura for when you feel you’re at the right place, wrong time.

7) **Lil’ Wayne – “Single”**

It presents the needed confidence for the one to prove himself. With this song playing, it can make any guy feel the alpha in him. It’s slow and Zen for both partners.

8) **Usher – “Do It to Me”**

The perfect R&B song for when things get hot. It may seem clichéd to some, but the song simply speaks for itself. In a nutshell, that’s what the song is about. Guys, the ladies are the ones who love this song, so bring your confidence to her as if you were the Old Spice guy.

9) **Massive Attack – “Protection”**

This Trip-Hot, electronica duo is a definite with its funky, reggae twang-guitar riffs and sensual soft singing, this song is perfect for that couple to take things slow. When things start to really build up, that’s when the “Protection” comes on.

10) **Daft Punk – “Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger”**

It’s electronic music with a good beat, and the term, harder, better, faster, stronger speaks for itself. It’s the aerobic work-out of sex songs! Don’t think, just do.

Now please, take that special someone you’ve only been with for a few days, a few years or someone who turns into a nice fling back to your dorm, apartment, house, car or random place you know you won’t get caught (if you roll that way) and get it on. Be cool, be yourself, be presentable, be protected, but most importantly, be the music you want to get it on to.
We all know it. We all use it. We all roll our eyes if it's outdated. Slang words seem to morph into brand new slang words faster than Facebook rationalizes creeping. However, sometimes slang survives, and even the experts can't explain why some words are still circulating while some are better left in the past. Which words are you using and/or familiar with? Take the quiz, and find out what decade your slang identifies with.

1. You've studied all night on the seventh floor of the library. You've consumed more free popcorn and Pepsi than even your 11-year-old brother could. But it was worth it because you aced your exam! This is ... excellent! Outstanding! Or, you might even say __.

1920: THE BEE'S KNEES, THE CAT'S MEOW, NIFTY
1930: SNAZZY, COOL
1940: DYNAMITE, SWEET
1950: SWELL, PEACHY KEEN
1960: FAR OUT, SOMETHING ELSE
1970: GROOVY, THAT ROCKS
1980: TIGHT, TUBULAR, GNARLY
1990: OFF THE HOOK, DOPE, SWEET
2000: THE SHIZ, AWESOME, BALLIN'

2. You're in Rosie's, and it's 3 a.m. You don't know what you ordered, but it tasted greasy-good. You apparently just had a convo with a cutie, and you got a number! You say you have to leave, or __, but you'll text him or her tomorrow (not really).

1920-1930: SCRAM, BEAT IT
1940: FADE
1950: CUT OUT
1960: SPLIT
1970: CATCH YOU ON THE FLIP SIDE
1980: BOUNCE
1990: DIP OUT
2000: PEACE OUT

3. New boyfriends/girlfriends are great. Butterflies, hand-holding, a new follower on Twitter. Kidding. But for real, what is better than finding "the one" and spending all your free time __?

1920: CUDDLING, SPOONING
1930: BILL AND COOING, CUDDLING
1940: SMOOCHING
1950: MAKING OUT, NECKING, PARKING
1960: GIVING SOME SUGAR
1970-1980: SUCKING FACE, SWAPPING SPIT
1990: MASHING, MAULING, MAKING OUT
2000: HOOKING UP, KISSING
If you go out for a night on the town and drink too much, you're ___.

1920: BLOTTO, BENT
1930: BLIND, FRIED
1940: OSSIFIED
1950: GASED, JUICED
1960: PLASTERED, BLITZED

1970: HAMMERED, WASTED
1980: LIFTED, TOASTED
1990: RUINED, FOLDED, SHAMMERED
2000: SHIT-FACED, WASTED

We borrow all that ____ for textbooks, clickers, Starbucks, rent, winter gear, parking tickets, groceries, gas and tuition. Don't worry – we'll pay it back. We hope.

1920: JACK, CLAMS, RUBES
1930: MOOLAH
1940: DOUGH
1950-1960: BREAD
1970: JING
1980: PAPER, BANK
1990: CHEDDAR
2000: DOLLA DOLLA BILLS, YA'LL

An attractive girl. (See Mila Kunis, Megan Fox, Beyonce, etc.)

1920: DOLL
1930: BABE
1940: HONEY, DREAMBOAT
1950: HOT, SHARP
1960: SEX POT
1970: FOXY, THICK
1980: BODACIOUS, EYE CANDY
1990: DIME, SHORTY
2000: HOT, SEXY, I'D HIT IT

An attractive guy. (See Brad Pitt, Denzel Washington, Ryan Gosling, etc.)

1920: SHEIK
1930: VALENTINO
1940: DREAMBOAT
1950: CHARMER
1960: HUNK, STUD
1970: GROOVY, CASANOVA
1980: STU FY
1990: HOT T TIE
2000: HOT, SEXY, I'D HIT IT

Someone says something that you agree with, like "Entourage is the best show on TV," or "Let's get in line for free Chipotle." You reply:

1920: AB-SO-LUTE-LY
1930: YOU SHRED IT WHEAT
1940: KILLER DILLER, GOOD STUFF
1950: RIGHT ON
1960: ALL RIGHT, I'M HIP
1970: RIGHT ON, THAT'S DA BOMB
1980: SOLID, WORD
1990: YEAH, YEP
2000: TOTES, WORD, FO SHO
Jay Friedman, 57, stands at his post as a doorman in the Upper West Side of New York City.

MY FATHER BECAME A DOORMAN in Manhattan after retiring from the New York City Police Department. He has formed a close relationship with many of the families who reside in the building.

I took this picture of him after spending one to two mornings a week with him at work throughout the summer while I waited to leave for my internship. After seeing the bonds that he formed with many of the residents, I decided to go around the Upper West Side to photograph and interview other doormen about their experiences. This was the first picture of the series, and the rest of the photographs are on The Burr's photography blog: TheBurrPhotography.wordpress.com.
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