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Junior Michelle Bischak smashed a pumpkin with a baseball bat during a Pumpkin Smash event hosted by the Marketing Club.

SGA updates

BY JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MADELINE RICCARDI
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Student Government Association (SGA) passed club budgets, while working towards collective and individual goals for the upcoming semester.

SGA's Financial Vice President Nathan Polacek announced club budgets. SGA allocated about \$3,600 to clubs for the 2020-21 academic year. Their budget allowed them to allocate up to \$5,000, so they had approximately \$1,400 remaining for clubs who used their allocated budget.

SGA President Natasha Florence explained that SGA tried to give clubs roughly the same budget they were allotted last year, even though some clubs requested more.

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LRU community talks inclusion

BY SARAH HEFFERIN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On October 28, La Roche University held its second inclusion council, hosted by the office of Diversity and Inclusion.

The office's director, Sarah White, offered this council as a way for students, faculty, and staff to come together and learn about a specific issue surrounding diversity and inclusion, and voice their concerns as well as possible solutions. This time, the council focused on the topic of hate groups.

Law and security professor Lawrence Likar gave the initial presentation and answered questions about hate groups. An expert on who hate groups are and how they operate, Likar led the discussion with the hope of helping the La Roche community gain a deeper understanding of the topic. Likar is a published author whose first book, "Eco-Warriors, Nihilistic Terrorists, and the Environment," focuses on environmental terrorism, and the small-cells who commit the violent acts.

But hate groups come in many forms. Likar explained that hate groups themselves are fragmented groups of individuals that fit a specific profile. During the inclusion forum, he discussed two types of hate groups: bias offenders and militia groups.

Beginning with bias offenders, Likar explained that they themselves are not as intense as terrorist groups, which puts them in a different category.

A recent study by the University of Maryland found that:

- If their bias is towards members of the LGBTQ+ community, their median age is 24
- If their bias is towards citizens of a different race and ethnicity, their median age is 26
- If their bias is towards members of differing religions, their median age is 31

Likar said, "You're looking at a group that isn't teenagers, but

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Covid restrictions in place for spring

BY JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

La Roche's current covid-19 restrictions will stay in place during the spring semester, which will have an altered calendar because of the pandemic.

"While our campus is doing very well regarding positive cases, the covid cases continue to rise in Allegheny County and based on those numbers, I do not see any changes in the current restrictions for the spring semester," Chief Pandemic Safety Officer Rosemary McCarthy said. She said it was "too early to tell" when those restrictions might loosen.

According to McCarthy, university officials will communicate with students about spring semester expectations and plans before and during the winter break. She urged students to check their emails frequently over the holiday.

The spring semester will begin later than originally scheduled, with classes slated to begin on Jan. 25. Spring break was eliminated and Easter break was shortened, with classes only cancelled on

Good Friday.

According to Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Howard Ishiyama, those changes were made in response to the pandemic.

"Starting the semester two weeks later allows students, staff, and faculty time to self-quarantine (if necessary) after the holiday season and before returning to La Roche. Generally speaking, the later we start the more we limit the confluence of covid-19 and the flu season and that is a good thing," Ishiyama said. "Breaks were reduced or limited because we need to limit mass movement to and from campus as much as possible. We especially want to limit travel to other, more negatively affected states and hot-spot areas."

The graduation date remained unchanged. Ishiyama said that was to avoid hindering students' chances at summer job opportunities.

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PAGE 19

Academics

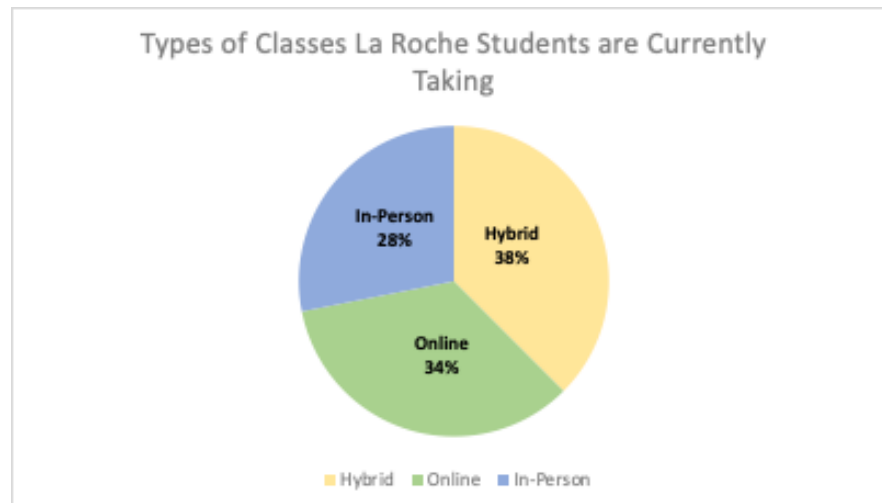
How much did students learn this semester?

BY MADELINE RICCARDI
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The new normal on college campus is a combination of in-person, hybrid, and online courses. A year ago, La Roche University provided strictly online or in-person classes, but now there are more options than ever before. A survey shows that 64 percent of La Roche students have found the new ways of learning to be difficult.

The La Roche Courier conducted a survey to determine what percentage of the La Roche community felt that they adequately learned this semester. This survey defines “learning” as remembering any new information that had not been known before the fall 2020 semester began.

Of the 1,500 students at La Roche, 72 took part in the survey. This included 14 freshman, 12 sophomores, 15 juniors, 27 seniors, and four graduate students. Their majors ranged from dance and performing arts to national security.



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The survey asked 72 participants which types of classes they are taking during the fall 2020 semester. This infographic shows the percent of students taking each.

The ages of the participants ranged from 18 to 42.

The LRU students filled out the survey in October.

Forty-eight students of the La Roche undergraduate and graduate programs said they are currently taking hybrid classes. Of

the 72 surveyed, 44 said they are currently taking online courses, and 36 said they are taking in-person classes.

The survey asked students in which type of class they felt that

SEE **LEARNING SURVEY**,
PAGE 14

Study tips for online finals

BY JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Finals week has always marked a stressful time for college students. But students are facing new obstacles, as covid-19 restrictions force students to handle their finals remotely online.

Diana Atkinson, coordinator of academic counseling, offered some tips for students as they prepare to take virtual finals from home.

Atkinson recommended creating a study plan to outline how you'll tackle finals week.

“Before you move out or leave for Thanksgiving break, take note on when each exam or final project is due,” she said.

She suggested students write their due dates in a planner, phone calendar or somewhere else easily accessible.

“It is recommended to start your more intense studying for exams at least one week in advance,” she said. “In that time, consider setting up online study sessions with classmates or tutors to discuss your own understanding of the material and to expand on areas you feel weaker in.”

That preparation time applies to tests that allow students to reference notes and books. Atkinson said students shouldn't assume that open note or open book tests would be easier.

“It's imperative that you still prepare ahead of time since you do not want to use your time for the exam trying to find answers,” Atkinson said.

Atkinson also urged students to practice time management skills and to avoid ‘all-nighters.’

“Create a consistent and structured study schedule made up of three to five, one-hour intense study sessions per day,” she said. “These study sessions would include reviewing and rewriting your notes, relistening to recorded lectures and reviewing previous exams/quizzes to look for ways to improve, creating your

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A guide to grad school

BY KATHLEEN KENNA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Graduating at any time is scary. Graduating during a global pandemic is terrifying.

Although the unemployment rate is slowly decreasing as the economy tentatively begins to recover from the pandemic, the job market is still not the most welcoming.

If I had listened to my father and studied accounting, I'd probably be fine. Instead, I became an English major. When I told someone--whose name I won't reveal--that works at La Roche what I was studying, they said, “Oh, so you're going to be a barista when you grow up?”

But I knew what I was getting into. There is not a lot of room for rich and famous English majors in our society.

So, I've decided to do what can only be described as the best way

to avoid entering the real world: apply to graduate school.

Although it probably feels like a hundred years ago, we all remember the process of applying to college. You take a standardized test or two, write an essay about how cool you are, and try to find teachers who like you enough to write a letter for you.

Applying to graduate school is basically the same, but for some reason 10 times harder. Granted, I never applied to any Ivy Leagues or 2% acceptance rate schools, but I have a feeling even that process isn't this arduous. Here are the basics.

Like applying to undergrad, many graduate schools require you to take some sort of standardized test. For most schools, it's the GRE. Like the SAT, it has a math, reading, and writing section. If you're like me and haven't

taken math since 2016, this is horrifying.

The reading section includes learning hundreds of vocabulary words that no one has used since 1847.

Luckily, many schools aren't requiring GRE scores because of the pandemic and limited testing availabilities. They made this decision after I took the test in June.

Next you have to find the schools you are interested in. It's not just a matter of looking for a campus you like or finding a school with lots of frat parties. For grad school, it's important that you find a program that's perfect for you.

This involves finding professors at the schools who research what you want to research and looking at the courses they offer

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On Campus

St. Francis Peace Garden

BY STEVEN MUNSHOWER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



© STEVEN MUNSHOWER

With finals week approaching and pandemic safety protocols still in full effect, it is crucial to find a place to unwind. The St. Francis Peace Garden, located to the left of the Magdalen Chapel entrance, is an excellent option.

The stressful lead-up to finals week can be mitigated by finding unique places to study. Finding a place, like the St. Francis Peace

Garden, can help break up the monotonous process of preparation.

Furthermore, this spot can provide a brief refuge from the main campus, where social distancing and masking are required.

Click the link below to discover a peaceful area of our campus:

Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLrbk4y6f7s&feature=youtu.be>

Tackling tech troubles

BY JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With online and hybrid classes becoming the norm during the covid-19 pandemic, students are finding themselves spending more time on their computers – and encountering more technical difficulties.

David Gardner, La Roche's associate director of IT network services and information technology, confirmed that he has seen an increase in technical issues this year. He cited the increase in online learning as the reason for the spike in technology complaints.

"Problems with connections to online classes are probably responsible for the increase from previous years," he said.

"I think the increase in online classes causes many students to notice a slowdown or issue that they might have ignored or put up with in the past," Laird Cole, online learning faculty support and technology coordinator, said. "The majority of the calls that actually are problems have been found, in many cases, to have been ongoing for weeks before a student contacts support."

Cole urged students to contact the Student Help Desk as soon as

their technical issues arise.

Though problems with technology may be plaguing students more often this semester than in years past, the problems themselves, Gardner said, are largely the same.

"Many of the issues, such as no wi-fi, are the same as from previous years," he said. "Often, we find something has been disconnected or there is an issue with the Comcast modem."

For students struggling with wi-fi connection issues in the dorms, Gardner said there are a few tricks they can try.

If possible, he suggested connecting laptops directly into the Comcast modem using an Ethernet cable. Each room has its own modem.

"Wired connections are almost always better than wireless connections," Gardner explained, though he admitted it's not always a feasible option.

For students who experience issues specifically with Zoom, Gardner recommended using the network labeled "laroche" rather than the one labeled "laroche-secure."

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Writers' Center offers in-person, online options for writing help

BY KATHLEEN KENNA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Like everything on campus, the Writers' Center has adapted to online learning. In past semesters, the center is open every school day for in-person tutoring, or as a place to complete schoolwork and study.

Many students would stop in to grab a piece of candy from the always-full bowl on the front desk, or to use the stapler and chat. Unfortunately, covid-19 (as it has with everything else) has changed that. Despite the lack of

candy, the Writers' Center is still open and is helping students in new ways.

The Writers' Center offers three types of appointments this semester. Students are still able to make face-to-face appointments following social distancing and mask wearing guidelines. However, these appointments are limited.

There are two other types of virtual appointments that might look new to students familiar

with the Writers' Center.

Online appointments are for students who would like to meet in real-time with a consultant via Zoom or WOnline, the center's website. These are very similar to face-to-face appointments. Online appointments are especially helpful for students that are in the beginning of the writing process.

Another option is eTutoring. In this kind of appointment, the student sends their paper or project to their consultant. Then, the

consultant gives them written feedback. This process can take up to 24 hours, but most receive feedback within five hours. These appointments are helpful for students with a more completed draft.

Online and eTutoring appointments are new to the tutors and the change was not without some complications.

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Politics

Biden elected president; Trump begins slew of lawsuits

BY JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Saturday after Election Day, the Associated Press predicted Joe Biden as the winner of a contentious presidential race. While President Trump still refuses to concede, the president-elect is already making plans for his first days in office.

Biden's win is historic – not only because a record 101.9 million Americans cast their ballots before Election Day, according to the Washington Post – but also because of his running mate. Kamala Harris is now the first female, first Black, and first Asian American vice president-elect.

Of course, Trump seems to remain unconvinced that Biden and Harris will occupy the White House in January. He's already

taken a slew of legal actions and Tweeted messages including "I won this election, by a lot!"

Dr. Joshua Forrest, the chair of La Roche's history and political science departments, said it's "difficult to predict exactly what will become of Trump's legal actions regarding the election in any given state."

But he said it's not likely that these legal battles will swing the election.

"Most election specialists believe that the courts are unlikely to look favorably on his legal appeals because of the weak legal basis for claiming, for example, that mailed-in ballots received after Election Day are invalid," Forrest explained. "The rules regard-

ing the acceptance of mailed-in ballots are typically determined by the state legislature; the courts typically will not invalidate those rules because the Constitution accords to the states the right to determine those rules in the first place."

As far as Trump's claims of fraud, Forrest said his campaign would have to produce evidence of intentional voter fraud – and so far, he doesn't seem to have it.

In states with a close final tally, Trump may have a stronger case to appeal for re-counts. Forrest cited Georgia, Nevada, Michigan, Wisconsin and Arizona as states where a re-count seems plausible.

"Even in those close cases, a judge would typically have to be

convinced that there is some reasonable basis for concluding that a re-count might bring a different result," Forrest said. "Even so, it is difficult to imagine that re-counts will bring a different result in more than one or two states."

Georgia and Arizona, where Biden won by razor-thin margins, could change with a re-count, Forrest said. But it seems more doubtful in states like Michigan and Wisconsin, where the differential was wider in 2020 than it was in 2016.

Assuming Biden does take over the White House in January, Forrest said there are several

SEE ELECTION REACTION,
PAGE 13

How do we treat women in politics?

BY KATHLEEN KENNA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On October 26, the senate confirmed Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. She is the fifth woman in United States history to be confirmed to the Supreme Court. Barrett joins two other women on the bench, Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor.

Like everything in politics these days, the decision is praised by one side, and criticized by another. Justice Barrett takes the seat of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Many see Barrett as a foil to Ginsburg. It is true in some cases. For many controversial current issues, including abortion, healthcare, and gun rights, their beliefs fall on opposite sides.

Despite their many differences, there is one issue that they are both victims of: sexism. Of course, this is not new for any woman in politics.

From the first woman to run for president in 1872, Victoria Woodhull, who faced criticism not only for being a woman, but also as a supporter of "free love," to Kamala Harris, who faces criti-

cism for supposedly sleeping her way to the top, women in politics seem to always be lambasted for things that are biologically feminine but societally stigmatized. For Barrett, it's the topic of her motherhood.

Barrett and her husband have seven children, two of which were adopted from Haiti. This is a topic of much conversation.

Caroline Siegrist of the Washington Post pondered this situation in her piece, "What's Amy Coney Barrett's child-care secret? She should let us in on it." She considers how Barrett could have gone to law school and continued this career that led to the highest court in the United States with so many children and still be a good mother.

It turns out the secrets to Barrett's success are helpful family members and babysitters. While Siegrist's article seems to come from a place of genuine curiosity, it asks a question that is never asked of men. Granted, none of the other current justices have as many children as Barrett.

But there are no articles asking

how the late Justice Scalia dealt with his nine children. Or, how Justice Breyer kept his three children in check, or if Chief Justice Roberts had a nanny. Meanwhile, Justice Ginsburg claimed that as a young lawyer she had to wear baggy clothes to hide her pregnancy to avoid being fired.

These kinds of questions are not just coming from curious moms looking for the secret to success. According to The Washington Post, in one of Barrett's confirmation hearings, Republican Senator John Neely Kennedy of Louisiana asked this of her: "I'm genuinely curious: Who does the laundry in your house?"

Barrett was able to laugh it off. But how many times has that question been asked of a male Supreme Court Justice nominee? Since she was able to take it as a joke, Senator Kennedy responded, "Well, you are very impressive, judge."

These pointed comments do not come from only male sources, though. Vanessa Grigoriadis, a journalist and author of *Blurred Lines: Rethinking Sex, Power,*

and *Consent on Campus*, had her own thoughts to offer.

She tweeted, "I guess one of the things I don't understand about Amy Coney Barrett is how a potential Supreme Court justice can also be a loving, present mom to seven kids?"

The idea of a women not being able to complete their job because of motherhood is an echo of centuries of commentary from men. When women first fought for the vote, men were mostly worried about what would happen if women got too many ideas of freedom.

What would happen to the children left at home? Responses to Grigoriadis on Twitter are varied. Some praise her for her motherhood, some criticize her for being distracted.

Either way, Trump has put her in a spotlight. A spotlight that Ruth Bader Ginsburg said of this: "The pedestal upon which women have been placed has all too often, upon closer inspection, been revealed as a cage."

Courier Call

**Hear the Courier Staff Answer the Question:
What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?**

MY ANSWER IS PLAIN OLD TURKEY! IT'S A CLASSIC,
AND NO OTHER CAN DETHRONE THE THANKSGIVING
KING!
-STEVEN MUNSHOWER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

APPLE PIE BECAUSE I HATE PUMPKIN PIE BUT I HAVE
A SWEET TOOTH.
-JULIA FELTON, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

IT'S GOT TO BE THE STUFFING. NO CONTEST. TURKEY'S
GOT NOTHING ON STUFFING.
-SARAH HEFFERIN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



MY FAVORITE THANKSGIVING FOOD IS EVERYTHING
MY DAD MAKES. I'M NEVER ACTUALLY GETTING
MARRIED SO THAT I DON'T HAVE TO SHARE THE
HOLIDAY WITH IN-LAWS BECAUSE I ONLY WANT MY
DAD'S COOKING.
-KATHLEEN KENNA, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

IT WOULDN'T BE THANKSGIVING WITHOUT THE DELICIOUS
TURKEY MY MOM MAKES EVERY YEAR!
-MADELINE RICCARDI, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Interested in joining our staff?

The Courier is always looking for new writers and photographers.

Contact Julia Felton for more information on
writing for the Courier.

Julia.Felton@stu.laroche.edu

Health

LRU covid cases, quarantines low

By JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Covid-19 cases at La Roche remain low, as the number of students in quarantine has dropped.

According to the university's online covid-19 dashboard, there have been a total of three covid-19 cases among La Roche students throughout the fall semes-

ter. One was a resident; two were commuters. No faculty members have tested positive for covid-19.

As of Nov. 9, the dashboard reported nine students currently quarantined. Two were quarantined on campus and seven were quarantined off campus.

In early October, Chief Pan-

dem Safety Officer Rosemary McCarthy had reported 31 students in quarantine, though the school had only one covid-19 case at the time.

The numbers on the dashboard reflect confirmed cases involving students, faculty and staff who were on campus. It does not

include those who are working remotely or who have not been on campus.

For updated information regarding La Roche's covid-19 numbers, visit <https://www.la-roche.edu/COVIDcases/>.

People turn to retail therapy during pandemic

By ANNA KLEINSCHNITZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We all indulge in a little retail therapy from time to time. Buying a trinket or shirt we like is always a nice pick me up, but is it really effective when it comes to perking up your mood? And how have we as a community engaged in retail therapy over the course of this pandemic?

Retail therapy, according to Google, is "shopping with the primary purpose of improving the buyer's mood or disposition. Often seen in people during periods of depression or stress, it is normally a short-lived habit." The definition describes this phenomenon short lived and, when it is short lived, how well does it do to pick up someone's mood?

It actually does pretty well. In a published study referenced by Forbes magazine, shopping can improve one's mood and even fight off lingering feelings of sadness and stress. But would you think that shopping while sad increases the risk of impulsive buys that you regret? A look at the same study shows that people are less likely to be upset about bad purchases because of its purpose of mood-improvement.

Retail therapy might be an easy way to perk up your mood, but it is very easy to spend too much and develop an addiction that puts you into debt.

According to Rachel Cruze at Ramsey.com, the average American spends over \$1,600 per year on this habit alone. People become dependent on the rush of dopamine given when in line to get your newest thing and, while it does not last, the feeling can be causing this life ruining addiction.

This dependance on the quick-pick-me-up given by purchasing a new item has been exacerbated by the troubling times we are currently living in. A statistic shared by Forbes shows that "many online retail categories saw an uptick in sales during March 2020 (as much as a 74% year over year increase) compared to March 2018". That is a staggering difference in just two years.

Many of the items the businesses sold were nonessentials, things such as home goods and comfy clothes, to improve your surroundings as you sat at home. Do not feel bad if you also indulged in retail therapy, around 43 percent of Americans have done the same over the last couple months. This is because buying items makes one feel more in control and in our recent times, it can be hard to experience that feeling.

SEE **RETAIL THERAPY**,
PAGE 13

A strange tale of eugenics found on a flyer

By KATHLEEN KENNA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A strange flyer was hung on a telephone pole in North Park. The flyer describes a man's apparent experience of being trafficked and subjected to drugs and slavery in Ligonier, PA.

The author of this flyer claims he was bought by a family in Ligonier that wanted a "smart kid." He provides his background.

"I was bought for money to Ligonier PA from Germanic Europe because my family was Germanic European and part Jewish with Nobel prizes in Germany and England, being the Rothschild-Citroen line."

According the author of the flyer, he was held captive, drugged, and wasn't allowed to have friends. He was forced to study to become a scientist. Apparently, he was supposed to work for the University of Pittsburgh until he died, but was released when he finally refused this treatment. He claims they stole his children. But he was awarded a PhD, and "invented and discovered things for 24 years."

The author provides an address for the family he was purportedly sold to. He was fed "smart drugs." He was supposed to "become a genius scientist." He claims he did.

They forced him to have children and is "37 facing this insane Nazi Eugenics dilemma, going

against all of God's commandments."

The flyer, passionately composed, is rife with spelling errors and exclamation points. He lived his life as a "child prisoner fed drugs and feared to barely leave home." Despite this treatment, he was able to escape.

The author claims he has had years of therapy, but, "therapy doesn't alter your past and give you a family and friends, and neither does the FBI nor the police."

His main problem now is loneliness. He claims he was never allowed to go to the prom or any other events that a young person might want to attend.

"I am forced to process all of this now alone at the age of 37," he claims. "I wish I could buy a family and friends but you can only buy kids, for some reason."

He has apparently been indoctrinated to the system he was brought up in because he suggests that, maybe in addition to children, a person should be able to buy friends.

He ends the flyer with a plea for company. "If you find yourself needing a friend too, send me an email. Like the Fork's Inn restaurant in Ligonier I've never been to."

The author provides his email and a link to his reddit account. SEE **EUGENICS TALE**, PAGE 14

Faculty

English professor to publish local poet's literary biography

BY SARAH HEFFERIN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



COURTESY OF JANINE BAYER

Dr. Janine Bayer (right) authored Dr. Samuel Hazo's biography, titled "Before the Pen Runs Dry: A Literary Biography of Samuel Hazo."

Not many can say that they've been friends with someone for over 40 years. And not many can say that they've honored a friend by writing their biography.

Dr. Janine Bayer can.

After decades of dedication, friendship, and writing, "Before the Pen Runs Dry: A Literary Biography of Samuel Hazo," Bayer's biography on her lifelong friend and poet, will be published. It is a uniquely written, almost genre-breaking book, combining biography, autobiography, and poetry analysis into one, telling the extraordinary life of Pittsburgh poet Samuel Hazo.

Dr. Samuel John Hazo was born in Pittsburgh on July 19, 1928 to immigrant parents—a Lebanese mother and an Assyrian father from Jerusalem. His mother died when he was a young boy, and he—along with his brother Robert—were raised by their aunt. Their aunt, who

held education in a very high regard, inspired Hazo, and he went to receive his undergrad from the University of Notre Dame. He went to obtain his master's degree from Duquesne University, and his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh.

He began writing poetry during his time as an undergraduate student, and many of his poems are inspired by his time there, and during his time as a captain in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War.

Hazo holds many honors, including the governor of Pennsylvania's Hazlett Award for Excellence in Literature, the Elizabeth Kray Award for Outstanding Service to Poetry from New York University, the Forbes Medal from the Fort Pitt Museum, a Pittsburgh Center for the Arts Cultural Award, and a Griffin Award for Creative Writing from

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Professors react to student slang

BY MADELINE RICCARDI
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

La Roche professors turn into students by discussing which slang words they hear around campus, and what they believe they mean.

Young people across the world use slang words in their everyday conversations. They use them in situations that are inappropriate for such use, like when talking or emailing with a professor.

Currently, there are dozens of popular slang words, but this article will be discussing five.

'Extra' is a common slang word in the United States. Americans use it to describe someone or something that is overly dramatic or over the top.

Dr. Joshua Bellin, an English department professor, has encountered students saying 'extra,' but he does not have a problem

"I don't really think contemporary slang really concerns me. I'm fine to let the people who use it use it without my interference or knowledge."

-Dr. Joshua Bellin

with it. "I don't really think contemporary slang really concerns me," Bellin said. "I'm fine to let the people who use it use it without my interference or knowledge."

Bellin is not the only professor who does not have a problem with this particular slang word. Of the 12 La Roche professors interviewed, seven were familiar with the word, and six did not have a problem with it.

when there is juicy gossip or drama, particularly when shared among friends.

'Tea' was the least-widely known slang word among the professors at La Roche, and five did not desire to know the definition of it.

Genest, however, was once again able to define it, as "the gossip or what's going on."

Similar to 'tea,' the word 'fire' is a slang word used when something is really good, so good that one might describe it as crazy.

Sociology and International Studies Department Chair Azlan Tajuddin, although not an avid user of slang himself, said he has heard students using the word 'fire' when talking to him. He dis-

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Clubs

Students smash stress at Marketing Club's Pumpkin Smash event

BY JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



© JULIA FELTON

Sophomore Emily Graff smashed a pumpkin with a baseball bat during a Pumpkin Smash event hosted by the Marketing Club.

With covid-19 restrictions, a tense presidential election, and the typical stress of classes and jobs, students have plenty of frustration this semester.

Thanks to the Marketing Club, they could take out those frustrations on pumpkins.

The club hosted their second annual Pumpkin Smash event, during which students could purchase a pumpkin to smash with baseball bats, golf clubs or a hammer.

"It's a fun and exciting way for students to get out their pent-up stress from midterms," Marketing Club President Tyler Bowman said.

Plus, the proceeds benefit a good cause.

Marketing Club donated the profits from the Pumpkin Smash event – along with half the proceeds from their recent face mask sale – to the Mrs. Claus Club, a nonprofit in the North Hills that benefits women fighting cancer.

"They take donations and raise

money to make personal care baskets for women who are going through chemo and radiation," Bowman said.

It's a cause that's personal to him.

"Raising money for breast cancer is really important," he said. "My grandmother and my great-grandmother both survived breast cancer and are still living life to the fullest. I have been more than blessed to have such amazing women in my life, and I think that it's extremely important to help women and their families who are going through these tough times."

Marketing Club sold 30 pumpkins at their event, which Bowman spearheaded with the help of 13 club members.

"Getting to see all of the students having fun while smashing pumpkins was the most rewarding part of it all. It felt like it was an escape for reality for some and that they haven't been able to have this much fun due to the current state of our world," Bowman said.

Marketing Club sells face masks for Mrs. Claus Club

BY MADELINE RICCARDI
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The La Roche Marketing Club held a mask sale during the month of October to raise money for the Mrs. Claus Club's North Hills branch.

The Mrs. Claus Club, North Hills branch is a non-profit organization that makes and provides comfort baskets to women in or around the North Hills who are fighting cancer or going through chemotherapy.

All money raised for the Club go to the purchase of cookbooks, mouthwash, candies, journals, tea, gum, a prayer shawl, and more.

Marketing Club President Tyler Bowman has a personal connection to the fight against breast cancer, which enabled him to

choose this particular organization.

"For me personally, raising money for breast cancer is really important. My grandmother and great-grandmother both survived breast cancer and are still currently living life to the fullest," Bowman said.

Social Media Manager for the Marketing Club, Scott VanGrootenbruel, said that Bowman came up with the idea for the mask sale.

"The idea sounded unique because of the strange time we are in," VanGrootenbruel said.

Bowman however credited the idea to his mother, Lisa Bowman. "She thought of the fundraiser

SEE MASK SALE, PAGE 13



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Carly Burett and Scott VanGrootenbruel sell masks for the Marketing Club.

Good News

Good news briefs you might've missed

BY KATHLEEN KENNA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Amidst the election and the pandemic, it's hard to focus on other things. Here's some news you may have missed:

The moon is wet.

According to NASA, for the first time, they can confirm that there is water on the moon. It's hard to know what this exactly means for us as humans. But, it does raise question as to what we know about the moon. NASA is excited about this discovery. They say that the Sahara Desert has about 100 times the amount of water that they have detected on the moon. But, the discovery raises questions about deep space exploration.

The economy is on the rise.

In October, U.S. employers added 683,000 jobs. According to the New York Times, unemployment fell to 6.9 percent. This is a one percent lower than it was in September. In all, the US has recovered about half of the 22 million jobs that were lost because of

the pandemic. One of the causes for this rise in jobs is the slow recovery of the food and drink industry.

Sudan criminalizes female genital mutilation.

This country, categorized by Freedom House as Not Free, is ruled by an authoritarian regime. However, they finally criminalized the act of female genital mutilation. They made this act punishable by jail.

Canada announces plans to ban single-use plastics.

This plan brings the country closer to its commitment to making its goal of achieving zero plastic waste by 2030. The ban includes eliminating single-use plastics like plastic straws, bags, and takeout container.

Oregon decriminalizes possession of heroin, methamphetamines, LSD, oxycodone, and other hard drugs.

The plan changes the way Oregon's justice system deals with

people who are afflicted with drug addiction. According to Associated Press, instead of facing jail time, a person who is carrying any of these drugs has the decision to pay a fine or attending addiction recovery center. The Associated Press claims that 1 in 11 Oregonians is addicted to drugs. They hope that this change will lead to reduction in convictions and arrests. They believe that is a large step in changing criminal punishment to a more health-based solution.

There might be other habitable planets.

According to the New York Times, there could be more than 4,000 hospitable planets. Through their Kepler spacecraft, NASA concludes that of the sun like stars in the Milky Way, many have planets surrounding them that could possibly be habitable. While NASA is reluctant to truly estimate an exact number, they suggest that the galaxy is perhaps

twice as habitable as they once thought. They haven't uncovered any specific planet, but there is hope.

North Korea bans smoking in public places.

According to United Press International, a law was introduced to prohibit smoking in many public places, like theaters, restaurants, and public transportation. North Korea has a very high rate of smokers, and this plan is an attempt to face public health issues.

Gray wolves will be reintroduced to Colorado.

A ballot initiative in Colorado proposed to reintroduce these wolves into the western part of the state. According to National Geographic, this is the first time that a state has voted to bring an animal back into the ecosystem. Gray wolves once thrived in the Southern Rocky Mountains. This initiative leads the state's effort to create sustainable population of animals, starting in 2022.

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Entertainment

“The Trial of the Chicago 7” mirrors modern struggles

BY KATHLEEN KENNA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“The Trial of the Chicago 7,” recently out on Netflix, tells a story of the late 1960s while echoing the issues facing America today.

In 1968, during the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, protestors flooded the city. This included groups like the Youth International Party (Yippies) and the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. The movie centers around what is called the Chicago Seven, a group of anti-Vietnam War protesters. They were charged with conspiracy and crossing state lines with the intention of inciting violence. The trial lasted almost five months.

The cast features actors Sacha Baron Cohen, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Michael Keaton, Eddie

Redmayne, Mark Rylance, and many more. The plot, while centering on the court case, addresses topics of activism, racism, and a government reluctant to face a fervent youth.

The movie sticks close to history for some parts, but deviates for some drama. The actual trial included Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin, Tom Hayden, Rennie Davis, David Dellinger, Lee Weiner, John Froines, and Bobby Seale as defendants. Many of the defendants did not know each other personally before the riots.

While the title of the movie references seven defendants, there were originally eight. Bobby Seale, a co-founder of the Black Panther Party, never had his lawyer present during the trial. At one

point, the judge had him bound and gagged in court for contempt. Eventually, the judge declared his case a mistrial. The movie sticks to history in most places, but does deviate, notably in the final scene.

The real trial featured instances that were maybe too surreal to put on the big screen. For example, poet Allen Ginsberg was the ninth witness to testify for the defense. Ostensibly, Ginsberg was there to support Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin.

However, he stole the show in a few ways. According to a 1970 article in the New York Review, Ginsberg entered the court with a “bouncing, cat-like gait.” During his time on the witness stand, Ginsberg recited his poetry along with others.

He also broke into meditation-like chants many times, including the Hare Krishna Mantra. According to the New York Review, spectators were “startled,” and “a marshal leaped to his feet and flung his jacket open as if to reach for his gun.”

Other highlights of the trial include folk singer Judy Collins taking the stand. At one point, she began to actually sing the song “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?” When the marshal was finally able to stop her the judge said, “We are not here to be entertained, sir.”

The trial itself, including the defendants and the witnesses who

SEE “THE TRIAL OF THE CHICAGO 7,” PAGE 19

“John Wick: Chapter 2” surpasses original

BY STEVEN MUNSHOWER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

“John Wick: Chapter 2” takes every bold stylistic choice from the first film, and raises it to the next level. “John Wick: Chapter 2” was released in 2017, by Summit Entertainment under Lionsgate. “John Wick” had slowly gained popularity since its theatrical release. By the time the sequel was released, audiences were ready for more innovative action, stylistic camera work, and expansive storytelling. The film did not disappoint.

“John Wick: Chapter 2” picks up directly after the ending of the first film. Formerly retired assassin John Wick (Keanu Reeves) attempts to return to normalcy, after tying up a loose end from the first film. However, when a shady figure from his past arrives at his door, it becomes clear that perhaps Mr. Wick is in too deep to return to his retired life.

It is rare for a sequel to surpass the quality of the original. “John Wick: Chapter 2” joins the ranks of those prestigious films. Director Chad Stahelski returns, and capitalizes on the successes of the first film. The action is more intense. The world is further detailed. The characters are more dynamic.

Screenwriter Derek Kolstad returns to pen the increasingly complex script. “John Wick: Chapter 2” goes deeper into the world of assassins, and heavily relies on the quality of its writing. Kolstad manages to ride a fine line between genre stereotypes and unexpected innovations. He introduces several new dynamic characters, that help enforce the scale of the society being ex-

SEE “JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2,” PAGE 13

You’ll want to see “The Invisible Man”

BY STEVEN MUNSHOWER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

“The Invisible Man” modernizes the classic H. G. Wells story, with striking visual effects, a talented cast, and a deep exploration of current social issues. “The Invisible Man” is a horror film released in 2020, by Blumhouse Productions, under Universal Pictures. The film was a critical and box-office success, proving that classic characters can have a place in modern media.

“The Invisible Man” follows Cecilia Kass (Elizabeth Moss), a young woman attempting to escape an abusive relationship. One night, she decides to sneak out of the house and run away. After some complications, she manages to successfully get out with the help of her sister. However, two weeks after her escape, her boyfriend, Adrian Griffin (Oliver Jackson-Cohen), is found dead. From there, the film takes sev-

eral unexpected twists and turns, weaving a shockingly intricate narrative.

“The Invisible Man” by H. G. Wells is one of those stories seemed lost in time. However, director and writer Leigh Whannell throws the character back into the mainstream with confidence. Whannell’s adaptation of Wells’ original character is genius, adapting it perfectly for a modern audience. He clearly had his work cut out for him, considering Wells’ novel of the same name was written in 1897.

Whannell’s take on the story deals with abusive relationships, specifically gaslighting, and how that can impact a victim’s sanity. The film also shines a light on how society reacts to these

SEE “THE INVISIBLE MAN,” PAGE 18

History

The La Roche Courier thanks our veterans and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice fighting for American freedoms. The following stories are pieces from a creative nonfiction class that pay tribute to two Vietnam veterans.

Remembering a Vietnam veteran

BY STEVEN MUNSHOWER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The subject of this story is deceased. Handwritten letters and sources close to the subject, recalling distant memories, provided the included information. The story has been reconstructed to the best of my ability, but some creative liberties have been taken.

Richard David Beck sat in the back of a 141 Starlifter military transport plane headed towards Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The plane was leaving Vietnam, where the tall, broad shouldered, thick eyebrowed, German, Native American Indian had just spent the last two years fighting. The roar of the plane engine was dull and mind numbing. His head hung low and the harsh smell of chemicals invaded his nostrils.

Fellow soldiers surrounded Rich. They didn't speak. They didn't talk about how excited they were to get home, about the women waiting for them, or about the things they had done and seen. They couldn't. They were all dead. Rich was being sent home with a group of war casualties. Really, the only difference between them was Rich wasn't in a coffin. The war took longer to kill Rich. His heart was beating, lungs filling with air and pushing it out, blood flowed through his veins.

He was alive, but a part of him had forever died in Vietnam.

He spent the near twenty-four-hour plane ride alone with his thoughts, those coffins, and the dead boys in them. He gazed at the pristine reds, whites, and blues of the flags draped over them and his mind filled with a guilty dread he knew no one would ever really understand.

According to the National Archive, "58,220 U.S. military fatal casualties" occurred in the Vietnam War. The war itself is part of the much larger Cold War, a war based upon the conflict of principles between communism and

democracy. In Vietnam, the Viet Cong proved to be a dangerous enemy, as they used guerilla tactics and often preferred to torture their enemies rather than simply kill them. The conflict between the Communist and American forces involved all branches of American military.

Rich hadn't always planned to join the Navy and end up on that plane full of death. He went to high school and graduated with good grades. He had one older brother, one sister, a mother, and a father. When Rich was still in high school, his brother got extremely ill and died in a hospital bed. He left Rich enough money to go to college, seeing his immense potential. However, the money was left in Rich's father's name.

Rich never saw any of that money. His father spent it all. He claims that he spent it on necessities and raising Rich. Regardless, Rich was left with no chance to go to college. At this same time, tensions in Vietnam had risen. Two U.S. destroyers took North Vietnamese fire, and President Johnson wanted to put more troops in the country. It was around then that Rich enlisted in the Navy.

It was also around that time that Rich met the love of his life. Rich met Donna Sieminski back in the seventh grade. However, the two weren't romantically involved until after their high school graduation. One night in 1964, Donna, Rich, and their friends all headed to their local Eat'n Park. Rich parked his friend-packed two-tone green Chevrolet Bel Air, and an employee roller-skated over to them to get their order.

The friends began talking while they ate their food. All the guys had gotten out of the car and leaned against it. The girls stayed

SEE BECK, PAGE 21, 22

Reflections from Vietnam

BY JULIA FELTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As Robert Leroch gazed out the window, he saw streaks of white reaching up toward the plane.

"Oh look, they set fireworks off for us," the guy next to him said.

But those weren't fireworks welcoming them to Da Nang. That was the North Vietnamese trying to shoot down their plane.

After an 18-hour flight, Leroch landed in a foreign country armed with a rifle, bullets, and jungle fatigues.

"I was scared to death," he said.

When asked if he was ready for what was waiting for him in Vietnam, he simply replied, "No."

Leroch was 18 when he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He didn't enlist for any ideological reasons—not to save the world from communism's spread or bestow democracy upon our Vietnamese brethren. He enlisted simply to escape his drunken, abusive father, who refused to support his dream of becoming a social worker.

"This was my way out," he said.

He reported to boot camp at Paris Island on January 26, 1967. The strenuous physical demands of bootcamp didn't bother him. The discipline, the order, the regimentation—that was what Leroch needed to master.

"It broke you down and then built you up," he said.

After boot camp, Leroch went to Camp Lejeune for four weeks of jungle training.

He was on a fast-track to be deployed to Vietnam, where over 8,000 Americans had already been killed.

"You expected to be dead at 21," Leroch said. His drill instructors had drilled that into their heads—they'd all die in the jungles of Vietnam.

But once he landed in Da Nang, Leroch trained himself to

ignore the fear. "You just put fear out of your mind," he said. "You reacted to the situation. Your training came. Instinct just took over."

At 18, Leroch didn't fully comprehend the magnitude of war. "We didn't know what war was," he said.

But he had to learn—fast.

The Marines deployed for 13-month stints. During those 13 months, they'd alternate between a month in combat and six-day breaks in the relative safety of base.

Real military combat isn't like what you see in the movies, Leroch said. You're not trying to be a hero. You just do what you have to do to stay alive.

When they were on base, Leroch appreciated the time to rest. "You slept; you ate. It was a normal day," he said.

There was entertainment on base. Leroch enjoyed the sports. Many of his friends drank. He never did—and still doesn't. A lot of guys got into dope for the first time. Leroch never did that either.

Life was different off the base. "When you were out in the jungle, you didn't have showers, you didn't have fresh water, stuff like that," Leroch said.

The discipline and regimentation they had instilled in boot camp became much more lenient.

"In Vietnam, you weren't spit and polish. You could have your hair a little long. You didn't have to have your uniform all nice," Leroch said.

Leroch and his team—which consisted of about twelve men—were mainly responsible for what they called search and destroy. The concept was simple: search for the enemy and destroy them.

SEE LEROCH, PAGE 20, 21

Farewell to a graduating senior

The La Roche Courier congratulates the university's December 2020 graduates – and in particular, Kathleen Kenna, a contributing writer.

BY MADELINE RICCARDI
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Everyone graduates from somewhere at some point. This fall, Contributing Writer Kathleen Kenna is graduating from La Roche, and everyone in the Courier staff and English Department are going to miss her.

Kenna has been a literature major at La Roche University since she transferred here from Kent State in 2017. Since then, she has contributed to the Courier, served as an editor for La Roche's literary magazine, Nuances, and worked as a Writers' Center consultant.

Thinking back to her time at La Roche, Kenna remarked that her favorite place on campus was the Writers' Center. "There are a lot of places I like outside," the Sigma Tau Delta member said, "but in the past few semesters, I have spent so much of my time in the Writers' Center. I camp out there all day and make people visit me there, even when I am not on the clock."

Kenna enjoys Writers' Center to the extent that her favorite memories on campus are any time that she was "hanging around" with her friends there. Her time there has sparked

friendships, especially that in Dr. Jessica Ganni.

"She welcomed me into the Writers' Center and has taught me a lot about myself, writing, and teaching," Kenna said. "A few days ago, I was telling my mom something that happened in the Writers' Center, and I said, 'my friend Jess.' Then I was like 'wait no she is my boss.'"

Ganni is not the only person Kenna has something special to say about. "Dr. Bellin has been such a good professor to me," the peer counselor said. "He is so supportive, and this is my first semester that I do not have him as a professor for at least one class, which is very sad to me. His classes inspired me to become serious about my academia."

Kenna said her academia is important to her, and that "I am hoping to go to grad school. I would like to either become a professor or a starving poet. I can never decide what I want to do with my life, so I am applying to various programs like English, American studies, and writing."

Writing is a significant part of Kenna's life, even if she did not work in the Writers' Center. She discussed how she began writing

for the Courier after she entered a 2019 contest hosted by the paper. "I entered on a whim, with absolutely no training or experience with journalism and that style of writing," Kenna said. "I really enjoyed writing my first article, and my recent piece about the history of pandemics."

History is among Kenna's favorite subjects, especially in classes at La Roche. "I think I'm a huge nerd, and I was definitely into the class American English: Its History and Development more than everyone else, but it was absolutely fascinating to me. Dr. Jordan is awesome," Kenna said.

"Issues in American Literature II with Dr. Bellin is one of my favorite classes. We read a few of my favorite books and poems," Kenna said, "and some of the lectures he gave were absolutely electric. One class he talked about Romanticism evolving into Modernism, and it was the best lecture I ever had."

Lectures are a big part of the school experience at every college, but La Roche has a unique social status, according to Kenna.

"You don't have to have the stereotypical college experience to learn and excel," the National

Novel Writing Month participant said. "A lot of my friends went to schools in college towns, joined a sorority, and every weekend would post pictures of them going to frat parties. For a while, I felt like I was missing out, but at La Roche I met great people and learned a lot."

As her time of learning at La Roche comes to an end, Kenna looks forward to her graduation. She said, "Graduating is pretty scary. I have decided to try to just make the best of things, and I think everyone else should too."

"I have been thinking about how I would feel if I were the same age during WWII, or the 1918 Pandemic, but humanity will preserve, unless a meteor takes us out like the dinosaurs."

Kenna did not want to graduate without saying a special thank you to a few professors. "I would like to acknowledge specifically Sister Rita, Dr. Lumley, Professor Stankowski, and Professor White. They have supported me in different ways, and I want to thank them," Kenna said. "I would actually like to acknowledge every professor I have ever had here because I liked them all."

Messages to Kathleen Kenna

"I always appreciated Kathy's humor and honesty in her writing. On behalf of the Courier, we're all very appreciative of her contributions and we will miss having her on our staff. We wish her the very best!" – Julia Felton

"The first time I met Kathy, she instantly reminded me of Jennifer Lawrence. Kathy is sweet, intelligent, and a beautiful person inside and out. I got the chance to know Kathy better as we became coworkers at the Writers' Center. I know that she will go on to do amazing things, and I want to wish her the best of luck in everything that she does! We will miss you! Best wishes." – Lucia BouDargham

"I love Kathy! Kathy is such an amazing and talented writer. I have been so lucky to read some of her stuff throughout the years that I have known her! She's an awesome person all around and I really can't wait to see her succeed in her future!" – Taylor Ellis

"Kathleen was a joy to teach, not only because she's bright and per-

ceptive and outspoken, but because she loves to learn. In class, she kept everyone--including me--on their toes by refusing to settle for easy answers, while outside of class, she always looked for opportunities to grow, whether by attending author lectures or by participating in our campus novel-writing group. I'll be sad to see her leave La Roche, but I expect to hear great things about her in the future." – Dr. Joshua Bellin

"Kathleen has become one of my greatest inspirations and friends. Not only is she a constant light in my life, she inspires me to always do better, work harder, and read more! I will always appreciate her willingness to help me, whether it's with MLA format, my photography project, or my boy drama. She's like a wise old owl trapped in a 22-year-old woman's body. She's constantly teaching me things, telling me fun facts, and is always supportive." – Sarah Hefferin

"Kathleen, you were one of the very first friends I made at La Roche

my freshman year. I've enjoyed getting to know you over the past few years and all the times we've spent together. Good luck to you in your grad school program- you are the brightest student I know, and you are going to accomplish amazing things! I don't know who will go to the North Park Lounge twice in one day with me now, but so it goes." –Katie Friend

"Kathy has been a joy to work with at the Writers' Center. I am going to miss joking around with her, her keen fashion sense, and especially our talks about poetry and life." – Lindsay Bennett

"I haven't known her for very long, but I do know that I will miss her. Kathleen, you are a kind and awesome person who has always been super helpful and welcoming to me, and for that, I will always be thankful. I am going to miss you." – Madeline Riccardi

"What I think I have always loved most about her is what I seldom see in today's students: an insatiable curiosity about the world

and knowledge in general. Having taught for more than half a century, I cherish students such as Kathleen. I know that one day she will get her graduate degree, and I hope I live long enough to read the book that I know is already brewing in her brain. I am proud to have helped her in a small way toward that journey." – Sister Rita Yeasted

"I can't recall a single time that Kathy promised something and didn't deliver. I think that sounds superhuman, and it is probably inaccurate (because who could achieve such a thing), but I can't recall a moment to the contrary. Yet, I am sure Kathy will remember and can name moments when she would say she messed up. That is because she's critical of her own performance in the way you'd expect from someone who takes responsibility for their commitments and wants to continually improve and learn over time." – Jessica Ganni

Mask Sale, continued from page 8

after buying masks from her co-worker who has been selling them at the hospital where they work,” Bowman said. “She was more than happy to supply us with all of the handmade masks.”

The Mask Sale has been a success, according to VanGrootenbruel’s estimation of over 100 masks sold. The Marketing Club sold the masks for \$10.00 each and donated half of the profits to the Mrs. Claus Club.

According to VanGrootenbruel’s estimation, the Marketing Club raised \$500 for the organization.

Senior Club Member Carly Burdett also believes that the sale was a success. She said, “I do believe it was successful because we managed to raise money for a good cause. Every little bit counts, even if we would have raised \$100 or \$5,000.”

When asked who the success was due to, Bowman said it was both the students and faculty of La Roche. Bowman said, “Our faculty has been wonderful with helping us promote our fundraiser by telling other colleagues about it. Our students have been

just as supportive.”

Even though the club sold masks designed specifically to support those with breast cancer, they had a range of patterns that changed daily.

Burdett said that their three most popular patterns were “the turkey pattern, Breast Cancer Awareness pattern, and Steelers mask.”

Bowman agrees that those are the most popular patterns, but he admitted that there could be change. Although he originally scheduled the mask sale to end on Oct. 31, he has extended the sale.

“We will continue to sell our masks until Nov. 12,” Bowman said. “We received more Thanksgiving and Christmas patterns that will be great as gifts for the holidays. The Christmas masks that we just received are snowman or Santa Claus with poinsettias on the inside layer.”

Bowman says he is eager to keep selling masks. “I think that it is extremely important to help women and their families who are going through tough times,” Bowman said.

Election Reaction, continued from page 4

policies he’ll likely try to enact quickly. Among them are a new covid-19 strategy and rejoining the Paris Climate Accord. Biden has also said that he’d end the construction of the border wall along the U.S.-Mexican border and establish new rules to allow DACA children to remain in the U.S., enable families to apply for asylum without waiting in Mexico and eliminate the policy of expelling unaccompanied children from the country. Biden also claimed he’d end the immigration ban from a number of Muslim-majority countries, Forrest noted.

Those policy changes, Forrest said, would likely be executed via executive orders, meaning Biden wouldn’t need support from Congress.

But other measures would require cooperation from Congress – which could slow Biden’s plans, as the Senate seems likely to remain under Republican control.

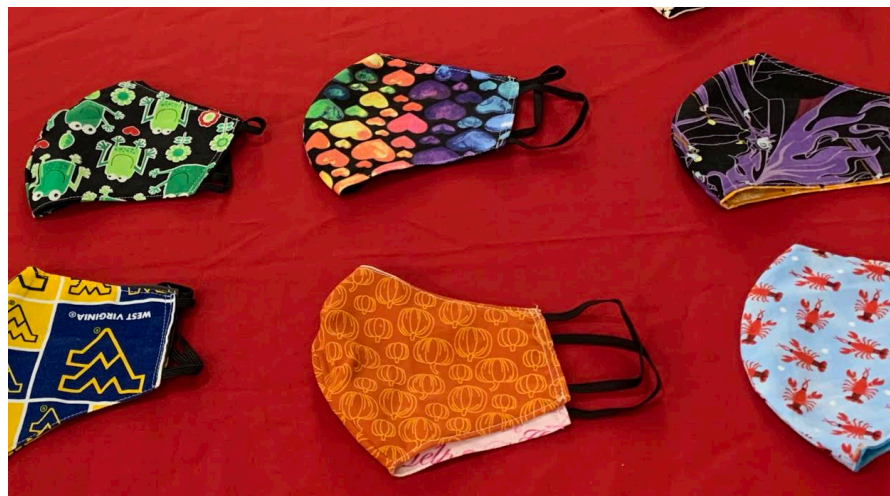
Forrest pointed to broader policy changes on topics regarding taxation, federal budget spending, infrastructure and federal aid for college students as measures that would require bills to be passed by Congress.

“In the event that the Senate remains under the control of the Republican Party (as seems likely), there is indeed likely to be policy gridlock for at least the first two years of the Biden presidency,” Forrest said, noting that a third of Senators will be up for reelection in 2022. “The Senate will be able to block Biden’s legislative proposals, and Biden will be able to veto the Senate’s bills.”

If Democrats would win control of the Senate in 2022 – with local Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) retiring and likely creating a heated race for his seat – Biden would have more opportunity to pass legislation during the latter half of the term.

“In the event that the Senate remains under the control of the Republican Party, there is indeed likely to be a policy gridlock for at least the first two years.”

-Dr. Joshua Forrest



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The Marketing Club sold masks as a fundraising event.

Retail Therapy, continued from page 6

So, what do we do to stop this dependence on our favorite mood lifter during a serious life-changing event? Synchronybank.com gives us a few good suggestions when it comes to controlling our spending habits. They encourage you to try and shop at local businesses, so that if you are going to spend your money it is also helping those who are really struggling right now.

They also encourage you to leave your item in the shopping cart for a 24-hour period to determine if you really want what you

have picked out. This is doubly effective because not only does it cut down on what you buy, it makes you feel better about what you do end up purchasing because you genuinely thought about it.

Lastly, they encourage you to reach out and get support from either the people around you or from a medical professional. A support system can help you resist the need to shop to feel in control and connect you to those you are closest to.

“John Wick: Chapter 2,” continued from page 10

plored. Kolstad also introduces some much-needed dark humor, mostly surrounding the power of the titular character.

Keanu Reeves delivers another brilliant performance, that confirms nobody else could have played the part. This is largely in part to his dedication to training. Reeves underwent further tactical training, making the action even more believable this time. The audience is able to buy into the insanity, knowing that Reeves is actually doing most of the jaw dropping stunts.

Reeves’ former “The Matrix” co-star Laurence Fishburne joins the impressive cast, and gives a great performance. His character is older and more experienced than John, and helps show the extensiveness of this society. Ian McShane delivers another fantastic performance as Winston, an executive of sorts. Lance Reddick also returns, and despite getting slightly more to work with, is ultimately underutilized.

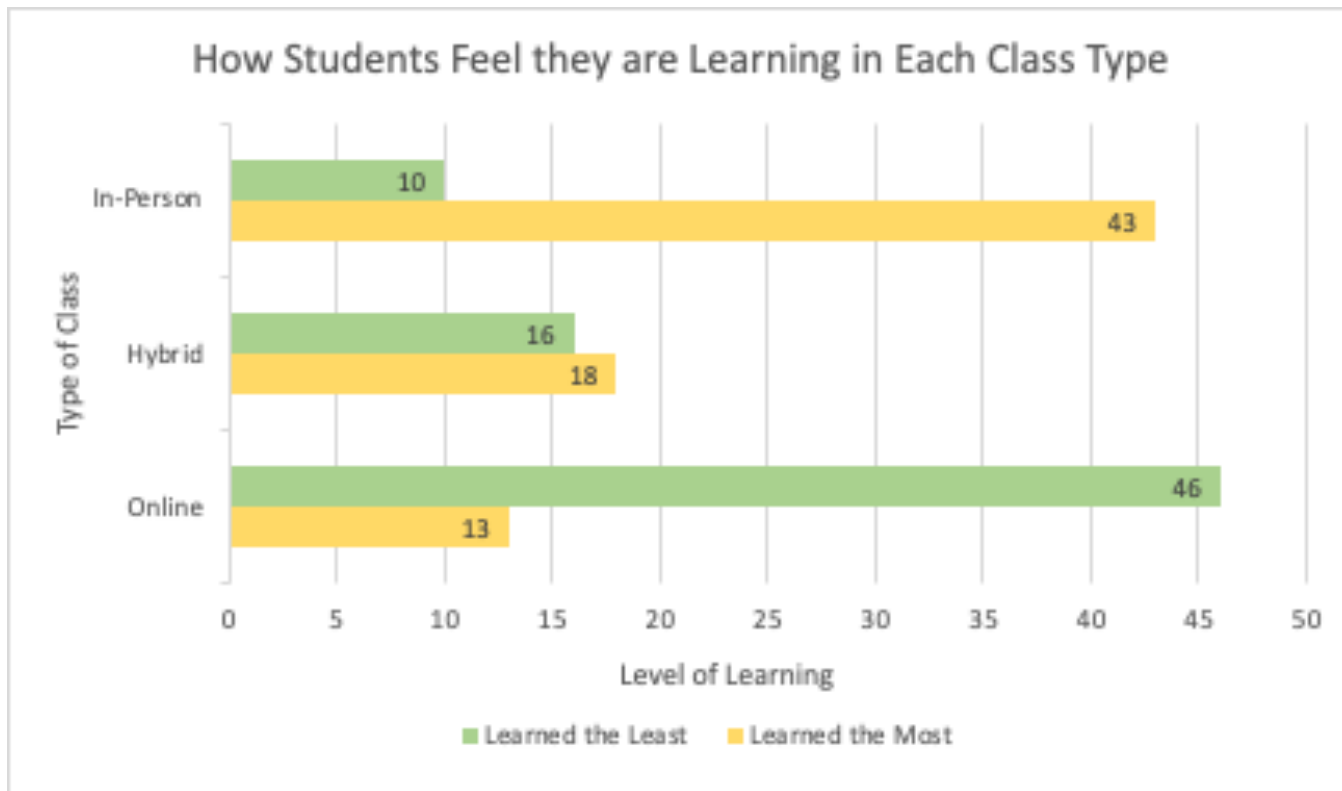
Once again, the action scenes take center stage in “John Wick:

Chapter 2.” This time, John fights through New York garages, Rome’s catacombs, and intricate art galleries. These locations clearly distinguish the fights, and lead to some truly unexpected moments. The choreography is vastly improved, making every fight feel like a melodic ballet of stunt men.

The soundtrack by Tyler Bates and Joel J. Richard takes many familiar themes and genres, and modifies them to fit the “John Wick” universe. The wonderful soundtrack ranges from western-inspired showdown tracks to electronic bass-heavy beats. Each song is precisely placed to reflect the action, character moments, and tone.

“John Wick: Chapter 2” proves that a sequel can surpass the original in many ways. It is a film that respects the foundation set by the first, but innovates wherever it can. The end result is a modern action classic, that fans of the genre will undoubtedly enjoy.

Learning Survey, continued from page 2



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The survey asked which type of class students they feel they learned the least and the most in. This infographic shows the number of participants who chose each type of class.

they are learning the most. The respondents had the options of hybrid, online, and in-person.

Those who responded described where they learned the most:

- 59 percent in in-person classes
- 25 percent in hybrid classes
- 18 percent in online classes

Classes come in many different types this semester, each depending on a variety of factors. Classes on campus can be structured as in-person, but students may Zoom

into class if they are quarantining or unable to make it to campus.

Zoom is not popular among the respondents of the survey, as 45 students said they found Zoom distracting or difficult to use. An 18-year-old freshman said, “I don’t engage that much online and tend to drift off a little more than I do in person.”

Not every student on campus has a dislike of Zoom. A freshman management major said, “Sometimes I find it hard to pay attention during online classes, but I enjoy being in the comfort of my room during them.”

Hybrid classes on campus also rely on Zoom. The structure of these classes at La Roche is to have half the class in-person during one class session while the other half uses Zoom. Those in-person and those on Zoom then switch for the next class session.

La Roche students favor hybrid classes. “I have been thankful for the hybrid option,” a junior undergraduate student said. “I am a parent with two children, and it has saved me from missing any of my classes.”

“I prefer to have hybrid. If I had classes where all I did was

teach myself, I may as well find the book online, not pay the school for the class, and just teach myself,” an undergraduate student said.

Hybrid classes may be more popular than purely Zoom courses, but in-person classes are by far the most popular on campus.

Fifty-nine percent of La Roche students say that they have learned the most this semester in their in-person classes.

“I learn better in person. Always have, always will. In-person gives me the ability to see my professors and talk with them. I’m also more productive,” a sophomore biology major said, “and pay attention in class. I like being able to participate and actually be face-to-face with my professors.”

A senior undergraduate student said, “I learn better in a classroom with face-to-face interaction and without the distraction of technical difficulties.”

Students cited technical difficulties frequently as the reason they preferred in-person classes the most. Of the 72 respondents, 26 said that they believed computer or internet problems were keeping them from learning efficiently.

“It is hard to focus when the class is online,” a sophomore exercise and sports science major said. “Some professors encounter many technical difficulties, particularly with Zoom. This delays the start of class and can affect what we do and don’t learn.”

Eugenics Tale, continued from page 6

Upon further inspection, his reddit account is mostly a collection of him posting his theories of life and quantum physics on various scientific subreddits. He also tries to share this story to those who disagree with him on said subreddits.

The flyer also contains a graphic that shows a tree labeled “eugenics.” The roots of the tree are labelled with different sciences that supposedly feed into this practice. There is not a lot of research done about eugenics in Ligonier, especially that of Germanic European strain.

Although an archaic way of spreading news, this flyer tells a compelling story. Hopefully the author can reconcile with his past of being “bread and sold like dogs” and can find justice.

Grad School, continued from page 2

very carefully. Most schools provide pictures of their faculty, so you can pick a school with all hot professors if you want. They won’t quiz you on it, but they do expect you to talk about it in the essay you have to write for them.

This essay is called a statement of purpose at many schools. You get around 500 words to tell schools why you are amazing and what you want to do at their school.

It’s a lot of pressure for such a short paper. Mine are especially scary because, since I am applying for writing programs, I actually have to show them good writing.

Next, you have to call in every possible favor with every professor you’ve ever had so that they’ll write you a letter of recommendation. In some cases, you have the option to apply for scholarships

and assistantships. You really have to prove to grad schools that you’re worth their investment.

Most applications for the following fall are due in December or January. So, if you are thinking about going to grad school in Fall 2021, you are already behind.

Even then, most schools won’t decide if they want you until the following spring or summer. I am graduating in December, so I’ll just spend all of 2021 with chest pain until I finally hear from a school.

I can never decide what to do academia-wise (I even became an interdisciplinary studies major to avoid making a choice) so I’m applying to many different kinds of programs. Hopefully, the schools will make the decision of what to do with my life for me.

In all seriousness, I am really excited to continue my education.

I can stop being the only nerd in all my classes because grad school programs are basically all the nerdiest, most annoying people in your classes shoved together. Heaven.

If you’re applying to grad school, good luck. You deserve more education if you want it. You are worth the investment to their program. And, if anything, you are worth their admission fee.



Inclusion Forum, continued from page 1

they're not mature either. They don't have mature ideologies and that's very different from terrorist groups."

Likar went on to explain that usually, these people are minimally educated men who don't possess any underlying ideas of sophistication.

However, one of the biggest hate groups in the news right now is the militia groups in America, which Likar explained posed an even bigger threat.

"Their basic foundation is very rational," Likar said. "If you're watching the confirmation hearings about what we look to for justices on the Supreme Court, there's an ideology of looking at the Constitution, called original intent."

Original intent, or originalism, is the belief that the United States Constitution should be interpreted by those in power under the same mindset as those who originally wrote it. Likar explained that originalism is a major belief of these militia groups.

"That belief has spread quite a bit in the United States, and is quite possibly the main ideology on the Supreme Court today," Likar said.

Many council members also agreed with Likar, citing the originalism belief as a toxic trait for the country.

"If we look at originalism, women didn't have rights, Black people didn't have rights, and we've moved on from 1776. But we still have people in power who still believe in originalism, even though our society has grown. Before we had an actual army or national guard, we had people (with their own guns) but we've grown so that we don't need that anymore," student Natasha Florence said.

Florence believes that interpreting the Constitution in this way could do more harm than good, potentially spread more hate.

Militia groups themselves are founded on those ideas. This in itself makes the militia group more literate, as they have been able to read and analyze the Constitution, which sets them apart from basic bias offenders.

But, when militia group ideas are interwoven with the ideas of bias offenders, Likar said it makes them even more dangerous. And, because of their views on the Constitution, Likar noted that they are heavily connected to the Second Amendment.

He went on to explain that these members of the militia groups are very experienced with weapons and recently have even turned to explosives as ways of expressing their beliefs.



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Lawrence Likar spoke with students, faculty and administration during an inclusion forum event hosted by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

One of the most recent cases was that of the militia group in Michigan and the attempted kidnapping of Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Sources say that three of the men accused often attended "boogaloo events" and anti-lockdown protests. Boogalo is a term that the group uses to mean "civil war," according to Business Insider.

Fox News attended a protest that was hosted by the militia group "American Patriot Council" at the Michigan capitol in April. In the same article by Business Insider, they said that the group's mission is to "restore and sustain a constitutional government in the United States of America," which is written on their website.

In every image that featured them, they could be seen wielding large guns and wearing bullet-proof vests. Eight men eventually were charged with threatening to overthrow Michigan's government and kidnap the Governor.

Likar himself did research on one of the groups in Michigan as he was writing his book. Likar said that at the time, groups could be racist and anti-police. But, he warned that these groups are changing.

"They have co-opted. Members of police departments and military members have been basically joining these groups. It's not a sweeping movement, but you're finding these groups and types of members that are drawn to them," Likar said.

Because of this and their overall population base, there is a potential for police and judges to be swayed on their behalf, according to Likar. They are threatening because of their numbers. Likar said that that way of thinking is extremely difficult to ascertain, as there are very prominent figures

in our society that hold those beliefs. This includes new Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett.

They differ from bias offenders because they:

- Have a poor work performance
- Often suffer from a mental illness
- Often suffer from substance abuse
- And usually have a criminal background

Because they are originalists, Likar says that they feel that the Constitution gives them the right to take armed-action and defend themselves if they feel their rights are being infringed upon by the government or other organizations. This, according to Likar, is more involved than bias offenders.

"They're not just doing random crime," Likar said. "They are focused, more than anything, on the government."

So why is this a problem?

Likar explained that, as they evolve, they think they have the right to join police and confront protestors. He notes that they often see police as the arm of the government, and as a threat to them. By joining the police, they feel that they are attempting to make the police their friend.

This most recently can be seen with the Wisconsin shooting, in which 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse fatally shot two protestors following the shooting of Jacob Blake, who was paralyzed from his injuries. Rittenhouse felt it was his duty to protect businesses from protestors, even though he lived in Illinois.

And overall, the militia group ideas are shared with those in power, including President Trump, whom Likar describes as pro-militia. There is a right to

have these groups, but their connections to the Second Amendment and to hate is what makes them a huge threat.

"It's not unpopular to be pro-militia," Likar said.

Likar said that these young men are violent, and feel that they are the true keepers of the faith of the Constitution. Often, they find these groups give them a purpose and a chance to bond with other likeminded people. And they are fueled by hate. This year has especially been hard, with the shootings of Black Americans and the protests in response.

For students of color, they felt personally connected to the effects that hate groups have had on the country.

Jalen Achilles, another student at the council said: "The first time I remember an example of this was when I was in the fourth grade when George Zimmerman shot and killed Trayvon Martin. Every day, (the police) vow to protect and serve but Black citizens' lives are being taken on a consistent basis and it's been like that since I was 8 years old. For a decade, it's been the same thing over and over again. I'm not saying that it's hard to sympathize outside of your race, but some people really don't know what it's like to be a Black person in America."

The Diversity and Inclusion Office will continue to have these forums as a way to educate others and discuss solutions on these topics. As a result of Likar's presentation, it spurred a 45 minute conversation by members of the council, in which they discussed solutions, and ways to combat hate in the La Roche Community and the United States.

Campus Scenes



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Slang, continued from page 7

cussed a time in which a student told him that their brother's car was 'fire.' Like any inexperienced slang hearer, Tajuddin said that he "thought [the car] caught on fire."

Theodore Rectenwald, a visiting professor said that he did not have any particular feelings for the word. "I do not really have an aversion to [it]," Rectenwald said. "I am, by avocation, a philologist, so I tend to accept the evolution of language as inevitable."

Bellin, while not necessarily a fan of the word, said that 'fire' means "really awesome."

Professors at La Roche do not have to be overly fond of a word to know what it means. Dr. Linda Jordan, an English department professor, said "I could define most of [these slang] words in their usual usage."

She went on to discuss the term 'shade,' a term used to describe when someone uses casual disrespect toward another. She hit the nail right on the head, as she said, "'shade' is a subtle insult or criticism, usually not direct or verbal, as in 'Barack Obama is a master of shade.'"

On the term 'shade,' Jordan went on to say, "'shade' is used on political twitter about every

90 seconds. Youth slang loses its impact when older people use it."

Adults using youth slang terms is not something that six of the interviewed professors think is appropriate. English department professor Dr. Michelle Maher said, "I don't try to use my students' slang. That would be weird."

Although professors like Maher are not willing to use the terms, some are open to it. Tajuddin appeared open to using slang in the classroom.

"I can see myself using 'extra,'" Tajuddin said, "in a class discussion on wealth, power, and prestige inequalities."

He went on to discuss other slang terms, including the word 'yeet.' Young Americans use this particular slang word commonly when one is discarding something, whether words or objects, at a high speed.

Of the word, Tajuddin said, "'Yeet,' if used in exclamation, is what it sounds like when a kitten had just got its tail stepped on - I've accidentally done that once before."

Technology, continued from page 3

But the "laroche" network does have some disadvantages compared to "laroche-secure," Gardner said.

"The downside to this is you cannot connect to any La Roche websites or on-campus services. Since 'laroche' is an open network, the traffic between your device and the wall AP (access-point) in your room is susceptible to snooping," he said, though he claimed it shouldn't cause a problem on Zoom classes. Students can simply switch back to the "laroche-secure" option when not using Zoom.

"Never do anything requiring privacy such as secure banking on any open network," Gardner added. The "laroche-secure" wi-fi is secure and safe from snooping, he said.

Though some students complain of poor wi-fi connection around campus, Gardner said students should see "very good coverage in all the areas served by the campus network," including all the classrooms and common areas outside the residence halls, as well as Bold Union room and Mahler lounge.

There are 95 wireless access points on campus, according to Gardner.

Each dorm room or suite has its own wired Comcast modem. The white box on the wall in each dorm room is a wireless access point that connects to the modem, Gardner explained.

Though technically prohibited in the dorms, many students bring their own wi-fi routers into their dorms, hoping to get a stronger or faster connection. But, according to Gardner, they could be slowing down the wi-fi for neighboring rooms.

"Anytime there are multiple wireless devices in close proximity to each other, there is a chance of interference," he said. "The further apart the APs are, the less interference there will be. An access point in one room may or may not have significant impact on an AP [in] another room."

For students facing technical difficulties on campus, Gardner recommended contacting the Student Help Desk at 412-847-2300.

Cole said students can also contact him directly at Laird. Cole@LaRoche.edu or 412-847-2360.

Bayer, continued from page 7

the University of Notre Dame. He also holds more than 10 honorary doctorates, and was chosen as the inaugural Pennsylvania poet laureate.

Throughout his life, he has taught, spoke, and been a mentor to many. One of those includes Bayer, whose story and eventual biography of Hazo spans decades.

It was the 80s, and Bayer was a sophomore at Duquesne University. As an English major, she was required to take a poetry writing workshop and attend poetry forums. That was the moment she met Hazo.

“After the first (forum) I was completely hooked,” Bayer said.

The poetry forum and Hazo became huge influences in Bayer’s life almost immediately, and stuck with her as she continued her education. Hazo was one of the few that inspired her to want to teach as a college professor.

Hazo was a big reason Bayer switched from law to teaching, essentially redirecting the course of her professional life.

As Bayer went straight from her undergraduate to her graduate degree at Duquesne University, she earned the position of grad assistant, and taught a freshman English course. For one of those two years as she earned her degree, Hazo was her mentor and eventually became a friend.

Hazo taught her some of the most valuable skills and advice on how to teach. And then, after graduation, Bayer was able to go on and teach at State College and then in Cleveland. Even when she briefly held a corporate communications job, she continued to teach adjunct positions at Cleveland State University and at Lakeland Community College.

Seventeen years later, in the late 90s, as soon as Bayer came back to Pittsburgh, she started visiting with Hazo again. And Bayer asked Hazo if anyone had written his biography before.

He said no and that biographies aren’t that exciting. But that never dissuaded Bayer.

So each time Bayer met with Hazo, she asked if she could write his biography. And each time, he said no.

One day in 2008, after Bayer had asked Hazo about the biography again, he finally decided to discuss the possibility. He told Bayer that if she could make a biography that didn’t look scholarly and analytical that everyone would be bored with, she could make it happen.

They decided on a format that allowed Hazo to pick some of his most pivotal poems that Bayer would then interview him about.

She would get the backstory and end up telling the story of Hazo’s life and work through these poems that he selected.

Hazo liked the idea because he said that the biography should be a story, rather than some big heavy analysis. The two were set to start picking the poems a week later.

Then tragedy struck. Between the two scheduled meetings, Hazo’s wife Mary Anne was diagnosed with dementia.

“I’ve never seen a couple like Sam and Mary Anne,” Bayer said. “Sam decided he wanted to take care of her full time and so he didn’t want anyone around while she was sick. And for eight years, we put the book on hold.”

Mary Anne died in 2018. And shortly after, Hazo had asked again if Bayer was still interested in writing the book.

From that point on, the pair didn’t stop working on the book. For two years, Bayer researched, interviewed, and wrote. Bayer has hundreds of hours of interviews and transcripts of the interviews between herself and Hazo.

“Once Sam started talking, he just talked and talked and talked,” Bayer said. “We realized that, the eight poems that we originally started with—we needed to add more. And the project started growing and developing and it soon became clear that this project wasn’t just going to be a small story about his life; it was going to be much more expansive.”

When a topic was determined, such as teaching or family or his time in the war, Hazo would pick out a poem that he felt best represented that topic, and Bayer would expand upon it. She would read and study the poem so that she could know the poem inside and out.

From there, Bayer would ask Hazo for his process: what inspired him, how he wrote it, and what it represents.

Bayer said, “So much of his poetry really just comes from his life experiences, and he says it as it happened.”

As each poem was connected to the next, it became bigger and better. It became Hazo’s entire life story.

The biography begins with his family in Lebanon and tells the stories of what he was like as a young boy. Bayer said she used flashbacks to talk about Hazo’s life with his aunt and brother after his mother’s death.

The next chapter discusses his scholarship and time at Notre Dame, because it had such an impact on his life as a poet. It is followed by how he became a marine

and then transitioned to teacher.

All of chapter three is about Mary Anne: their courtship, marriage, and birth of their son. Chapter four focuses on the poetry forum, followed by Mary Anne’s illness and eventual death.

Bayer said that they ended Hazo’s life story with chapter five, and that six and seven focus on the analysis of Hazo’s themes that his poetry focuses on, as well as his poetic technique and development through the years.

As they developed each chapter and the project grew, Bayer knew she needed more time, so she eventually applied for and received a sabbatical. She hired interns to help her with research and to create a website to house Hazo’s poems and biography. And most importantly, she continued to write.

She finally finished the book in the fall of 2019, and reached out to Franciscan University Press, who had been a fan of Hazo and his work. The head editor loved the book, and so did her other readers, but they suggested additional edits. Bayer called upon La Roche University professor Dr. Adria Kelleher, for her help in editing the book. They worked all through Christmas break to get the book ready again for publishing and, she considers Kelleher to be her saving grace.

Bayer’s book was then resubmitted this past February. However, due to the pandemic, the press did not accept her book until October. They plan to publish it soon.

This is Bayer’s first time writing a biography, and considers it to be a different type of biography because of the dual voices that come through.

“I’ve never written a biography before; I think biographies are generally boring. But the cool thing about the book is that it’s a new genre. It’s a literary biography, but it’s not a scholarly analysis—it’s more of a story. Sam’s voice is in it. This is very much a first-person account because so much of Sam is in it because of the interviews,” Bayer said.

Bayer said that, because she and Hazo were such great friends, it made the research, interviewing and writing that much easier. But often, due to his loss of Mary Anne, there were times when interviewing could be an emotional process.

“A really hard part of this was that I was with him every single week for these interviews, and it was agonizing,” Bayer said. “He was heartbroken.”

But Bayer believes the book allowed Hazo to work through

the grief he was feeling, because it gave him an opportunity to talk about the happy times with his wife and their son.

In addition, it often was a challenge because the two looked at the book thematically, rather than chronologically. Bayer was often faced with a mountain of transcripts and had to make sense of how they should be written in the book.

“It was a massive challenge—it took me thousands of hours. It took me thousands of hours of research, travel, and organization,” Bayer said. “I had piles of things everywhere so I could visually see things; it was very challenging to figure out what the organization to be.”

Those thousands of hours of recordings meant that there were thousands of hours of information. Bayer said that, arguably, determining what shouldn’t have been in the book was harder than determining what should have been.

“By the end of two years, when you’re meeting with someone every single week, you’ve got a lot of material,” Bayer said.

But having an abundance of material made it worth it. The book itself will feature Hazo’s poems, accompanied by the interviews with Hazo, Bayer’s own writing, and countless photos. Bayer said that her goal was to simply share Sam Hazo with the audience, to explore the life he led and the philosophies that he held.

“At its very heart, it is a story about Sam Hazo,” Bayer said. “When you read this book, you will know Sam Hazo.”

After decades of knowing Hazo, writing about Hazo, and then finally finishing the book, Bayer said the process didn’t mean she was just learning about him. She was learning more about herself.

Bayer said: “I learned that the primary motivating factor for writing this book, as Michelle Maher so beautifully put it, (was that it was) ‘a labor of love.’ I wanted to do it for Sam. I love Sam. He is somebody that I looked up to, respected, and admired since 1980, and the fact that I could do this about him and for him made me so happy. So any day that I felt discouraged or tired, I’d think to myself, ‘I’m doing this for Sam.’ If love is your motivating factor, you can pretty much do anything.”

Mum's the Word



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“The Invisible Man,” continued from page 10

victims, highlighting the difficulties they often face. This is done with expertise, never forcing it to happen. Rather, the film unfolds naturally, which helps convey the message Whannell is trying to get across.

Elizabeth Moss gives a career defining performance as a tormented individual, whose strength and perseverance enable her to put up a fight. Oliver Jackson-Cohen is perfectly despicable, despite having a minor on-screen presence. When Moss and Jackson-Cohen are together, the film fires at all cylinders, delivering a mix of quality acting and nail-biting tension.

Aldis Hodge delivers a layered performance as James Lanier, a father and close friend of Cecilia. Hodge's character gives the film some much needed levity, and stands out as particularly memorable. Michael Dorman plays Tom Griffin, brother of Adrian Griffin. Dorman's character is surprisingly complex, largely due to his performance. Dorman adds a level of subtlety to the character, making his scenes much more engaging to watch.

“The Invisible Man” features some extremely clever special effects. While there is a slight over-reliance on computer generated effects, the film wildly succeeds in this department. The complicated special effects were achieved mostly with an actor in a green screen suit. This permitted tangible interaction for the actors on set, and enabled the invisibility of the titular character.

The film is also an exercise in patience. Whannell exercises extremely effective hesitation with his script, slowly building to climactic events. This helps audiences relate to Moss, questioning the legitimacy of every scene. This technique aligns with Whannell's updated vision for the character, placing audiences in the same position as the victim.

“The Invisible Man” is a perfect modernization of a classic character, technological milestone, and immensely satisfying film. Fans of the genre will be surprised by the clever scares and unpredictable narrative. Those not traditionally interested in horror will likely find merit in the surprisingly powerful social commentary. “The Invisible Man” is a film worth checking out due to its strong narrative, talented cast, and perpetually important message.

Writers' Center, continued from page 3

“I've found the online appointments to be just as efficient as the in-person appointments we're used to,” says tutor Katherine Friend, a junior Professional Writing and Journalism major.

However, she admits that the social interaction is not the same.

“A huge part of being a writing tutor is connecting personally with the students and that definitely doesn't translate as well on screen versus in person,” Friend said.

Lucia Bou Dargham, Writers' Center tutor and senior Professional Writing and Journalism major, also misses the face-to-face connection with students.

“One of the things I love the most about working at the Writ-

ers' Center is meeting people from different backgrounds,” said Bou Dargham.

“The Writers' Center is so much more than a place for students to turn to for academic help, it is a place where friendships are formed and a familial bond is established between the tutors and students.”

While the switch to online tutoring has had its difficulties, Writers' Center staff are handling the transition well.

“I've been pleasantly surprised by how efficient working on Zoom is,” said Lindsay Bennett, Master Writing Tutor. She assures students that online appointments are just as effective as in-person appointments.

“We have found a way to turn things around and Zoom with students, which is the next best thing,” said Bou Dargham.

All the tutors are ready to help, even if it can't be face-to-face.

“It's true that we miss seeing everyone, but we are all in this together and we at the center are always there for anyone that needs us,” Bou Dargham said.

As the end of the semester approaches, the Writers' Center is open and ready to help students. Jess Ganni, the Writers' Center director, encouraged students to reach out for any kind of help. Email her at Jessica.ganni@laroche.edu or visit the center's website laroche.mywconline.com.

SGA, continued from page 1

"I haven't heard back from anyone yet about issues regarding what they received," Polacek said, after sending the budget to club presidents. "I mentioned that should they use up all their money, there is the unallocated part, as well as certain grants."

David Day, director of student development and an SGA sponsor, said that there are engagement and travel grants that cover expenses like going to conferences. He noted that the budget SGA proposed is meant to cover operational expenses, but big-ticket items can be funded through his office.

The board also began planning their annual SGA project. Florence explained that they had \$3,000 for the project which is designed to allow the group "to give something to the campus."

Florence said she wanted to vote on a project idea by the end of the semester. She encouraged everyone to consider ideas that were feasible and would benefit the La Roche community.

"We realize that this is something we really want to do and we want to make sure it's something we're actually physically able to do for the school. Take into account the price and everything going on," she said.

Top ideas so far included renovating the gazebo next to Schneider Hall and constructing a Redhawk statue on campus.

Day suggested they create a survey to gauge which of those options students would prefer.

"You can put it out there to the student body once you clarify some of your visions for it," he said. "Let the students decide and see what they think would be best. At the very least, work to gain input from students so that you're making decisions with them in mind."

The board also continued discussions regarding installing a Black Lives Matter mural on campus, which SGA Executive Vice President Amiel Francis said he believed would make the campus feel more inclusive. The mu-

ral would represent the idea that black lives matter, but would not be affiliated with the actual organization.

Francis said he wanted to finalize a proposal for the project before his next meeting with university President Sister Candace Introcaso.

"Sister Candace does have knowledge of the mural and it would be pretty awkward going to another meeting with Sister Candace without anything to present," he said.

Individual SGA members also worked toward their own goals for the remainder of the academic year:

- Rochelle Selzer, director of clubs and organizations, said she held a round table meeting for club presidents, which went "pretty good – just not many people showed up." Selzer said she planned to hold another before winter break to discuss plans for the spring semester.

- SGA Academic Vice President Riley Polacek said she met

with La Roche Academic Vice President and Senior Provost Dr. Howard Ishiyama. "We talked about how happy we are to make it to almost the end of the semester with very, very, very minimal cases. We're very appreciative of that, being able to stay on campus," she said.

She said they also discussed the outlook for spring semester, which included eliminating spring break to discourage students from travelling without time to quarantine before returning to campus in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic.

- Jared Woods, director of athletics and intramurals, said he was having a hard time planning intramurals with the school's current covid-19 restrictions. "We'll definitely do something in the spring when we can plan out better and there's warmer weather," he said. "It's getting cold right now and inside stuff is hard with restrictions."

"The Trial of the Chicago 7," continued from page 10

testified, seemed to fight against the very ideals the youth of that time were battling: the Man and the Vietnam war.

Five out of seven were convicted for inciting riot, but all were acquitted of conspiracy. During the trial, the judge sentenced all of them for many sentences of contempt of court. The judge issued a total of 175 citations for this. One of the instances that resulted in contempt of court was Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin reporting to court wearing judges robes. When they were forced to

remove these robes, they revealed that they were wearing police uniforms underneath.

Despite the trial becoming almost comedic at some points, it was extremely poignant. The defendants represented a revolt that was at a boiling point.

While the release of the movie was initially postponed due to coronavirus, it conveniently comes to us during time it mirrors: full of turmoil, revolt, and a youth population trying to fight back.

Study Tips, continued from page 2

own study guide, etc."

Organization, Atkinson said, is paramount both before and during a test.

"Before the exam starts, you will need to know when to log in and how long you are allotted to take the exam and if you have multiple attempts. As always, alert your instructors of any technical issues (in the moment, not after the fact). Check all your work before submitting your test or project," Atkinson said.

For students with essay exams, Atkinson recommended writing the essays elsewhere and copying and pasting them into the online exam. That method allows for easy editing, she said.

Students should also click the 'save' button often if applicable, she said.

"Stay motivated while you continue to take ownership of your personal and academic success," Atkinson said.

Students should also click the 'save' button often if applicable.

Spring Outlook, continued from page 1

ties, which may be in short supply thanks to the pandemic.

The university still plans to hold an in-person commencement ceremony on May 8, Ishiyama said.

a traditional classroom environment. Ishiyama said the university is addressing concerns with new teaching modalities by implementing a new position, Director of Instructional Design.

"It could look very different than what has been done before and will largely depend upon the virus, but we will do everything we can to retain the community atmosphere regardless of methodology."

-Dr. Howard Ishiyama

"It could look very different than what has been done before, and will largely depend upon the virus, but we will do everything we can to retain the community atmosphere regardless of the methodology," Ishiyama said.

Even if the ceremony is altered or cancelled, graduating seniors will be able to purchase caps and gowns and they will receive their honor cords.

With hybrid and online courses still offered in the spring semester, Ishiyama also addressed student concerns regarding the new learning platforms.

In September, a Courier survey revealed that nearly 80 percent of students believed they learned less in online classes last spring than they would have in

Ishiyama said Dr. Michaela Noakes will fill the role.

"She will be assisting faculty through the rest of this semester (and next semester) as they prepare their courses for spring semester to enhance remote student engagement and learning," Ishiyama said, adding that she will continue to teach in the information systems technology department, too.

For students who struggle with hybrid and online courses, Ishiyama encouraged them to turn on their cameras during Zoom classes and ask questions.

Leroch, continued from page 11

“You’d go out and look for the North Vietnamese or the Viet Cong. You’d go and you’d try to sort out who was there,” Leroch explained. “The guerrillas would stay and fight. The North Vietnamese Army would retreat most of the time until you got them in an area to fight.”

Leroch reminisced on a scene he’d seen unfold several times.

A group of American soldiers were standing together, probably talking about the lives they left behind in America or the entertainment that they’d get to enjoy on base next week. Some of them had lit cigarettes hanging out of their mouths, the scent of cigarette smoke mingling with the odor of men who hadn’t seen a shower in up to three weeks.

A young Vietnamese boy approached them slowly.

They watched him with suspicion, as if he were a stray animal that might be rabid. The Americans had developed a learned distrust of the Vietnamese. They’d watched civilians shoot at them as thanks for offering food in their villages. They’d watched the Vietnamese man who worked as a barber on the American base join the North Vietnamese in a ground attack against the very men whose hair he’d cut the day before. In Vietnam, even a young child couldn’t be trusted.

“GI, look, I got something for you,” the boy said as he came closer.

He was grasping something tightly in his little hand. He kept his fingers curled around the mysterious present, his knuckles turning white.

He waited until he was just close enough before unfurling his fingers to reveal the gift he’d brought for the American soldiers.

A hand grenade.

He threw it at the soldiers, injuring or killing everyone there—including himself.

Perhaps that explains why Leroch had such difficulties trusting the Vietnamese. He said he only ever trusted one Vietnamese man during the war.

“We had a guide who was Vietnamese,” he said. “He was always with us and he was always out in front. You learned to trust him.”

Leroch insisted he never felt much of a bond with the Vietnamese. The American politicians may have had lofty notions about how the Americans were there to save the Vietnamese from communism and deliver them to the light of democracy. But in reality, most Vietnamese people Leroch encountered hated

the Americans.

Despite the hostilities, Leroch would go to the orphanages armed with hard candy to feed the Vietnamese children through the fence.

Leroch went to Vietnam as a lance corporal. Two combat promotions later, he left the Corps as a sergeant.

Leroch is humble about his service. He calls his two combat promotions “being in the right place at the right time.”

They were under fire. “The sergeant was ahead of me,” Leroch said. “He got injured. So I just took over—naturally.”

Leroch’s actions that day earned him a promotion, but that’s not what he was thinking about in the moment. He said he was only concerned with finishing the mission. “We were in a firefight. I was just calling, ‘Come

“We couldn’t do a lot of what they could do to us. It’d be like me spitting on you and you can’t spit back. They’d throw stuff at us. They’d shoot at us. You’d go into a village and give them food and you come back the next time and they’d shoot you.”

-Robert Leroch

on, let’s go, let’s go.’ It was just instinct,” Leroch said.

Once he became a sergeant, Leroch was forced to overcome his shy nature. He strived to be a good leader—though he said it wasn’t always a job he particularly enjoyed.

“I tried to do it fairly—like I wanted to be treated,” he said. “I wanted to be one of the guys.”

But Leroch did want to look out for these men. They fought in small units that became families. “It’s a bond. Brothers. You would do anything for them—anything,” Leroch said.

The men bonded over the extreme circumstances of war. They bonded over watching men die. They bonded over struggling through combat together.

But they also bonded over simple things, like mail. “You’d get a letter from home, saying your mom died. Well, you can’t do anything about it,” Leroch said. “So, we’d try to sympathize with him, try to get him to forget. You went through all the emotions together.”

“Dear Johns were the worst,” he added.

Sometimes the mail brought happier tidings. “For Christmas, my mother sent me a little live pine tree,” Leroch reminisced. “I got a picture of it at home where we decorated it. Christmas was a big holiday for us.”

But holidays weren’t always sacred.

Tet marked the Vietnamese New Year. It was a major holiday for the Vietnamese, so the Americans offered a ceasefire.

“We were going to honor them by not fighting during Tet,” Leroch said. “Well, the next thing you know we’re getting rockets thrown at us and bullets shot at us—and we can’t shoot back.”

In moments like that, Leroch said he felt the politicians orchestrating the war from the U.S. didn’t even know what they were going through.

For the Americans, there were rules for war. They had to honor

by then, it was almost a fact of life.”

The men who died in Vietnam were transported back to the States on what they called the Freedom Bird, a Pan Am with metaled up windows. Leroch remembered watching them load the caskets. “You knew they were coming home,” he said.

After his 13-month deployment was finished, Leroch was offered the chance to go home. He decided to volunteer to fight for six more months.

“I had no reason to come back. I had nothing at home,” Leroch said. At that point, his girlfriend—who now happens to be his wife—had broken up with him. He wasn’t eager to return to an abusive father. He figured he might as well stay and keep fighting.

In total, Leroch spent 19 months fighting in Vietnam. He received two combat promotions. He lost two friends.

When Leroch flew back to the United States, no one tried to shoot down his plane. But they weren’t shooting off celebratory fireworks either.

They landed in Los Angeles, still outfitted in their uniforms. “I got in a fight with a kid because he spit on me,” Leroch said.

While Leroch had been in the jungles of Vietnam under fire, people back home were lighting fire to their draft cards. While he was watching his fellow soldiers die, students were protesting war on their sheltered college campuses. While he’d been fighting for America, his fellow Americans began turning their backs on him.

Leroch wasn’t looking for recognition or accolades when he came home. But he did want to be treated with decency.

“You don’t have to kiss my butt or kiss my feet because I was there. But just acknowledge I was there. We did what we were told—whether it was right or wrong,” he said.

In 1971, Leroch found himself spending his nights in a hot tent he pitched in the woods once again. But this time, he wasn’t in Vietnam. He was serving in the Army Reserves.

“When I went into the Reserves, it was young people that needed help. I helped train them,” he explained. “I helped teach these kids what I knew. I taught them how to survive.”

When his military career finally came to an end, he retired as a master sergeant.

These days, Leroch doesn't think much about the war. He has a complicated view on politics, which involves a firm belief that Nixon was the best president.

He blames politicians for losing the Vietnam war, but he also defends their decisions. "I don't disrespect them. They think they're doing right," he said.

Now, he's a staunch believer in exercising civil liberties. He's proud to boast that he's voted in every election since he got back from Vietnam and he encourages everyone to be educated voters.

He also urged people to respect the flag, the office of the president, and the government in general—even when the institutions aren't perfect.

"For people like us, it's too late. Just don't repeat it to the next group."

-Robert Leroch

But most of the time, he's not concerned with politics or wars. During the summers, he spends time on his farm. In the winter, he has the perfect white beard and sparkling blue eyes to play Santa Claus.

A boxing trophy. A promotion plaque. The blanket he stole off the Pan Am plane that brought him home. The scapular he wore in Vietnam. Those are some of

the only memories Leroch keeps from the war.

But he brought home something else from Vietnam that he still carries with him today: PTSD.

The government that sent him to Vietnam didn't provide him the support he needed to come back from Vietnam. He struggled with his emotional demons. He struggled to acclimate to civilian society.

Sometimes he still struggles.

"I still won't go to fireworks," he said.

Leroch never got help to cope with his PTSD. He joined a prayer group instead.

He felt like the nation he served never tried to help him, never supported him. People hated him when he came back.

Leroch's story isn't unusual. Over 500,000 Vietnam veterans suffered from some form of post-traumatic stress disorder. Their struggles were augmented by the hatred they faced from their own nation when they returned home.

"For people like us, it's too late," Leroch said. "Just don't repeat it to the next group."

Beck, continued from page 11

sitting in the car. Rich looked around at them all, pausing on Donna, then continuing. After some hesitation, he said, "I'm leaving for the Navy tomorrow. Someone gonna write to me?" Donna, before any of the other girls could get the chance, quickly responded, "yeah, I will." The two smiled at each other, and Rich's plan had clearly worked.

The USS Caliente naval supply boat moved carefully up the maze-like Mekong Delta. Several soldiers with M16 rifles scanned the land on either side of the river for any movement. Rich, in uniform, watched the boat's radio for any activity. Rich did not have a weapon like the others, as he was an Electronics Technician. It was his job to ensure clear communication between his ship and the troops they were delivering ammunition, rations, and other necessities to.

Rich also ensured clear communication with his hometown sweetheart, as was promised. Over the past year or so, Rich had fallen wildly in love with Donna. Donna felt the same, but still, Rich worried she wouldn't wait for him. However, after a lengthy letter lecture from her, he was sure. Rich wrote back, "Thanks for the lecture and I'm convinced you love me. I don't know how I am living without you it is the worst thing I ever had to do." He had come to call her "Donut." But "Donut" was a distant dream for Rich.

Rich stood by the ship's radio and looked out at the soldiers on the deck. He observed their movements. One pointed. The others brought their notably unreliable M16s to their shoulders. There was a faint mumble among them. Rich followed the barrels of their rifles to the edge of the land. The bushes swayed. Something

was moving. Surely, it was a Viet Cong ambush. Rich scanned the river's edge, bracing for a gunfight. Then, the bushes broke, and the contents were revealed.

Rich would have preferred a gunfight.

A small child, timid but moving forward, emerged from the bushes. The fragile boy had an explosive strapped to his chest. Rich saw the men yelling at the child, poking their rifles in the air to intimidate him. Then, one of them yelled louder. Rich wanted to look away but couldn't. The boy kept advancing towards the ship. He heard a single metallic shot reverberate through the air. The boy, whose life had just barely begun, dropped to the dirt where

is how much of a good time I had with you and what it will be like after we are married." He then recalled a moment when they played the song "Donna" on the radio and how his head filled with thoughts of her. A couple of months later, Rich wrote, "Well two years and three and one half months is all I have left then I'll say so long to this stinking outfit. I just hate everything keeping us apart."

Two years and three and one half months later, Rich returned home to Donna. He had everything ready in his duffel bag: all the letters Donna had sent him, the ring he planned to give her, and his uniforms. However, when he set down the bag for a brief

Marcella said. Five years later, Andrew Beck was born. Andrew would cry and yell as a baby, but Rich had a talent for calming him down. Donna remembers, "He could calm him down. There was this lady that would bring her baby to Rich just to get him calmed down. He always had time for kids." When Donna worked evenings, Rich would play hide and seek with Marci and Andrew. Andrew took after Rich and was inspired by his father's actions. Donna recalls "Rich was my soulmate and my best friend. He was a good father and a good man."

During this time, Rich bounced from employer to employer, seeking a job. He was often rejected, being told that he wasted his time in the Navy. One employer even said that his Electronics Technician degree was worthless. He ended up selling insurance and worked as a night security guard. In time, Rich got a job he was satisfied with. He worked in an airplane construction plant in Texas. However, after the company lost their contract, Rich was laid off. Rich later became the manager of a toy store, but the store closed after some time. Finally, Rich ended up with a secure job working for a local church. The patrons grew to love him.

Despite having a decent job and the family of his dreams, something troubled Rich. Maybe it was those boys on that plane or perhaps the child from Vietnam. Nobody knew for sure, but something was off. Rich tried to avoid talking about Vietnam at all costs. When Donna attempted to talk to Rich about his experiences, Rich responded, "I don't want to talk about it. I want to forget it."

"The whole time we were married, he didn't like the parades, the noise, the planes. He didn't like being in crowds," Donna recalls. He hated the dull, droning

Rich, in uniform, watched the boat's radio for any activity. Rich did not have a weapon like the others, as he was an Electronics Technician. It was his job to ensure clear communication between his ship and the troops they were delivering ammunition, rations, and other necessities to.

his corpse would remain.

The men lowered their rifles. The boat kept moving. Rich didn't look back.

Rich endured back to back tours in Vietnam. He was on a boat headed back to the states when they transferred him to a boat going right back to Vietnam. He found comfort in Donna's letters during his tours. In one of his earlier letters, Rich said, "They make me feel about 20 feet tall and on cloud nine."

Rich thought about Donna often. He wrote, "All I think about

moment, someone ran by and stole it. Rich attempted to chase the suspect, but he lost the thief.

This setback did not prevent Rich from proposing to Donna. The two promptly got married. Rich's Vietnam dreams had now become reality. In time, Rich and Donna became parents to Marcella Beck. Marcella was "Rich's buddy," Donna remembers. The two of them did everything together, from homework to games to shopping. "He was seriously the greatest father. He was amazing. He taught me so much,"

sound of the plane engines. It startled something within him.

As the years passed and the children got older, Rich battled with many internal issues. Donna said, "I don't think they even had a name for PTSD back then. Rich never went anywhere for that kind of help." The understanding of mental health issues was rather limited at the time, and he was never offered the appropriate help. The culmination of these feelings occurred when Rich found out about a local parade celebrating Vietnam Veterans.

Rich was watching the news when he saw the notice of the event. He looked at Donna and said, "They spit on me when I came home and told me I wasted my time serving my country, and now they want to honor me after twenty years and I want no part of it." His face was drained of color. A single, broken tear streamed down his face. He hid this from Donna quickly. She hugged him, but the thought corrupted his mind. "That was the switch. That's when he changed. Things went downhill from there," Donna remembers. Rich sat with Donna, tears in his eyes, and said, "I don't want to remember."

Rich had become increasingly depressed and struggled with post-war life. The thoughts, memories, and feelings from Vietnam haunted his brain at ev-

Rich had become increasingly depressed and struggled with post-war life. The thoughts, memories, and feelings from Vietnam haunted his brain at every moment. They lurked around every corner, waiting to remind him of those coffins on that plane. The guilty dread he knew no one would ever really understand came back, stronger than ever. These thoughts consumed Rich. He had become convinced that people were spying on him.

ery moment. They lurked around every corner, waiting to remind him of those coffins on that plane. The guilty dread he knew no one would ever really understand came back, stronger than ever. These thoughts consumed Rich. He had become convinced that people were spying on him. "He got so depressed he wouldn't get out of bed," Donna recalls.

Rich was eventually admitted to the psychiatric ward. He was released after a couple weeks, with a prescription to take daily. Two months later, the two sat watch-

ing the football game and folding laundry. Rich had stopped taking his pills, saying that they cost too much money. Rich looked at Donna and said, "I feel so much better. We're gonna have a better year."

The next morning, Donna and Rich lay in their bed. Marcella and Andrew were sound asleep in their beds. Rich got up at 5am, before everyone else, and his head began filling with those terrible memories and that horrible guilt. All the good had left. He was left with only negative thoughts. Rich

proceeded to grab his shotgun and walk to the basement. In that basement, 21 years later, the war killed Rich.

Epilogue

Donna remembers. Marcella and Andrew grew up without their father. Donna recalls a conversation with Andrew. As he sat in the basement, he looked at her, and said, "I'll never know my dad as an adult. I'll never know him the way you people knew him." Donna never re-married. She couldn't. Rich was her one true love, and he was gone. Things would never be the same. Rich's story had concluded, but it wasn't finished.

The time had come for the funeral. It took place at the church he worked at, and the entire building was filled with people. Donna looked at Rich in the coffin and said, "you just look so much at peace and I hope you're at peace." It was a look she had not seen for eight months now. Reflecting back on her lover, Donna said, "When I get to heaven, I'm gonna beat the shit out of him and then give him a hug."

La Roche Lights



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