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Letter From the Editor

Is the world ending? It may have felt like it during finals week, but it’s over and tonight all we can do is await to see if the prophecy will come to life or not. Just like in the comic books, we hope our superhero will come to the rescue. It’s not a bird, it’s not a plane, it’s PRISM MAN. His prism-like armor gives him extra protection and enhanced strength to keep UF safe from the end of the world. The reflection of light off of his prism armor creates a powerful, colorful light that will blind his enemy - a great asset in battle. He’ll keep all of our beloved university safe and keep students will especially appreciate his efforts to keep UFPD text alerts to a minimum.

We’re not about to let the world end without going out with a

Sincerely,

Lexy Khella
Founding Editor-in-Chief

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Design by Rebecca Raymond
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American television- and radio-host Larry King commented, “Communications is the number one major in America. CNN had 25,000 applicants for five intern jobs this summer.” Does this quote intimidate you? Well, it shouldn’t! Although internships are becoming increasingly competitive, students of all majors who use resources effectively have the opportunity to participate in an internship, which significantly enhances the college experience, boosts a resume and creates a lasting impact on personal endeavors in the professional realm.

In order to get the internship you want, you must first utilize your resources effectively. The Career Resource Center at the University of Florida is an excellent resource for the internship process. It highlights the specific types of internships and also provides a Gator CareerLink search tool to help you search for the internship that is right for you. In addition, the Career Resource Center offers services to assist with everything from resume-perfecting and interviewing skills to what to wear on an interview.

In her Forbes article, “How to Get an Awesome Internship,” Frances Bridges recognizes various cliché tips for intern-seekers to follow: “edit and proofread your resumes and cover letters, clean up your social media accounts, dress appropriately for an interview, be 15 minutes early to an interview, send thank you notes, don’t be too shy, find a way to stand out, look people in the eye, have a firm handshake, build your network.”

Yet, the author outlined advice for getting not just any internship, but the internship that can actually lead you to your goal, whatever it may be. Research details about the company, be familiar with the product(s), envision your fit in the company and display your passions. What cannot be emphasized enough is the importance of maintaining confidence, taking initiative and standing out. In summary, cliché’s may get you the interview, but your persona can get you the internship.

Getting the right internship will benefit your college experience overall. I-to-I.com outlines the most important benefits. Internships allow you to gain valuable work experience that will not only serve as a learning experience, but can also give you the edge you will need in the job market. You can prove your qualifications and education by applying classroom knowledge in a professional setting. Networking is another benefit that accompanies internships because they often open doors to jobs. The longer you stay with one company, the more they will get to know who you are professionally through your work ethic. Also, internships give you true insight into your future career and will help you decide whether or not the career is right for you.

According to “Undergraduate Business Internships and Career Success: Are They Related?” by Jack Gault, John Redington and Tammy Schlager, the higher career success rate of those who participated in internships was confirmed. Their study concluded: “Experiential education plays a vital role in enhancing the preparation and success of undergraduates in the entry-level job market. Internships provide students (and faculty) with a means of bridging the gap between career expectations developed in the classroom and the reality of employment in the real world.” Most importantly, internships can provide you with the confidence of future success.

In conclusion, students of all majors are capable of gaining internships if they put forth an effort. As advised, all students should apply themselves and reap the many benefits that internships offer. UF students are also at a slight advantage because employers everywhere know about the Gator Nation and love Gators because they are famous for their ambition, diligence and success.
A mid-life crisis. There is a social norm associated with the concept of a mid-life crisis. It happens around your 40 or 50th birthday, when you come to terms with your mortality and perhaps take a few hits to your bucket list. John Mayer even mentions a “quarter-life crisis” in his song Georgia. But what about a mid-college crisis? It’s not as far-fetched as it seems.

During my second semester of sophomore year – also known as the terrifyingly real halfway point of college – I started realizing that maybe I wasn’t cut out to be a journalism major. A little background about me: I decided to be a journalism major my junior year of high school after I realized I loved writing for my AP Lang class. I love words. I love the way you can weave a sentence that derives so much more meaning by just incorporating synonyms or properly using punctuation. I love the flow of sentences and the persuasion that you can create without opening your mouth. I always thought that journalism would allow me to reach my goal of becoming a professional editor. I wanted to find the next JK Rowling and read his or her words before anyone else.

Sophomore year began with a schedule from hell, mainly because I was taking reporting at 8:30 a.m. This three-hour lab was the bane of the semester, causing full-fledged hysterics when sources bailed on interviews and grades were in the low 50s. Somewhere in the midst of dealing with actual failure on assignments, I began thinking that maybe I wasn’t going to be an editor. Maybe that wasn’t the path for me.

I began to consider public relations, a field that we had discussed in nearly all of my beginning journalism courses. In fact, I had already done a bit of public relations writing. Public relations allows me to write for a particular audience instead of a mass audience, and also allows me to pick my work environment. If I want to work for a music company, I can. If I want to work for a brand, I can. It’s very flexible.

Now just because I had found the major that I thought fit my personality and desires better didn’t mean I could actually do it. I finally decided to go with my gut and change majors when I started looking at classes for Fall 2012. I realized that the track I was on had classes that I was no longer interested in, and that was upsetting. I never thought of myself as someone who would change majors, and yet here I was, getting ready to change majors halfway through undergrad.

Of course, changing majors when you already have half the amount of credits you need to graduate is not the easiest. Initially, my parents were not fans of my mid-college crisis, and neither were my advisors. I faced a lot of adversity from the team based on the amount of credits I had and my ability to complete the major in time.

I’m still dealing with the repercussions of changing majors with only four semesters remaining, and it’s taken my degree audit by storm. I’m being monitored for a semester behind what I should be, all because of the way the pre-requisites fall. There is only one class standing in the way of my May 2014 graduation date. I get to take that class over the summer instead of working at my seasonal job.

Despite all of the obstacles that I’m facing with degree audits and pre-requisites, I can’t help feeling I made one of the best decisions of my life. My classes feel more fulfilling. I’m excited to move onto the higher classes, instead of being nervous that I won’t like them. I have a clear goal of what I want to do, and I know I can incorporate my passions and my ideal lifestyle into the mix.

When you have a mid-college crisis – because you will – remember that ISIS and advisors will point out all the ways that you can’t, all the ways that it will be difficult and hard to manage. But also remember that you got into this university because you are intelligent and determined, and honestly, that counts for a whole lot more in the real world.
Cooking on campus can be both rewarding and fun if you have some delicious recipes to make. Here are some easy-to-make and quite tasty dishes for the dorm.

### Spaghetti Squash

**Ingredients:**
- One whole spaghetti squash
- 1 jar of Sauce
- Two tablespoons of salt
- Two tablespoons of pepper
- Cheese (if desired)

**Procedure:**
Spaghetti squash is a nutritious way to enjoy the taste of pasta, without the starch! First, buy a spaghetti squash from Publix (yes, they are called spaghetti squash in the store). Then, cut it in half and sprinkle a tablespoon of both salt and pepper onto both sides of the squash. Cook in the microwave for six to eight minutes. Let it stand for a few minutes afterwards and then scrape out the spaghetti-like pieces from inside the squash, with a fork. Add any sauce and/or cheese that you choose. Personally, I prefer mushroom marinara and parmesan. Enjoy!

### Green Bean Salad

**Ingredients:**
- 1 whole bag of green beans
- 15 Grape Tomatoes
- Half a container of goat Cheese

**Procedure:**
First, cook your green beans. I usually buy the microwavable bag from Publix because it’s easiest. Cut the green beans in half if desired. Wash and cut the desired amount of grape tomatoes in half. Add goat cheese to the grape tomatoes and green beans. Enjoy!

### Vegetarian Stuffed Portobello Mushrooms

**Ingredients:**
- 2 Portobello mushrooms
- Half a bag of spinach
- 1 clove of garlic
- 1 (8 ounce) package of chive cream cheese (or regular if you prefer)
- A tablespoon of onion powder
- A tablespoon of garlic powder

**Procedure:**
First, hollow out the two Portobello mushrooms by cutting off the stems (but save them) and scoop out all of the black, web-like material. Then, cook the spinach, chopped garlic, onion powder, garlic powder and the cut-up mushroom stems in a saucepan with olive oil. Mix the previous ingredients with the chive cream cheese and fill the mushrooms with the mixture. I like to add a sprinkle of garlic and onion powder to the top of the mushrooms, but you can add breadcrumbs if you’d like. Put some tinfoil on an oven ready pan and pour some olive oil onto it. Put the mushrooms on the pan and cook for 20 minutes at 350 degrees. When the mushrooms are done, the filling should look slightly brown and crispy on top and they should smell delicious!

### Krab Rangoons

**Ingredients:**
- 3 Sticks of Imitation krab
- Wanton squares
- 1 (8 ounce) package of cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons of Salt
- Oil

**Procedure:**
Cut up the imitation krab into very small pieces. Mix the krab with a liberal amount of cream cheese and a tablespoon of salt. Take a wonton square and place a small chunk, about the size of a of the cream cheese mixture in the center of it. Wet the edges of the wonton square and fold it up like a pizza pocket, making sure to use water to help it stick together. The pocket form is the best way to ensure they don’t come apart when fried. Put olive oil in a pot on the stove and heat it up. Get a long metal spoon with holes and place a wonton in the center of it. Lower it into the oil and fry the wonton for a few seconds, or until it’s golden brown.

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*Image source: spaghetti - simplesundayrecipes.com; salad - tastershome.com; mushroom - whatdidyoueat.typepad.com; rangoons - blogchef.net*
The Pros and Cons of a Meal Plan

BY HANNAH GAMACHE
SOPHOMORE, ENGLISH MAJOR

✓ Grab-and-go. If you’re in a hurry, stop by and grab a muffin for breakfast before class.

✓ Convenience. Good location relative to classes and campus.

✓ To-go box option. Take home fruits, pizza, pasta, bread, and whatever else you can fit in your box to snack on later at your dorm.

✓ Vegetarian and vegan options.

✓ Ice cream! And a selection of cookies in mass quantities.

✓ Good breakfast options (Eggs, omelets, biscuits, bacon, sausage, pancakes, French toast, cereal…what more can you ask for?)

✗ Expensive. You may not be going to the dining hall often enough to justify the expense. Buying groceries is less expensive and healthier.

✗ Repetitive. Toward the middle of the year, you’ll find yourself getting weary of the same old, standard meal choices.

✗ Average quality food on most days.

✗ Watery pasta sauce. Nothing worse than having noodles dumped on your plate with the remnants of the hot water they were cooked in forming a small puddle.

✗ Aside from the salad bar, not very many healthy options.

✗ The lines. You often end up waiting in line for food so long that you finally give up and just go get a slice of pizza.

If you have your own kitchen area or live in an apartment, I would not recommend a meal plan. You can buy everything you need at a lower cost from the grocery store and make yourself tasty meals that don’t require much effort. Odds are you will be a lot more satisfied with what you make for yourself than what the dining hall has to offer. However, if you are in a dorm that does not have a kitchen, the meal plan is certainly an easy and convenient option. For cafeteria style food, it’s not too bad, and it was rated as Peta’s second place runner-up for “most vegan-friendly college” in 2011. Although one does become jaded after a while, I found the meal plan to be satisfactory as a freshman living on campus.
Supply and Demand: The Tale of a $75 LSU Ticket
As a newcomer to college football, I had no idea how much the average ticket would cost. It never really occurred to me to buy season tickets, so as the Louisiana State game approached, which would be one of the biggest games of the season, I started checking the Class of 2016 Facebook group to see for how much they were selling. Unbelievably, people were attempting to sell these tickets from $50 to $110. Even more unbelievable, students were buying them.

As an economics major and a sports non-fanatic (though I will admit that UF certainly has changed that), paying four or five times the amount that the original buyer paid for the ticket seems ridiculous. Here's a secret for fellow freshmen: Student season ticket holders only paid $15 per ticket. If you bought a ticket for, say, $60, the seller made a 300% profit.

Why are buyers allowing this to happen? With a limited supply and a huge demand for these tickets, there's a shortage, and therefore sellers can get away with hiking up the prices because students are willing to pay that much. But the root of this problem, in my opinion, is buyer ignorance and apathy. If buyers took a stand and told ticket sellers that they were unwilling to pay an astronomical price for a ticket, sellers would be forced to bring their prices down or risk not selling their tickets at all.

Additionally, freshmen especially seem to be totally unaware of will call. Many may not know this, but UF sells single student tickets for $15 on the Thursday night before a game at 6 pm at gatorzone.com. While they sell out quickly and the seats will likely not be in the best locations, it sure beats spending a full tank of gas for a football ticket.

So my advice is this: don't listen to the senior that tells you $75 is a good deal for a Missouri ticket. There are always better options than spending an arm and a leg on a football ticket.
EDIBLE LANDSCAPING CLUB

At first glance, edible landscaping sounds like it involves re-decorating the campus with a Wonka-style landscape of candy. That's half-right, in terms of edibility, at least. The Edible Landscaping Club, which began this semester, is one of the campus's newest organizations. Students in the group learn about gardening and canning, and members get to take home the fruits and vegetables that they grow in the club's garden. The club recently placed a new raised gardening bed in the student gardens near the bat houses. The Edible Landscaping Club meets on Friday afternoons and will have gardening demonstrations and workshops throughout the year in the student gardens. For more information, contact eternallyedibleuf@gmail.com.

FALLING GATORS

Falling Gators is one of the university's most extreme clubs. The group was created in an effort to promote skydiving to students and offers free equipment use to certified skydivers. Are you new to skydiving and interested in getting certified? Falling Gators also has jump courses throughout the year for students who want to earn certification. The Falling Gators parachute at Skydive Palatka, located in DeLand. The club also offers discounts on jumps to its members. For more information, contact fallinggator.pres@gmail.com or go to facebook.com/fallinggators.

OBJECTS IN MOTION

Juggling requires a blend of skill, hand-eye coordination, and sometimes danger. Thankfully, you can learn or improve this talent with Objects in Motion. In addition to juggling, the group also gives lessons in unicycling. Objects in Motion can be found on Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 2 pm in the Plaza of the Americas. Unicyclists also meet on Tuesdays at 8 pm at the Reitz Union Colonnade. For more information, contact zakbedell@gmail.com or visit the Objects in Motion Facebook group.
Interesting Clubs and Restaurants

THE TOP

With the University of Florida in the running for Most Vegan-Friendly College, it’s only natural for there to be a selection of restaurants in the area that cater to vegetarian and vegan customers, while also keeping meat available to its omnivorous customers. The Top offers selections in everything from brunch to Southern-style cooking and vegetarian and vegan options with an eclectic atmosphere to match the diverse menu. A customer favorite is the tempeh buffalo wings. The Top is located at 30 N. Main Street and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 5 pm to 2 am and on Sundays from 11 am to 11 pm.

Dragonfly puts a new spin on sushi. Dragonfly Sushi offers dishes such as the “Mango Tango,” which includes fried sweet potato strips and salmon, and the “Tenderloin Negimaki,” which is comprised of vegetables wrapped in a thin piece of New York strip steak, pleasing even those who do not like fish. Dragonfly is open for lunch on Thursday and Friday from 11:30 am to 2 pm, for dinner Sunday through Wednesday from 5 pm to 10 pm, Thursday 5 pm to 11 pm, and Friday and Saturday from 5 pm to 11:30 pm. The restaurant is located on 201 SE Second Avenue. Visit dragonflysushi.com for more information.
Superheroes originated as a uniquely American phenomenon in 1938 with the publication of Action Comics #1, which introduced the world to Superman. The man of steel was received with enormous popularity, which triggered an explosion of new super-powered vigilantes. More recently, Hollywood has also been quick to capitalize on the widespread appeal of the superhero figure. The current wave of superhero films parallels the spike in popularity of the original comics back in the 1940s. This summer was packed with superhero blockbusters, most notably Marvel Studios’ The Avengers, which Hulk-smashed box office records and took in $207.4 million on opening weekend. The two other big summer superhero releases, The Dark Knight Rises and The Amazing Spider-Man, took in $161 million and $62 million respectively on opening weekend alone.

And this summer’s lineup was only a taste of what comic book powerhouses Marvel and DC have in store. A brigade of new superhero films are slated for release in 2013, including titles like Iron Man 3, Man of Steel, The Wolverine, and Thor 2. A 2015 release date has already been announced for The Avengers 2 and Marvel already has plans for a S.H.I.E.L.D spin-off television series that will be premiering on ABC Network in the near future. A Justice League movie, starring DC Comics’ own team of super-humans has also been given a 2015 release date.

The commercial success of superhero films is indisputable, but what implications does this have for the future of the comic book industry? It would seem that the comic books, overshadowed by the popularity of the shiny, new, special effects laden blockbusters, are losing significance. A movie has far greater reach nowadays than any graphic novel. Back when superheroes first made their debut, when comic books were a standard form of entertainment, there was a far greater readership. In the 1940s, comic books, particularly superhero comics, were culturally and politically significant. Superheroes served as a symbol of justice and promoted patriotism. They were even utilized as a form of war propaganda, with Superman fighting villains like “Atom Man,” who possessed the power of an atomic bomb. In Marvel’s Captain America comic books, the star-spangled super-human faced off against the Nazis, the Japanese, and even Adolf Hitler himself.

However, as technology advanced, superheroes progressed into the realm of other media, including radio and television. Due to rapid advances in digital media and the constantly morphing and growing entertainment industry, modern comic books do not have the same popularity they once had. The average American child is far more likely to be immersed in television and movie culture than in that of the comic book. Does the beginning of a new digital age indicate the end of a once flourishing comic book industry?

Although superhero movies have received attention from a far wider audience, comic books...
still have a dedicated following of their own. The success of the movies does bring some attention to the comic books from which the characters originated, but it does not necessarily lead to increased comic book sales. Despite this, the comics industry has done a great deal to maintain the sales they have and continue printing new comics for its devoted fans. Both Marvel and DC Comics have made many of their comic books available to read in a digital form, using vast online databases that readers can subscribe to. This provides readers with a more convenient way to access their favorite series. It also saves paper and space for those who prefer not to purchase their comic books in print.

One problem the modern comic book industry faces is the number of different series running at a time. One might wonder whether, after decades of printing comics, they will run out of stories to tell using the same old heroes. Currently, there are many ongoing superhero series, often including several variations and alternate universes for the same hero. For example, Marvel’s team of mutant superheroes known as the X-Men has the titles of Astonishing X-Men, Ultimate X-Men, and Uncanny X-Men, along with numerous other spin-off comic series that focus on individual characters that were introduced in the previous X-Men comics. While this provides a large number of options for readers, it can also prove difficult for new readers to find a starting place. Which ones are the “real” X-men?

The number of options can be overwhelming. To combat this more confusing aspect of comic books, DC Comics initiated a reboot in 2011, starting fresh from issue 1 for all of their comic book series. This new generation of comics has been received with some controversy, as many changes have been made in an attempt to modernize the superheroes. Most notably is one of Superman’s new uniforms, consisting of blue jeans and a T-shirt imprinted with his classic “S” insignia. Whether or not this was a good decision, the DC reboot proved relatively successful in boosting sales, and it provides a definitive starting point for new readers.

However, despite such smaller successes within the comic book industry, it still can’t compete with the vast exposure and reach of Hollywood. Fortunately, the movies are making enough money that it is unlikely that the comic books will disappear any time soon. The movies rely on the comic books for ideas, and the new comics provide a constant stream of potential source material. Whether or not children read the books, superheroes continue to have a strong impact on kids. Superheroes remain present in the form of television cartoons, video games, and, of course, good old-fashioned plastic toys. They are as popular, if not more popular, than ever. We have the outrageous success of the movies, in large part, to thank for that, and the hope remains that new fans of the movies will be inspired to explore some of the awesome stories that can be found in the comic books. Even in the unlikely event that the comic industry eventually fades into oblivion, there remains no question that superheroes will remain an important part of American culture. They are a resilient bunch, and they will continue to save the world in the future, in whatever form of media they appear in. If we must rely on cinema to share these super-powered stories with the world, then so be it.
Live music is more active than ever on campus, and in no small part due to the efforts of the RUB (Reitz Union Board) Bands Committee. This group, led by Presidents Izzy Spence and Jessica Watson, puts on free weekly shows that range from Karaoke Nights at Orange and Brew to the sold-out Of Montreal concert in September.

When asked whether they preferred arranging big acts or small acts to play for students, Izzy and Jessica could not say. Organizing each type of performance has its own thrills. “Local groups,” Izzy explains, “are fun to connect with.” These groups communicate with RUB on a personal level and often approach RUB first with the idea to put on a show. Sometimes the bands even have a story or two to share about their experiences with the university. Jessica recalls seeing Gainesville singer-songwriter Matthew McCagg open for local sensation Morningbell at a Local Brew (a RUB Bands event that features intimate performances from local talent). On stage, McCagg reflected on his first time seeing the band at a Local Brew as a freshman at UF. Now a Gator alum, it was special for him to be able to open for them at the same venue.

Of course, planning for a national act requires a different approach. The Bands committee reached out to several agents last year searching for the perfect show for students, and the result couldn’t have been any better. Of Montreal, an alternative rock group from Athens, Ga., put on a wildly successful free concert at the Reitz Union’s Rion Ballroom. For the committee, however, there isn’t much time for reflection or celebration. Members eagerly await upcoming projects, which include collaborating with Student Government Productions (SGP) for Swampfest in the spring. RUB Bands is part of the RUB Entertainment Group, which features three other committees: Films, Lecturers and Comedians, and Special Events. When asked if there was any rivalry between the groups, Izzy and Jessica reported nothing but praise. “We love RUB, and we always cheer for each other,” Jessica says. “We’re a big, giant, crazy family of wild people!” E-mails between members are signed RUB LUV, and Karaoke Nights feature entire committees going on stage to sing Disney standards together.

The committee is easy to join, and applications are available online at the start of each semester. Questions include how you would create your own line-up for a music-related event on campus and your opinion about local music and its place in the school. After the application is sent in, members of the desired committee arrange an interview. RUB looks for passionate people to become a part of their unique family.

If you can’t join RUB, that’s fine! Events will always be free, and the Bands Committee just wants students to come out and have a good time. Upcoming shows can be found on the Reitz Union Calendar as well as the RUB Entertainment Facebook page. In addition, input is welcome at any time. RUB Bands always wants to know what groups students want to hear. Izzy laughs, “We’re all about customer service!”

For more information go to the RUB Facebook page at facebook.com/rubentertainment
“This is your last opportunity; buy now!” the Mexican man exclaimed, holding a Chichen Itza trinket less than an inch from my face. The craftsman at the table next to him began competing for my business with a passionate mix of Spanish and English. As he tried to place a wooden carving in my hands, he pointed to the inscribed “2012.” Studying abroad in Mexico this past summer not only allowed me to learn about Yucatan culture, ecology, and language, but it also gave me a snapshot of the Mayan attitude towards 2012, an attitude that clearly radiated from the enthusiastic vendors of Chichen Itza.

Portrayed in cinema, spotlighted in cultural events, and even spewed about in the never-ending stream of Facebook statuses, the supposed end of the world on December 21, 2012 has become a contemporary phenomenon. The origin of this hype was the discovery of an ancient Mayan text nestled in the jungles of Guatemala, predicting a potentially apocalyptic end of the world due to the cyclical expiration of the Mayan calendar. While almost all Mayan scholars consider the prophecy to be entirely unfounded, this prediction has caused a variety of responses from stocking up on supplies and purchasing underground shelters to ridiculing the 14 percent of the world that legitimately fears impending doom. However, the modern Mayan attitude towards 2012 is entirely different. It is the attitude of opportunity. Rather than fear or ridicule the idea of the 2012 apocalypse, the Mayans are embracing it.

In late 2011, Mexican president, Felipe Calderón, announced that Mexico would use the end-of-the-world prophecy as a campaign to attract growth and tourism. While Hollywood might paint the image of a cataclysmic apocalypse, Mexico is aiming to use the prophecy to attract those from around the world to see Mayan archaeological sites, take in their cultural heritage, and thus contribute to their country financially. Tourism campaigns have been launched, and people are visiting the cultural sites. This perspective is brilliant: taking advantage of fame and hype in order to open Mexico up to international prominence and economic stability. Rodolfo Lopez-Negrete, the chief operating officer for the Mexico Tourism Board, said, “Our focus will be on growth and prosperity instead of the end of the world.”

The Mayan perspective stands in stark contrast to the rest of the world, and the attitude is powerful. It turns doom to boom, ridicule to opportunity, and fear to a future. This is the inspiring attitude of the Mayans: an attitude of redemption. After all, as the Mayan vendors at Chichen Itza would say as they sell their 2012 wares, “This is your last opportunity!”

Photographic Illustration by Rebecca Raymond

Globalization and Global Turmoil: Are states still sovereign over their economies?

BY ADAM GERSTENFELD
FRESHMAN, TELECOMMUNICATIONS MAJOR

“A person’s a person, no matter how small.” Detractors of global trade, channeling their inner Karl Marx and Dr. Seuss, claim the international economy is heavily slanted toward the bigger, more powerful economies, while leaving the smaller economies in poorer nations left out to dry. In recent decades, state economic sovereignty in these lesser-developed nations has come under scrutiny for the alleged handicap globalization places on the free market.

Economic sovereignty, in this case, is defined as a country’s privileges over its economic activities including its wealth and natural resources. Critics of free market trade contend that increasing competition in the world market widens the gap between developed and developing countries, subjugating poor nations into economic and political dependence upon more powerful countries like the U.S. and Great Britain—the same nations that hold the most power in determining transnational trade agreements in the first place.

However, what most critics fail to observe is that sovereignty is a legal construct that relies on states recognizing the existence of other states. It is, by definition, the authority of a state to govern itself, and international trade keeps that privilege intact. The World Trade Organization, the epitome of economic globalization, has not become a legal entity under the jurisdiction of the state. In other words, transnational organizations have not changed the states’ rights to exercise full economic sovereignty on how they govern their own resources. Globalization ultimately reinforces sovereignty because it opens new markets, tears down cultural barriers, and drives up competition to increase productivity. These considerations lead to a more independent government because they allow the population to obtain more options to achieve prosperity.

In certain areas around the world, all three of these facets are at work. India is currently doubling its economic growth thanks to its southern region’s effective use of workers after India’s economic liberalization in the 1990s. Ashutosh Varshney, a professor at Brown University in Rhode Island, said “The breakdown of caste hierarchy has broken the traditional links between caste and profession, and released enormous entrepreneurial energies in the south.”

Globalization has allowed previously caste-delineated individuals to thrive in the global market, providing Indians with more opportunities abroad than they could ever find at home. The most obvious counterargument to the benefits of free trade is that more powerful companies will ultimately impose restrictions on other less developed nations (LDNs) in order to expand their own markets.

Tom Palmer of the Atlas Economic Research Institute states that this assertion is indeed incorrect: “Multinational companies pay a wage premium...they want to attract good workers.”

The General Motors factory in Shanghai, for example, disburse three times the salary of the surrounding Chinese factories. Compare Chinese policies now to where they were as recently as the 1970s—defined by isolationism. Now China boasts the world’s second-largest economy in terms of nominal GDP, made possible only after the legalization of trading with foreigners under Deng Xiaoping’s administration. In fact, Chinese sovereignty has merged with capitalism to form an economic system known as state capitalism.

Political scientist Ian Bremmer describes state capitalism as “the state using markets to create wealth that can be directed as political officials see fit,” further enforcing the claim that globalization lends itself to more sovereign nations.

Across the globe, free trade has allowed governments to play a larger role in how involved they are in domestic economics. From 1980 to 1995, the fraction of a country’s income that the government spends increased, on average, from 36% of GDP to 40%. An anonymous Economist magazine writer elaborates, noting that “national governments not only retain wide discretion over the extent to which they control resources, but after 15 years of accelerating integration [tend] to control more, not less.”

Inevitably, weaker economic states will give up some of their independence when conforming to the economic standard of interdependence and reciprocity, because they rely on foreign assistance and intervention to stay financially afloat. This is not a new concept, and we cannot point to globalization as the sole cause of foreign exploitation. We observe from American history during the imperialist era that larger countries will always try to dominate over countries they believe they can abuse. This was a time in which colonialism, a completely different economic theory than what we have today, dominated, and yet the same strong-weak relationship applies. The real determinant of sovereignty is not completely dependent on the economy, but also relies on the power a state holds.

In summation, we find that globalization does not weaken state economic sovereignty, because it gives more wealth and resources to the state, allowing the government to have greater control over its economic options. When states are forced to reduce independence, globalization cannot be attributed as the sole cause, because the concept of balance of power has existed well beyond the existence of trade liberalization. By further emphasizing the role of trade as an attested means to wealth, job creation, and influence, we prove that in the era of globalization, states are still sovereign over their economies.

Top Political Issues According To Students

Politics have always been a major talking point in this country; you simply can’t get away from them. Whether it’s a feud between your family members over Thanksgiving dinner on how to handle illegal immigration or posts from old high school friends about how they are the ones who know what’s truly best for the country, the debates are endless. We all have different views on world issues, how the government should run our country, which things they should spend money on, what should be legal, etc. Though the different approaches to handling the problems are what separate our country into a divided government, we can at least identify the problems.

One hundred students at the University of Florida were surveyed for this article. Fifty females and fifty males; and twenty-five of each freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. The survey was conducted in various places such as Turlington Plaza and the Reitz Union by asking students to pick a top political issue from a list or to make up their own if what they considered most important wasn’t on the list. They were given the option of saying what was most important to them personally and also what should be the most important to the nation as a whole. Finally, their political affiliation was noted.

When students were asked what they thought the most important political issue was, there was a slight discrepancy between the answers when asked what the top issue to a student personally was, as opposed to issues to the nation as a whole. However, the economy prevailed. Both personally and nationally, across all party affiliations, students agreed that the most critical issue was a combination of jobs, the national debt and taxes. A large subset of these students said education was personally most important to them, including the ability to find jobs after graduating. The answers from the students weren’t biased based on party affiliation which indicates that both parties, on a student level, agree that the U.S has an economic problem but that it lacks a bipartisan solution. Women’s rights were important to students; however, out of a proportionate amount of men and women surveyed, not one male stated women’s rights as a top political issue, personally or nationally.

Other issues cited by students included medical care, illegal immigration, gun control, gay rights, the judicial system, and the power of federal government. However, it’s important to point out that most of the students who reported some of these other choices as top political issues acknowledged that the choices were most important personally, and that the country as a whole needs to focus on things such as the economy and education the most.

The future is in our hands, and we, especially as students, need to be concerned with the direction it is headed. Will we be able to find a decent paying job in a field we like? Will our parents and relatives emerge as financially stable adults in this economy? When it comes time for us to have jobs, how much of our earnings will go to the government? How much of that tax money is going into things we can’t afford or don’t need? Since the two main political parties have such contrasting views on both fiscal and social policies, there is almost irreconcilable conflict as to which measures will make our country a better place. But our student body is recognizing that there are prevalent issues in our government that need to be addressed and dealt with as soon as possible.
Country You’ve Never Heard Of: Palau

When first hearing the name of the Pacific island nation of Palau, I thought it might have been a form of martial arts, or even a Greek side dish. “Pass the tzatziki and the apáki, and while you’re at it, please bring out the palau.”

However small and inconspicuous the nation might be, its rich culture and scenic beauty makes it a popular tourist destination and hotspot for environmental research and concern. The island nation has received heightened attention in recent years, but it still remains “the country that no one has heard of.”

The Republic of Palau sits in the Western Pacific Ocean, and was originally settled 3,000 years ago by migrants from the Philippines. After periods of imperial colonization from Spain, Germany, and later Japan, Palau became a part of the United States’ Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in 1947, which was a “strategic area” in Oceania controlled by both the US Navy and the Department of the Interior. The nation then became fully sovereign in 1994, although it retains a compact of free association with the US. It is made up of over 200 volcanic and coral formed islands, with Angaur, Babeldaob, Koror, and Peleliu as its most populous. Two thirds of the population lives on Koror, with the capital city of Melekeok sitting on its northeast shore.

The islands cover 459 square kilometers, which is the equivalent of about 4 times the size of the city of Gainesville. However, the population totals to 21,032, and not every island is habitable. This poses sustainability issues, as there are limited sources of both freshwater and arable lands on the islands. Koror has been facing problems with sewage treatments of solid waste and disposal, as well as the rising sea levels that plague most island nations in the Western Pacific. Rising levels affect agriculture, water supply, and population density in Palau, and are near impossible to inhibit. Illegal fishing practices and coral dredging are also major environmental issues in Palau, although its source of revenue relies mostly on United States aid and a growing tourism industry.

With the expansion of air travel in the Pacific, Palau’s status as a tourist destination is expanding. The tourism industry is now the second largest employer in the state, behind the national government. The nation’s main attractions are its lush tropical forests and pure marine ecosystems. Tourists enjoy scuba diving and snorkeling, frequenting the pristine Floating Gardens Islands west of Koror for the change to encounter some of the nation’s diverse marine life. Palau’s government is trying to transition the nation to a more ecologically friendly form of tourism, promoting ecotourism and decreasing the volume of visitors. They are aiming to make Palau a “high dollar” tourist destination in the future.

In 2005, the American television show Survivor set its 10th season on the islands, Survivor: Palau. This season was one of the most popular of the show thus far because of its intense competitive nature, and brought extra attention to the nation. Host Jeff Probst stated that Palau was his favorite filming location, and the island received a small spike in its tourism for a short period of time after the show aired.

While Palau may still retain its anonymity, it is one of the fastest growing nations in Oceania, with a 5.80 percent growth rate in its GDP and a 13 percent increase in its tourism in 2011. The nation is expanding its international presence, as it is one of the few nations to diplomatically recognize Taiwan. For such a young nation, Palau has captivated many with its natural beauty, and perhaps may soon no longer be a country no one has heard of.
Nagorno-Karabakh:

BY FRANCES CHAPMAN
FRESHMAN, POLITICAL SCIENCE/INTERNATIONAL STUDIES DOUBLE MAJOR
ARABIC LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE MINOR

Nagorno-Karabakh was not mentioned in either the presidential debates or frequently reported on in the global media. Most Americans cannot easily place it on a map. Yet, in this global shadow lies the disputed region of the Autonomous Region of Mountainous Karabakh, also known as Nagorno-Karabakh. Decades of ethnic conflict lie within this mountainous enclave, which current persistence has potent ramifications for the international community’s future actions.

Scars from the Soviet Union

Historically, Armenians and Azerbaijanis have occupied Nagorno-Karabakh for centuries. Following the establishment of the Soviet Union, conflict erupted between Azerbaijan and Armenia for control of the region. While initially planning to allot the area to Armenia, the Soviet Union placed control of Nagorno-Karabakh in the hands of Azerbaijan. The USSR hoped to gain support from Turkey, which had previously fought ethnic Armenians of the area when Nagorno-Karabakh was under control of the Ottoman Empire. Under the guidance of Joseph Stalin, Nagorno-Karabakh was made autonomous. However, as the influence of the Soviet Union waned, ethnic Armenians began to protest the status of Nagorno-Karabakh as a state in 1988. This incited ethnic violence against the Armenians by Azerbaijanis and the Soviet Union. In the following months, a Soviet-Azerbaijani movement to remove Armenians in the region began.

The actions against the Armenians of the region culminated in the declaration of Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent state in 1991. However, armed conflict followed the collapse of the Soviet Union. Currently, Nagorno-Karabakh is not recognized by the United Nations as an autonomous state and a cease-fire from 1994 remains.

The Flow of Oil

The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, runs near the Nagorno-Karabakh region, a conduit that, according to Azernews, maintains a capacity of 1.2 million barrels of oil per day, producing 1 percent of the world’s oil. This channel not only carries oil through Azerbaijan, but also Turkey and Georgia with a length of 1,768 km, according to British Petroleum, making it the second-longest pipeline in the former Soviet Union.

Although this pipeline runs 15 kilometers away from Nagorno-Karabakh in some places, according to PBS, some observers cite its close proximity and economic benefits as a point of contention. According to the CIA Worldfactbook, oil and petroleum compose 90 percent of Azerbaijan’s exports and the pipeline remains the nation’s “main economic driver.” This oil has allowed Azerbaijan to bolster its military, potentially allowing it to halt the cease-fire and maintain a monopoly of regional control.

Given the vicinity to the pipeline, many international groups, such as the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, have speculated that armed conflict in the region could pour into the vicinity of the pipeline as a means for the Armenians to restrict the power of the Azerbaijani government, and maintain the conduit for their own economic interests.

Regardless of the speculation, an instantaneous stutter in the production of 1 percent of the global oil supply would be detrimental to the international community given its current dependence on fossil fuels.

The Right to Govern

Although Nagorno-Karabakh has declared independence, they are recognized as an autonomous state by neither the European Union nor the United Nations. Recently, the European Union released a statement that the 2012 elections of the region were not legitimate and they instead are looking to the Minsk Group to resolve the conflict. As many other regions within the former Soviet Union also pine for autonomy, Nagorno-Karabakh can serve as a potential precedent for the international community’s approach to newly emerging states and their willingness to recognize their autonomy.

Taking Sides

Many states and international groups have vested interests in the region. According to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Minsk Group was created as an international forum to resolve the conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region in 1992. However, the Azerbaijani government accuses the Minsk Group as being partial to Armenians. This brings contention with the European Union as they recognize the Minsk Group as a trusted mediator in the conflict.

The Minsk group is only one of many international efforts to influence the region. Iran and Turkey have publicly voiced their support for Azerbaijan, while these nations have accused Russia and the United States of being partial to Armenia. Many fear that this region could strain international relations and diplomatic exchanges between these international forces, allowing disagreements over this land to influence other issues of political importance.
A Region Divided

Above left: President of Nagorno Karabakh, Bako Sahakyan, has pledged to gain international recognition of the region’s independence.

Above right: Map of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Left: An Armenian family fleeing ethnic tensions in Nagorno-Karabakh arrive at the airport in Yerevan, Armenia on May 13, 1991, after being evacuated by a Soviet Army helicopter.

Image sources:
Above Left: Wikipedia Commons
Above Right: Times.am
Left: Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty (rferl.org)
On roommate surveys there are always black-and-white, yes or no questions. “Do you smoke? Do you listen to music?” Then there’s that introspective, gray question: “Do you consider yourself an introvert or extrovert?”

How do we answer that? How do we define our personalities? Is this a black-and-white question? Are we either one or the other?

According to Swiss psychologist Carl Jung, introverts treasure independence and autonomy from others while extroverts seek socialization.1 To Jung, neither trait is more favorable than the other; extroversion and introversion represent different orientations and patterns of behavior. According to UF’s General Psychology Program textbook, introverts are more concerned with personal experience whereas extroverts are more focused on socialization. Jung defines the roommate who does not mind spending the night in reading and cooking dinner or attending a campus event alone as an introvert. The roommate with friends over constantly, discontent to miss a tailgate or party, is extroverted.1

What causes these differences? British psychologist Hans Eysenck argues that the nervous system is the reason behind the contrasting personalities. An individual with a nervous system below the optimal level will seek thrill and social engagement to arouse their nervous system. However, a person with an over-aroused nervous system will try to bring it down to an optimal level by avoiding socialization. So the student that joins the skydiving club, Falling Gators, along with five other organizations, would be identified by Eysenck as an extrovert with a biological need for stimulation. But the student that enjoys the same daily routine with a few close friends, Eysenck would identify as an introvert with an overly aroused nervous system.

How do students define extroversion and introversion? I asked random students in the Murphree area what comes to mind when they think of introverts. Most students replied that introverts were not outgoing and kept opinions to themselves. Many said introverted students do not like group work. A few students said introverts are self-reliant and try to do things independently. I heard a few negative responses — hermit, loner, antisocial — but most responses were positive.

When I asked the same students what extroversion or extroverts call to mind, they said “outgoing” and “people-person.” Some students said extroverts are more likely to speak their mind and do not mind connecting with new people. My favorite response was from a sophomore Honors student explaining extroverts are students that cannot walk from Hume to Turlington without running into five friends. Similar to students’ view of introversion, extroversion was viewed mostly positively, though a few thought extroverts were obnoxious. I found overall student opinions confirmed Jung’s descriptions.

But when I asked the same group of students if they considered themselves an extrovert or introvert, most students maintained that they were in the middle, neither.extroverted nor introverted. Most students did not have a straightforward answer. Most considered themselves in the middle, balancing socialization and self-reflection. Does this balance keep students sane? Maybe, equilibrium between roommates can also keep students sane.

Honors nursing freshman Kate Burns, who defines herself as an introvert, enjoys having a more extroverted roommate. “I think we are good match…she definitely brings out my more talkative side,” Kate explains.
She said if their personalities did not balance, if they were both extroverted, they would clash and not get along.

Sophomore Lauren Crawford and Katie Duguid prove two extroverts can peacefully live together when introverted inclinations balance extroverted tendencies. Lauren describes herself as an extrovert but with introverted moments. “I love me time,” she confessed. Though she is also an extrovert, Katie agrees she has her introverted times. Lauren explained their level of socialization depends on the circumstance. At a recent residence hall meeting, Lauren described Katie as engaging and talking to everyone, while Lauren herself was “off on the sidelines.

Lauren agreed that there needs to be a balance between personalities. Since their personalities complement each other, Katie says it is grounding, and “you can’t fly away too far.” They keep each other in harmony, neither displaying overt extroversion nor extreme introversion around another.

In a study by the University of Illinois, psychologists tested the effects of extroversion on group projects. Researchers tested if extroverts would take charge of the group and manipulate decision-making. Their results furthered the notion of balance between personalities. Bryan Bonner and fellow scientists found an extrovert only influenced the decision making process if there was no majority. However, in the presence of an opposing majority, the extrovert had no guidance in the decision. A majority counters overt extroversion just an introverted roommate can counter an extroverted roommate.

I see the balance of personalities between my sisters and myself. My older sister Katherine is the definition of a people person. She loves meeting people and being around others. Many nights growing up she had a house full of friends over. She is an outgoing entertainer who loves meeting people and networking. My older sister did not attend UF. In fact, she just graduated from The University of West Florida, six hours away. Yet, I still run into people at UF that ask, “are you Katherine Hamrick’s sister?”

My little sister Regan is more reflective and independent. Regan may be one of the funniest people I know. At a typical Hamrick family dinner, Regan will share a story from her day that makes everyone at the table bend over in laughter. While she loves socializing around our family, she does not mind staying in on the weekends or doing things independently.

Growing up, I found myself somewhere in the middle. I have never been as extroverted as Katherine, and I am not the party planner or networker that she is. Nor am I as introverted as Regan, who is willing to do things independently rather than in the company of friends. I grew up in the middle. But in this middle, I grew wiser. Katherine taught me how to be outgoing, while Regan inspired self-sufficiency. My sisters, and their contrasting personalities, draw out my extroversion and introversion. Their personalities balance each other and balance mine. The harmony in our levels of extroversion and introversion maintains our harmonious sibling relationship.

Just as Katie explained, there is a balance between who is more introverted or extroverted. Katherine may be extroverted, but she has her reflective moments, and Regan often has her overtly extroverted habits. I am neither extroverted nor introverted. Our level of socialization does not define our personalities, but can foster equilibrium in relationships.
Dollars and Sense

BY JOSH IMMERGLUCK
SOPHOMORE, IDS NEUROBIOLOGICAL SCIENCES MAJOR

The current medical industry has dramatically transformed and evolved since its introduction as a profession at the turn of the 20th century. At its initial commencement, medicine was centered around the ideals of the Hippocratic oath, serving patients with the best available treatment, no matter the circumstance. While these fundamentals still exist, there was an apparent transition of focus in the profession. The United States’ capitalist based society has become obsessed with minimizing costs to the hospitals, even at the risk of patients’ health. This is not to say that all hospitals are not doing their duty, but the motivation has progressed from maximizing patient care to exploiting a profitable exchange of services.

Based upon current systems, treatment to the patient should be not only sufficient, but also cost effective. Consequently, maximizing treatment, regardless of the cost to the patient, while minimizing costs to the hospital does not occur in the patient's favor. It can be seen as clearly as the intersection of a supply and demand curve in a competitive market. The hospital will not deny necessary treatment, but it will achieve it using the least costly methods.

One clear consequence of this market-based medical industry is the deficiency of preventative care in place of a treatment-based backbone. Both provide the maximum available treatment for each patient, but the two are noticeably different in the times at which they are applied. As the term implies, preventative care takes place far before any apparent signs of disease or problems are present. It is aimed at treating and protecting against the onset of disease in the future. As a whole, it is very low-tech, but requires more time spent on patients that are not in any current crisis. Preventative care is not providing a patient every possible test available regardless of necessity; rather, it is delivering justifiable solutions to potential problems. On the contrary, treatment-based medicine is fixated on curing a disease or problem present at the time the patient is diagnosed. While the expression “if it ain't broke, don't fix it” may seem appropriate in the use of treatment-based healthcare, it contains consequential qualms that can limit effective treatment.

Despite the medical industry limiting the use of preventative care, it is not completely absent. Most children have yearly, or even biannual, appointments with their pediatricians to ensure healthy development into adulthood. For some, regular checkups and blood tests continue into their later life. While it appears more costly in the short run, routine assessments prevent high-priced expenditures in the long run. Out of the adults who see their physicians for regular examinations, only a minor percentage does so for their own benefit. A lack of communication between doctors and patients could be a direct cause of the reduced number of routine adult examinations. Therefore, it is the physician's duty to educate their patients so that they can make fully informed decisions about their health. Certainly, preventative care is available, but hospitals are not necessarily advocating it.

In essence, the modern medical industry is market-based, ultimately obstructing the maximization of patient care. This system unmistakably displays how some hospitals view themselves: primarily as corporations with healthcare seen as a business rather than a duty. In order to maximize the efficacy of the hospital, patient care must be seen as a priority. It is unrealistic to propose a society in which medical practices exist without regulation from the market, but it is nonetheless an ideal.

A sensible model for the reformation of the healthcare system would be to place primary emphasis on patient care, while attentively using a market structure to regulate cost analysis. To clarify, specific treatment methods should not be decided chiefly by cost. It is unethical for hospitals to expect to receive a profit from its patients. In other words, hospitals should aim to act as a not-for-profit organization, providing the best possible care for its patients while utilizing its profits to invest in worker compensation, hospital management, and research. As stated earlier, the market-based model views patients as customers. This dehumanization of the treatment process can further increase the emphasis of market-based structures in the healthcare industry. Overall, expanding patient care calls not for preventative care, but rather for an integration of preventative care and treatment-based medicine. The use of both can avoid potential diseases and treat the immediate emergencies, despite the increased cost. While healthcare reform may not be in the current field of view, taking small steps to ensure improved patient care can create momentum in the right direction.
“About 1 in 8 women will develop invasive breast cancer in her lifetime.” I am sure that most of you reading this have already heard this statistic and are now questioning my use of a cliché as an opener. The truth is, nothing will set you straight more than a cold hard fact. But you already know this: chances are that you have already been affected by a family member or friend with cancer. The prevalence rates continue to increase and it’s a sad world. And breast cancer is one of the more prevalent forms these days.

But in the age we live in, characterized by advancing technology, is it possible that we may find new ways to treat or cope with the inflicted disease? Chemotherapy is currently the usual form of cancer treatment, but it is associated with many adverse side effects. Is it possible to skip chemotherapy and switch to an alternate treatment? First, we need to find out how much of cancer can be attributed to genetics.

Ongoing research suggests breast cancer has a hereditary component. There are two genes that have been isolated: BRCA1 and BRCA2. These genes may cause people to be predisposed to breast cancer. There are also certain methods to screen for the genes. However, this is very controversial due to the chance for error in the diagnostic testing. For example, if the test somehow failed and indicated that someone had the gene when they didn’t, it would cause unneeded anxiety. On the other hand, if the test came out negative erroneously, it may lead someone to assume they would not be at risk for the disease. Additionally, even if the test was correct, research still shows that there are other components to breast cancer and many ways to get it.

In order to determine the best possible course of treatment, it is first essential to understand what you’re dealing with. Cancer is caused by mutations in the somatic (or body) cells. Cancer isn’t caused by a single mutation, however; it is an aggregate or combined effect of multiple mutations. Two main mutations are proto-oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes. In order for cancer to manifest, usually two mutations must occur: proto-oncogenes must mutate into oncogenes and there must be a mutation in tumor suppressor genes.

Genes (the biological units of heredity transmitted through chromosomes) mainly code for proteins (through the process where DNA is converted to RNA and then finally to proteins – this is called the Central Dogma). Whether a gene codes for a protein product or not depends on whether it is turned on or off (active or inactive). Mutations in genes can be problematic.

Thus, gene therapy is the manipulation of genes to combat disease by introducing genetic material into a person’s cells. Researchers may try to replace missing or mutated genes with healthy ones (like p53 – a tumor suppressor gene). Additionally, gene therapy may be used to improve a patient’s immune response. Another possibility is inserting genes into cancer cells to make them more susceptible to chemotherapy or radiation. Furthermore, there is a possibility of therapy that includes introducing apoptosis (suicidal genes) into cancer cells. Finally, research is being focused to prevent cancer cells from developing into new blood vessels.

There lies a multitude of possibilities. But how are the genes transferred? This complex process occurs using a carrier or a vector, which are usually viruses. Viruses are unique in that they can insert genetic material into cells. This method – which has been come to been known as recombinant gene technology – has been seeing rapid advancements in the past decade or so.

However, there is also another possible gene therapy method being investigated. The gene therapy has to do with RNA silencing. RNA silencing may allow for the creation of single-gene defects without having to induce inherited gene mutations. This is a potential pharmaceutical agent and approach for gene therapy. Micro RNA genes are tightly regulated during development and may lead for more accurate measures of diagnosing tumors, predicting their course and planning treatments. Treatment of tumors with synthesized small interfering RNAs may possibly reverse the cancer phenotype. Using RNAi is a strong possibility for helping target specific gene products.

On paper – this all looks great and exciting. In theory it seems to work. But now only time will tell as to how many new problems may arise. Obviously, gene therapy is very new and the full risks are unknown. However there is some hope in the fact that research is progressing so fast that we may be seeing gene therapy replace chemotherapy within the next decade.
Most of us think walking around with the newest version of the iPhone makes us up-to-date with modern technology, but Apple has been at it again. At the end of October, the world’s most valuable company released its “iPad mini.” The new and improved 8-inch version of the latest technology fad is expected to be one of the top holiday buys.

Apple also recently announced a fourth-generation regular-sized iPad described as twice as fast and featuring a camera capable of HD video as well as a new “Lightning port” connection.

If you want something to make your floor "the floor" to be, look out for the Nintendo Wii U. After much anticipation, the ground-breaking Wii U GamePad is marketed as breaking the barriers between “you, your games, and your TV.” The new game controller combines its own LCD touch screen with the traditional buttons and controls along with motion control, a microphone and a front-facing camera. Nintendo aims to facilitate gaming, chatting and everything in between, with or without a TV screen – the perfect thing to spice up your dorm room.

If you are looking for something a little more specialized, try the Sony Cyber Shot TX55. As the world’s slimmest digital camera measuring only 12.2 mm, the Cyber Shot also has the capacity for three-dimensional shooting. This means that by taking one picture, it actually takes a pair of frames in succession and estimates their depth to produce an image in 3D. Just think of the possible profile pictures!
Maybe you want something a little more sustainable. Israeli inventor Izhar Gafni recently announced that he developed a bicycle made completely of cardboard and recycled products. The model is viewed as a game-changing technology especially for third-world countries as it only costs $9 to produce and is expected to sell for no more than $20. Using 100 percent “green” materials to make the everyday item – including an organic treatment to make the bicycle water and fire proof – will make the cardboard bicycle one of the coolest, most eco-friendly futuristic technologies a Humie could hope to own.

One of Apple’s biggest rivals also has an innovation or two up their sleeve. Just as Apple made touch screens marketable, Microsoft wants to make the sci-fi meets spy movie technology of “gesture control” similarly commonplace with the development of “Kinect for Windows.” By combining voice and gesture recognition into all of their interfaces, Microsoft will essentially recreate all the basic devices we use everyday. Currently, researchers are using a small device called “Digits” that wraps around the wrist and consists of a motion sensor, infrared light source and camera to relay information back to the central computer. While still in the development stage, you can expect to one day switch from chemistry homework to Facebook with a flick of your wrist.

A team of researchers from Disney Research and Carnegie Mellon University is working on a technology creatively named Touché. In the future, Touché will be able to recognize different configurations of human movement and touch. In English? Imagine a smartphone recognizing a user putting a finger to the lips and immediately silencing itself, or a doorknob that knows the particular way it must be grasped and turned in order to unlock. Such a new level of “smart” would be achieved through a sensing electrode that functions to essentially recognize and decode information from its surroundings.

Technology will always grow and change, and it’s only a matter of time before our list of “gotta-have-its” changes once more! Until then, make sure to beat the crowds for these up-and-coming technologies.
Social Networking or Social Not-Working

Which social media site is right for you?

BY REBECCA RAYMOND
FRESHMAN, DIGITAL ARTS AND SCIENCES ENGINEERING MAJOR

With so many social networking sites rising and falling in popularity, it’s hard to decide which ones are worth your time and which aren’t. Three of the sites with the most stable popularity over the past few years are Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr; all three are mediums for sharing content (personal or not), but each differs in so many ways. To help you decide which of “The Big Three” is right for you, this handy-dandy chart is here to help.

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<th>Male/Female Percentage of Users</th>
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<th>Twitter</th>
<th>Tumblr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 hours 33 minutes&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>36 minutes&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1 hour 38 minutes&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capability to share content</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
<th>Tumblr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status updates, Pictures, Links, Video</td>
<td>Tweets, Pictures, Links, Video</td>
<td>Text posts, Pictures (GIF capability), Links, Video, Audio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Information</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
<th>Tumblr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>About Me page, Likes page, Profile picture</td>
<td>Biography (160 words), Profile Picture</td>
<td>Biography on blog, Additional About Me page(s), Likes page, Profile pictures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Privacy</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
<th>Tumblr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approve friend requests</td>
<td>Approve followers</td>
<td>Block followers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connection to other users</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
<th>Tumblr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wall posts and private messages</td>
<td>Public and direct (private) messages</td>
<td>Public messages (option to privately answer), Anonymous messages, Fanmail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appearance</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
<th>Tumblr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change cover photo</td>
<td>Change background</td>
<td>Fully customizable blog themes created by Tumblr staff or other users</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finding other users</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
<th>Tumblr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search by name</td>
<td>Search by name</td>
<td>Search by e-mail (option to disable)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typical User Personality</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
<th>Tumblr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The typical Facebook user has a popular or social personality.</td>
<td>Typical Twitter users also have a popular or social personality (extroverted).</td>
<td>No formal studies of the typical Tumblr user have been conducted, but the site is less focused on personal information, and more on other shared content. Users do not necessarily have the typical social or popular personality of other sites.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


“Awk.” It’s a saying that seemed to pop up over night. Our generation rapidly incorporated it into the vernacular like, well, the word like. And it doesn’t end there—presh, obvs, and adorbs have also penetrated the vocabulary. Out of the hundreds of thousands of words in the English language, why was “awk”—a shortened version of the word awkward—chosen as one of the select few to be shortened and made into a trend?

Could it be because of the growing social awkwardness Generation Y is dealing with due to our refusal to converse in person, in favor of social networking? These additions to our lexicon and changes in the way we communicate are only two of the many side effects of rapid advancements in technology that we have seen over the past several years. Cyber bullying, early onset hearing problems, false confidence and insufficient knowledge of basic grammar are just the beginning.

“Awk” is also found in the latest nifty discoveries. Will there be a previously undiscovered drug that makes it go away? A new psychological therapy? Or maybe we’ll just get so used to the awkwardness that it won’t be uncomfortable anymore. Awk.

BY CHRISTINA HUNT
FRESHMAN, JOURNALISM MAJOR

The next life-altering invention. Therefore, technology increase, even with negative consequences, is beneficial because it forces us as one human race to strive for intellectual superiority,” Holtzapple said.

I think that the general consensus within our society is that we, as the most intelligent inhabitants of this planet, should continue to search for the answers to the questions we still have not solved. In choosing that path, we are subjecting ourselves to the task of overcoming the aforementioned consequences of development. Middlebrooks believes that “People should take time out of their lives to put away their phones, computers, etc., to have undistracted time to focus on friends, loved ones, and to be able to get things done in a timely manner.”

Maybe if we did all take that time once in awhile, being without our gadgets for short periods of time wouldn’t hurt as much.

And, hey! Maybe we’ll even get over this whole socially inept stage thanks to a few more nifty discoveries. Will there be a previously undiscovered drug that makes it go away? A new psychological therapy? Or maybe we’ll just get so used to the awkwardness that it won’t be uncomfortable anymore. Awk.

Glossary of Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timeline</td>
<td>Each user's timeline is his or her personal page that displays all of his or her pictures, status updates, and activities on Facebook.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Feed</td>
<td>Each user's homepage that shows updates on friends and liked pages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tagging</td>
<td>A tag links a person, place, or page to something a user posts, such as a status update or a picture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>Another user that you connect and share with on Facebook.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chat</td>
<td>A feature that allows users to send instant private messages to online friends. If friends are not online, these messages will be sent to the friend's message inbox.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Like</td>
<td>A button that allows a user to provide positive feedback to a status update, picture, video or other shared information. Liking a page allows a user to add those pages' updates to their news feed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profile</td>
<td>A Twitter page that displays information about a Twitter user and their tweets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@</td>
<td>Used to address another Twitter user in Tweets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>A Hashtag, used to mark keywords or topics in tweets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow</td>
<td>Allows a user to subscribe to another user's tweets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tweet</td>
<td>The eponymous status update.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retweet</td>
<td>A function that allows one user to forward another user's Tweet while giving attribution to the original Tweet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trending Topic</td>
<td>One of the most popular topics on Twitter at the moment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog</td>
<td>Similar to a user's profile page, it displays all of a user's posts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dashboard</td>
<td>Each user's homepage that displays posts from the other users that they follow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tagging</td>
<td>A way to organize posts by labeling them with descriptions. Tags provide a way to search for content on Tumblr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow</td>
<td>Allows one user to subscribe to another user's posts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask</td>
<td>Allows anyone (including non-followers) to ask a user questions on the site. Users can ask questions through their blog, or anonymously (and anonymous asking can be disabled by the blog's user).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanmail</td>
<td>A variation on the asking feature of Tumblr that does not allow anonymous messages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reblog</td>
<td>A function that allows one user to forward another user's content onto their blog while giving attribution to the original post.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>The design of each user's blog.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>