

THE FACTORY TIMES

March 2022 | Spring Issue Two

In this issue...

CAN YOU RUN THE FACTORY TIMES?

POST-REMOTE CAMPUS STRUGGLES

EDUCATION AFTER GRADUATION

...and more!

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A MESSAGE FROM THE LEAD DESIGNER



Hey there! First off, I want to thank you for taking the time to pick up an issue of our little magazine. It's a lot of fun making these, and it lets us express ourselves in a creative way that we otherwise wouldn't be able to. We really hope you enjoy it!

Anyway, we have a big opportunity for you. If it interests you, **The Factory Times is looking for a new Publication Director** to take over for the next semester onward. Justin is looking to pass the torch, and if any of our readers wants to take the wheel, we would be glad to give you a try at steering the ship! We have a very relaxed work environment, where we stick to a schedule while working as friends, without feeling like a clique.

I strongly urge all our readers to throw their hats in the ring! **It is a paid position**, and it'll absolutely look great on a resume.

Send an email to thefactorytimes@gmail.com if you're interested. Alternatively, the QR code and URL take you to the SGU form.

Thanks, and enjoy the issue! -Bobby Z

tinyurl.com/yaj5pdms



(Justin)

SPRING 2022

EXECUTIVE SGU ELECTION

VOTE ON THE NEXT STUDENT
LEADERS

MAR. 24 - APR. 6

VOTE NOW ON ENGAGE



Paid for by your Student Activities Fee

Struggling with Returning to Campus? You are not alone!

Written by Isabella Carr Perri ★ Designed by Sai Mahesh Podile

Those of you struggling with returning to school after being remote for the past year, you're not alone! For those of you who had on-campus classes during the pandemic, you most likely also relate to this feeling of uncertainty shaping our lives as college students as we transition back into a "normal" classroom setting. This is not only the first time I have been to campus in a year and a half, it's my first time coming to SUNY Poly after transferring in over a year ago. For the last year, I have, like most of you, become accustomed to meeting my teachers through video on a small box on the computer screen, and have gotten to know classmates by looking at the list of names on Collaborate.

A SHIFT IN CAMPUS CULTURE : A term we hear thrown around all the time is "campus culture." We shrug off this important yet influential source of socialization that dictates how we interact with the campus community. In the last two years, campus culture has shifted considerably. It has left students scrambling trying to figure out what is the right thing to do when returning to school in the midst of the pandemic. It was one thing when we were all behind computer screens, but it's different now physically sitting in classrooms, applying pencil to paper, and raising your physical hand opposed to the virtual one that became a staple of online learning. This return to classrooms may be difficult for students for a multitude of reasons, including that classrooms are not what they once were. Mask mandates, social distancing, hand sanitizer, and other precautionary measures now shape the classroom setting, leading many students including myself to experience social anxiety in all the constant change.

STRUGGLES : I find myself being slightly uncomfortable in situations in the classroom that I wouldn't have before. I'd like to think of myself as a rather outgoing person who would never shy away from an opportunity to meet new people and hear about their experiences. After telling you this, would you believe it if I told you that when approached by another student recently, I froze, panicked, and my flight instincts encouraged me to run away?

While this other student presumably just wanted to get to know one of his peers, I have forgotten what it means to be part of a campus community and don't know what is socially acceptable anymore. Truthfully, I have found myself afraid and filled with doubt in these situations, struggling to acclimate to the new norms.

QUESTIONS SHAPING OUR LIVES : This social anxiety stems from being removed from campus for so long and being isolated from both our peers and the community. It's created this hesitancy in students not knowing what to do. All these questions keep surfacing about what is allowed in these educational settings. Being that there isn't a social handbook on how to deal with a pandemic and a return to "normalcy," we all are sort of just figuring it out together. You may have asked yourself any of these questions: Is it socially acceptable anymore to talk about your weekend plans with your classmates who even seeing them in person seem so dehumanized? Is it allowable for you to make "friends" in a pandemic? Should you allow yourself to get close to people even though there's this possibility that campus life may revert to being remote? How do we even smile at someone else and see emotions through masks? Truthfully, I don't have the answers to any of these questions as I keep asking myself these very things.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE : The question then becomes how do we adapt to this new normal in educational institutions? We should consider that the pandemic has impacted all aspects of our lives and that it's okay to be unsure of how to act, how to socialize, and how to live our lives moving forward. I've found that for me, it's helped to talk to other students about this because I found that I am not the only one who feels uncertain on the right course of action. I'd like to think of this being just one obstacle moving forward that once again tests our resilience as students. It's very much like a journey that we find ourselves embarking on. That is, not only through education but through a pandemic. As you're walking down the paths leading to your destination you're encountering these boulders along the way, twists and turns that inevitably lead you to get lost, and at some point, you're able to navigate through the obstacles and stand on top of the mountain and finally have a moment of clarity. In practice this journey would happen in different ways and stages for everybody, but nonetheless thinking about it through this analogy allows us as students to think about it more deeply and focus on the fact that there is an end goal we are looking to achieve and the current obstacles we face are just one step along the journey.

3D PRINTED CO₂ DRAGSTER DERBY

Interview by Justin Savoy ★ Designed by Sai Mahesh Podile

- These questions were answered by the executive board of SUNY Poly's 3D Print Club. The purpose of this article is to inform students of an exciting event that the 3D Print Club has planned. This event is open to all students, regardless of whether you are a member of the club or not. If you are interested in learning more about this event, or learning more about 3D Print Club, feel free to email Trevor Dunn, President of SUNY Poly's 3D Print Club, at dunnta@sunypoly.edu.

The following questions were answered by Trevor Dunn (President):

- (1)** Do participants have to be a member of the 3D Printing Club?

Anyone can participate in the event as long as you're a SUNY Poly student. While we encourage all our members to participate, a majority of students that participate come from a variety of different clubs and majors, each with their own design that they use to compete against each other.

- (2)** What would you say to an individual who is interested in participating, but is concerned about their lack of knowledge when it comes to 3D printing?

If you ever need help or have any questions you can always contact us through our club page on engage. We've helped multiple students in the past with designing and printing their cars for competition and we always love giving someone the opportunity to participate in our events regardless of experience.

The following questions were answered by Andrew Picini (Vice President):

- (3)** Can you go over the science of CO₂ cars?

The pressure from the CO₂ cartridges, when released, propels the car at a very high speed down the track. The pressure is expended extremely fast so the car is actually coasting for most of the track length, so you want the car to be as light as possible to get the most out of the propulsion force.

- (4)** How does the design for the CO₂ cars differ from the design for the pinewood derby cars?

The Pinewood Derby cars were smaller in size and should be heavier in weight. For CO₂, the cars are much longer, at least twice the length of a Pinewood car, and should weigh a lot less. The heavier Pinewood cars are driven (no pun intended) by the potential energy equation, while the CO₂ cars are driven by the kinetic energy equation. For the competition, I'm expecting to see a lot more aerodynamic-focused designs due to the high speeds that the cars are traveling at. Pinewood cars tended not to be designed around aerodynamics too much because of how important the weight was.

The following questions were answered by Jordan Dean (Secretary):

- (5)** What safety measures will be put in place at the event?

We have been working closely with SUNY Poly's Director of Environmental Health and Safety, Sean Clive. The main safety concerns are the CO₂ canisters and that CO₂ cars are known to break on the track, so everyone is required to wear safety glasses.

- (6)** Where can individuals find the rules and regulations for the event? What are the most important rules and regulations that must be followed?

Individuals can find the rules and regulations for the event on engage: 3D Printing Club, 3D Printed CO₂ Dragster Derby.

The most important things regarding the rules and regulations of the cars themselves; if you do not follow the dimensions/rules/regulations given that could cause a problem when it comes to running them on the track. They could just not run, or even may be a safety hazard. So, please follow the rules and regulations posted on engage. We will have an unbiased individual around so, if a car doesn't follow rules and regulations, they will have last say on if the car is allowed to compete or not.

The following questions were answered by Robert Dresher (Treasurer):

- (7)** What is the prize breakdown for the event? How many total winners will there be?

There will be prizes for the first, second and third place winners of the race. The prizes will be given out as Amazon gift cards.

1st place - \$150
2nd place - \$125
3rd place - \$100

There will also be bonus prizes with a reward of \$25 dollars each. These prizes are secret and will be announced at the end of the competition.

- (8)** How do individuals go about submitting a car for the competition?

Anyone can submit a car by either coming down to the 3D print lab located on the bottom floor of Donovan Hall or emailing cgam_3dprinting@sunypoly.edu. One can bring down their car designs to the lab or send them via email. In the email, one should specify the weight and color of their car, as well as any other special requests or details. If someone has any questions about designing or printing a car, one can come down to the lab or send an email for help or questions.

- We would also like to thank all our co-hosts, clubs, organizations, professors and students that made this possible. We would not be able to run this event without all of your help.

Clubs/Orgs recognition: Society of Automotive Engineers Baja Club, Women in Engineering Club, Music Club, The Factory Times, Wildcat Media, WEB (Wildcat Events Board), CFB (Club Funding Board), SGU (Student Government at Utica).



SCENES FROM POLY



PHILADELPHIA TRIP

FRAG FEST



Why Law School and Why Now

Written by:
Isabella Carr Perri

Designed by:
Michal Khrapunov

Introduction

Most people cringe at the idea of spending more years in school and accumulating more debt to get a piece of paper at the end. When we look at education this way, we set ourselves up to fail. That is, not failing academically, but failing in recognizing that this piece of paper isn't just any piece of paper. It's not the one that is the dance partner to the wind or the crumpled-up gum-covered accessory on the subway. This paper is different. It doesn't just get handed out to go in the garbage. If you think it does, why else do you pose with it and upload the pictures to your Facebook and Instagram? Truthfully, I see this paper as a universal key that can open numerous doors. When you think of it in this way, you're able to see that all the struggles were not for nothing and that your education was a building block for your life before you.

Why Law

This mindset has led me to believe that another piece of paper albeit one granting me a chance at the Bar Exam would be the key to me being able to meet my goals. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my life when I began undergrad. To some extent, I still don't. I think we shouldn't have to plan out every single part of our life, but knowing the direction we want to head is a great starting point. I knew from a young age that I wanted to make some positive impact on the world but didn't know how to go about it. I heard about people being discriminated against in a society where they should be treated equally. I witnessed people I cared about being targeted for being different. I felt guilty that I was part of a world where, based on my demographics alone, I would be considered as deserving of privileges that others weren't. I did not agree with what transpired but didn't know how to make a difference. Little did I know, part of this answer would come from my undergraduate education.

The power of undergrad

Through exploring different social issues in my undergraduate education and, more specifically, through an interdisciplinary approach I wondered if the law could be addressed in the same way. People always ask me about interdisciplinary studies and what it is. Interdisciplinary studies is a method of inquiry that looks at complex problems by integrating the insights of different perspectives to gain a more comprehensive understanding. At its most basic level, it is a way of looking at complex problems that take into account different factors that are actively shaping the issue. For instance, it looks at the topic of climate change and, through the inquiry, sheds light on perspectives from economics, political science, or law that can illuminate our understanding of climate change further. The ability to look at problems in this way is a tool that I believe undergrad gave to me, but now I have the opportunity to share it with a larger community to make a difference.

Why now

Law school is at least another three years of school and maybe longer if I decide to further my education more after that. However, I think that coming out of undergrad with the ambition I have to make a difference and the skills I have acquired is why I think I am ready for law school (even if my LSAT begs to differ). Truth is, there is no right or wrong time to go to law school because the best time is when it's best for you. I just happen to see law school as my next stepping stone across the big ocean that is my life. Is it my end goal? No. However, it's the next place to go to get to where I want to be. If someday I want to be a litigation lawyer or stand before the Supreme Court to discuss the issues I am passionate about, I have to go to law school. Even if I am undecided (which I am) about the path I want to pursue in law school, I still have to go there first to figure it out. The point is that law school is just the logical next step for me on my journey as I believe it will pave the way for me to discover just how I am going to leave a positive mark on the legal system.

Conclusion

You may be unsure about your next steps following graduation, and that's okay! Deciding to continue your education can be a daunting task especially when there's societal pressure to join the 'real world' and find a job. However, if you think that you need more time to decide your next move, or know what that next move is, consider how education can factor into your goal. Maybe your undergraduate degree has provided you with all that you need to begin your path, or maybe you're like me and need a little more to get to where you want to go. Whether you plan on trying to earn another piece of paper or admire it on your wall as this symbol of your dedication and hard work, I wish you the best of luck.

NORMALIZING "GAMER GIRLS"



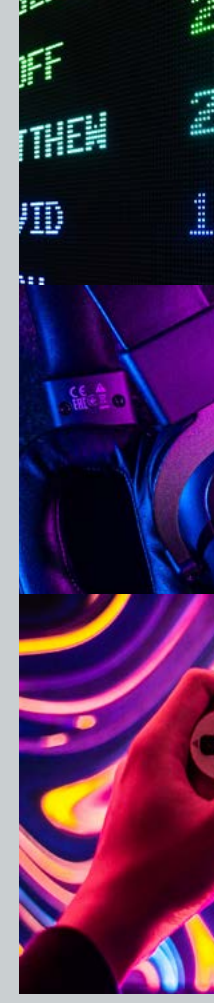
My fingers begin cramping, and my grip tightens with each press of the buttons on my controller. My heart is racing as the game comes to a close with only ten players left until I become victorious. I feel every vibration as I am immersed in the game, all its glory, annoying overpowered weapons, as I move around the map as my character, momentarily forgetting it is not me and just an extension of myself performed by AI.

experience

Many of you have probably experienced this feeling too while playing video games. I do not understand why social distinctions such as gender become relevant if we all share the same simultaneous anger and joy for video games. I am what the gaming community would refer to as a "Gamer Girl," which half would probably cringe about while the other half probably would place on this pedestal that other women should strive to be. You may assume that this would be a positive label for women, but, in my experience, the opposite has been true. This label encourages division within gaming by forcing all women in this role to fit a certain stereotype. Instead of everyone being a player in the game, women are oftentimes put in a distinct category that reinforces the distinction of sex.

case in point

With it being 2022, I did not realize that picking up a controller would elicit such attention. My experience with gaming was great until I had to make changes to carve a space out for myself where I felt accepted. The process entailed changing my settings to preserve not my identity per se but my gender. I feel like utilizing a mic or allowing people to add me is placing me in a position to be judged (although these are aspects of gaming). There have been numerous people that I have played with that have not treated me differently (Meaning they did not care who I was or how I identified because we were playing a game.). But, the vast majority of women who game are bombarded with questions and or treated differently by men with whom they play. Importantly, not every woman will share this view, and not all men do this. However, I speak for the many women who have felt ostracized for trying to be part of a community regarded as being predominantly male. This may not be your intention when you attach this label to someone while joking with your friends, or maybe it is. However, if it's not, know that you can play a role in changing the course of women's gaming by understanding this word's potential negative ramifications.



moving forward

I do not think we should eliminate this word from our vocabulary. Some successful women have built a platform off of this idea of being a "Gamer Girl." They have overcome negativity and have embraced this space by making it their own. I'm more so encouraging us as a society to understand how these sorts of labels can perpetuate stereotypes and negative attitudes towards women in the gaming community. The term may not always be used in this context, but when it is, it's important to understand that it can be hurtful and make women feel as though they should not be partaking in these activities. Having awareness of the issue at hand can be beneficial to numerous groups of people. Knowing how to approach these loaded words can be the stepping stone for bringing about a lasting change within the gaming community. A community where women feel accepted and women gamers are normalized. After all, if we succeed together, those distinctions shouldn't matter.



Elijah Williams Dowling Presents:

BAU

BUSINESS AS USUAL

"What'dya want?"

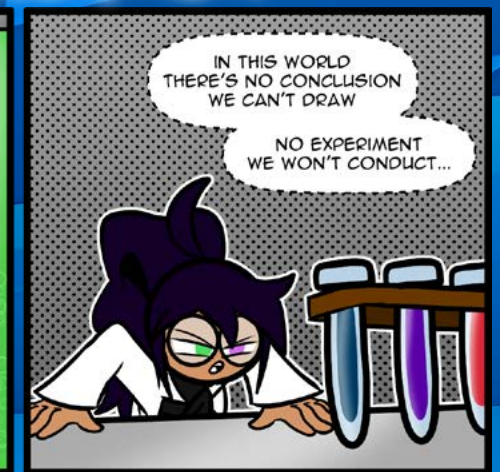


For more BAU comics, check out:
[@usualcomics](#) on Twitter!

"Galactic Vagabust"



"Research and Development"





Five, four, three, two, one, Happy New Year! The New Year, 2022, is just around the corner. It seems like it was just yesterday that the leaves began transforming into beautiful fall colors before making their journey off the tree and to the ground. Now, it's almost mid-December which means that in a blink of an eye, this holiday will be right at our doorstep.

ATTEMPTING TO UNDERSTAND:

For many people, this holiday has become rooted in tradition, celebration, and carries significant meaning. However, I never understood why the New Year has become this almighty turning stone for so many people across the globe. I see that, in one regard, the New Year becomes a time to get together, haul out all the clutter from your house, stay up late and eat unhealthy foods to watch a speck "drop" on a television screen. However, the other side to this is that there is an overwhelmingly large group of people that regard this holiday so highly. I surely failed to understand why for so many people they saw within the counting down of seconds, major changes in their life.

OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND JANUARY 1ST:

Undoubtedly, I understand that this can be a positive thing; to utilize the New Year to set goals for ourselves whether that be to pick up a hobby, study more in school, or just be a more optimistic person. However, what I dislike about this conception of New Year is I believe it communicates to people that this is the only time they should reflect on their life and set goals for themselves. By all means, if you would like to jump into 2022 with a goal that is going to motivate you, then go for it. But don't think that you can't revise that goal, or make numerous other goals throughout the remainder of the year. We should strive to try to better ourselves throughout the year, not just on January 1st. The opportunities before you are truly endless.



CHOOSING RESOLUTIONS:

The other potentially problematic component of resolutions is that they can reinforce negative social pressure. Truthfully, I think the most common New Year's Resolution I hear revolves around "dropping thirty pounds" or, more generally, losing weight. While being healthy is something that I think most of us agree is a positive thing, I don't think it should be a decision you make because society says you need to make a resolution at New Year's, and if you don't look a certain way based on some arbitrary standard then that is what you should base your goal around. Maybe you're not a size four, but you would benefit from a goal to spend more time doing things for yourself as an attempt to better your mental health rather than emphasizing physical health when you very well may be healthy. The point being, that if you choose to make a New Year's resolution you should pick something that you believe will positively affect your life. The resolution should be for you and should be rooted in the positive rather than the negative.

MY PLANS:

With all that in mind, I will not be buying into this process of choosing a New Year's resolution. I will, however, begin working towards a goal I set for myself back in August. I never make time for myself to read and I'd like to change that. However, with life and school getting in the way, I haven't been able to dive into my books. That said, I still won't buy into making a resolution unless the timing is right and it makes sense with my goals but it certainly won't be due to a societal obligation. After all, my goals will have more of a chance to be achieved if the goals themselves are meaningful and purposeful to me.



CONCLUSION:

Ultimately, when 1:01 am on January 1st approaches, you have a decision to make. Will you make a resolution because you have to or because it will help you better your life? Will you succumb to negative peer pressure or will you pick something truly meaningful to you? Or will you scrap that all together and set goals for yourself whenever you please, rather than solely before January 1st? You may have numerous reasons for syncing your goals with the calendar. If so, then you should do what's best for you. Or, if you are unsure of how this process benefits you, try setting a goal for yourself at a different time of the year. Regardless of what you choose to do, try to keep in mind the pros and cons of making your decision. Truly it's up to you! Nevertheless, may your New Year be safe, happy, and healthy.



-----Written Last Year-----

Designed By: Madhellyne Edwards



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Representation or Stereotype? Deaf Viewers Are Torn Over 'CODA'



Anna Netrebko Seeks Distance From Putin After Losing Work



Ukraine's Most Famous Living Composer Is Now a Refugee



A Tiny Brontë Book, Lost for a Century, Resurfaces



'Told It Like It Was': Ntozake Shange's Tales of Black Womanhood



Curious About 'Moon Knight'? Here's What You Need to Know



'Julia' Review: Mastering the Art of Playing Julia Child



Hollywood Star Gives Broadway a Much-Needed Boost



Ruth Bader Ginsburg's 'Dissent Collar' Donated to the Smithsonian



K-Pop Star Luna to Make Broadway Debut in 'KPOP' the Musical

Grasping onto Tradition and *Humanity*

Isabella Carr Perri



MY ROOTS

I grew up observing my grandmother. I watched her take a piece of paper, grab a black pen, apply pressure to it, and create these beautiful and meaningful swirls that I later learned were cursive. She wrote out cards for all occasions. At the time, I was truly mesmerized and captivated by this. I now understand that my culture is responsible for having instilled in me an appreciation and value of tradition. I carry on with this old-fashioned trend of handwriting cards to stay connected to my roots. However, with each year that passes by, I feel this part of my culture slipping away with increasing technological advancement.

DILEMMA

Keyboards have become the new pen and emojis, the stamps. I feel conflicted by how effortless it has become to send texts that can supposedly encapsulate genuine feelings. Are these technological means able to convey meaning to such an extent that they can replace the former? I am not entirely convinced. Are we in some ways accepting that we don't want personal relationships with one another while believing that technology can project exactly what we are feeling? Don't get me wrong, technology serves a positive purpose in allowing us to communicate with one another by the press of a button. However, the problem lies in becoming so dependent on technology to communicate. Eventually, we will forget not only how to communicate without technology but begin to set a new standard for communication altogether.

TECHNOLOGY TO COMMUNICATE

I understood sending condolences to be something thoughtful, delicate, not a post on Instagram. I understood holidays to be about love, giving, and gratitude not a photo opportunity. However, more and more, I see that even though implicitly, the traditions I grew up with are slowly fading away. I wonder if this is just the start of a large-scale change we are going to see.

“I don't think it's implausible to imagine that someday future generations will try to contact Santa Clause by text or set up a Venmo to receive payments from the Tooth Fairy. “

Technology is constantly becoming more pervasive and I fear these changes may just be the start.

CAUTION

As we continue to emphasize technology as being the foundation for society, the more I believe we will stray away from the original roots that ground us both culturally and socially. Surely technology enriches each of our lives in significant ways. However, we should exercise caution in revolving our world around technology, as we may lose sight of what makes us human. To be human is to be able to connect with others in a meaningful way. The machine's established character limit and script it provides fail to meet this definition. Technology forces you to make decisions that infringe upon genuine feelings. Your feelings are bound by a set of coveted phrases and your words are defined by auto-correct. What you produce in this technological environment is so strictly confined that it ends up being like a finalized cup of coffee that has been removed from its origins and has been run through a filter. In that process, the grinds and elements of humanity are left behind.

WHY I WRITE FOR THE FACTORY TIMES

BY: MARY SIDOREVICH

I think we all have a lot of opinions on the common core curriculum, most of which aren't great. I won't offer too many criticisms of common core, as I haven't researched the philosophy and thinking behind it enough. However, one thing I will say is that the implementation of the common core in our schools has led to a lack of appreciation of the arts, specifically reading and writing. My reason for saying this? Well, from K-12 I probably read a total of 3 literary classics, learned very little about writing, technical writing, and creative writing alike, and I consistently hear how English classes are essentially the same from 6th-9th grade. Alas, I don't want this to turn into a criticism of our education system, so I'll stop there.

This specific effect of common core, paired with the fact that this school focuses on technology makes sense as to why we have so few students interested in writing/designing for the school paper. It seems pretty safe to say most of the students here are STEM-minded people and likely less interested in art, writing, philosophy, literature, and the like.

Today's cultural moment is prime for STEM majors, but it is increasingly calling for science and math-minded people to be in touch with the humanities. Being in touch with the humanities and developing the skills included in them, at least to some extent, helps you become a more well-rounded person. Additionally, it is practically increasing future employment opportunities, and, in the meantime, it has the potential to help with your academic work by expanding how you're challenging your mind.

It's more recently become a more significant focus of the faculty at SUNY Poly to work on students' writing skills while they're enrolled here. This is because writing skills have become a concerningly common complaint from employers of SUNY Poly alumni. Writing for The Factory Times allows you to put in the practical practice of writing. This will lead to improvement in your writing.

The Factory Times is a great environment to write in. Yes, there are super practical reasons to join as a writer or designer, but there's also the community aspect. You're not writing in a vacuum or left without support or inspiration. Writing for The Factory Times gives you the chance to meet new people, grow your skills, and write about things you care about. You're given the creative liberty to choose what you write, which can be challenging. Alas, it's an opportunity to create something from nothing. It also gives you the chance to look into things and understand things you never would've had the opportunity to before. If you're anything like me, you want to have an infinite array of knowledge. However, there's not enough time in the universe for that, and that can be an overwhelming thought that can sometimes lead to slothfulness and not learning anything new. But, if you want to learn about something, in particular, you can choose to write about it. Thus, giving you the accountability and motivation to learn something new and exciting.

Working alongside my fellow writers and designers at The Factory Times is an opportunity to learn, grow, and have fun in a safe environment without unhealthy expectations or pressures.

Designed By: Mcdhellyne Edwards

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH OVERPRICED FOOD?

Written by Willie Soto

Designed by Sai Mahesh Podile

Food. We all need food to survive in a world where delivery has become one of the most common ways of getting food. From Uber Eats to DoorDash, there are a lot of food delivery services out there. The food may be good, but is it worth the price? I mean, don't get me wrong, I love food, and I'm pretty sure we all do. However, sometimes it can be overpriced for no apparent reason. It just doesn't make any sense to me how some companies such as KFC are selling chicken for around \$7 while Popeye's is selling the food for a much lower price.

Colleges sell food at a high price for no apparent reason. How in the world are nachos more expensive than a quesadilla? I don't understand how that is even possible. Food is supposed to be worth its price tag. If I am paying for \$6 worth of chicken wings, then I want some excellent chicken wings. It is ridiculous how food can be worth so much and still taste like fast food. Not even worth spending the money on it. You can't even get your money back unless you make up some excuse saying that there is hair on my food or something is undercooked.

I don't understand why places are charging so much. They may indeed be going out of business, but I am not buying a \$4 slice of pizza. That is absurd. But, for some places, they are just selling food at an overpriced rate for no particular reason whatsoever. Is there any other reason for overpriced food that isn't even worth the price? Sometimes it is worth it, and the company can get a dollar or two out of the sale. Other than that, I have no idea what the company is doing.

With the price of food increasing, this can be another reason why the price went up dramatically. However, it doesn't make sense why one slice of pizza is upwards of \$4. That is absurd. It is a crazy time for the price of food to increase since the price of gas has already increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has been going on throughout society. It is unbelievable how everything in society is now a bit more expensive than what it usually was before the COVID-19 pandemic. Food is an important aspect of all of our lives, and we all need it to keep the world in balance. Therefore, as the food becomes more pricey over time, we can no longer purchase our food at a fair price. This is a major issue, as we all need food to survive. When it comes to necessities such as food, there should not be major increases across the board. Yes, there are still food items that stay relatively cheap. An example of this is dollar sections found at a wide variety of stores. However, the increase in food across a wide variety of environments is concerning.

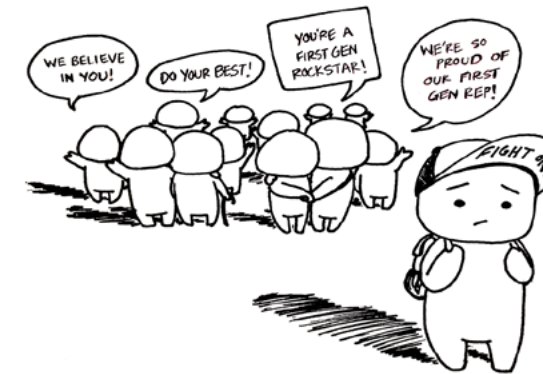
FIRST-GEN COLLEGE STUDENTS: THE DECISION TO CONTINUE EDUCATION AFTER GRADUATION

FIRST-GEN STUDENTS:

Navigating through college can be intimidating, filled with uncertainty, and extremely difficult. This is especially true for first-generation college students. We, as a society, don't want to talk about it and have open discussions about this, but this is the reality. College does not come easy for everyone, and that's not because individuals lack intelligence. The struggle emerges usually because of other factors going on. It is hard enough to get through undergrad while figuring things out on your own faced with yet another opportunity that you may not feel prepared for. However, the obstacles we have overcome and the resiliency we have shown, as a result, is an attribute that allows us to contribute to not only educational institutions, but to the world. Being the first in your immediate family to graduate from college is by no means an easy feat; it is an accomplishment you should be proud of. This task is easier said than done. Despite the obstacles you faced and the presumed disadvantage you were at, you were able to succeed.

OBSTACLES:

Of course, there are numerous reasons why someone, a first-generation college student or not, would be wary of continuing their education following graduation and receiving a graduate degree.



I cannot believe that I am a senior and will be graduating in the spring. If you had asked me four years ago what my future would hold, I would have had no idea. Like many of you, throughout the last year, I have contemplated my next move in life. For a while, I felt as though I was in this never-ending ongoing game of chess, where I sat and played the role of the Queen. Being able to make any choice and move in the direction I saw fit. I have all these possibilities before me, but am unsure of where to go. Many of you have also experienced this scenario, whether you are a first-generation student or not. However, I decided to write this to shed light on how first-generation college students grapple with this decision, and share advice to those students who are unsure of their next move.





I understand that graduate or professional school may be an unpleasant thought. Education after graduation is starting the navigation process all over again, but in a new environment on an even more rickety ship in highly treacherous waters. I hate to be the one to tell you this, but this is true. But just because something is difficult, unfamiliar, or frightening should not be the reason to choose to not continue with your education if that step is going to get you to where you want to go!

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE:

I've learned that the most challenging things can produce the best experiences. Trust me when I tell you that college has not been a smooth sailing experience. I faced severe storms that made me question the stability of the path I was on. I faced high winds that sent me in the opposite direction from where I needed to go. I faced pirates, also known as other obstacles that at any given time would function to disrupt and throw my educational path into disarray. However, through the process, I learned more about myself, what I want out of my life, and the purpose education will serve in achieving my goals. Consequently, I experienced rainbows, the most beautiful of sunsets, and the waters became calm. I was able to see the value in overcoming obstacles, and realized how many good people there are in the world that want to help and support you on your voyage. All you have to do is take the first step and set sail, and all the rest will follow.

MY NEXT STEP:

With all that in mind, I have chosen to apply to law school as I believe it's the next logical step for me in the journey of achieving my goals. I aspire one day to work in a career that allows me to explore and eventually remedy problems existing within the interconnections of law and society and law and government. Due to personal experience, and my background in interdisciplinary studies, I have grown to see the legal system as a force capable of making the necessary changes to make our world a better and safer place. Even though I see law school as an opportunity and platform for me to further my education and reach my goals, I would be lying if I told you I am not fearful. Applying to law school has not been without challenges, fear, and immense anxiety. Just because I have found meaning within the struggles accompanying the identity of a first-gen college student doesn't mean that I still am not actively navigating through the process too.

CONCLUSION:

If you are a first-generation college student, I ask that you think about your future by looking at your past before making any impulsive decisions. Before you decide to end your education based on the fear and uncertainty because of the stress education can put on your life based on your status, think back and assess how you have gotten where you are today. Maybe this recollection and inquiry can bring attention to experiences you may have overlooked and underestimated.

Or after reading this, you may have solidified your decision to not continue with your education, which is perfectly fine! Ideally, this discussion is to help students who are conflicted about their next move concerning their status. Perhaps you didn't share the same obstacles as I have, and weren't able to discover that meaning that my experience elicited. Regardless, know that in this complicated and complex decision, you are not alone! Don't be afraid of difficulty and embrace the path that will lead you to be successful. Best of luck! To my fellow first-generation college students, I am rooting for you.



WRITTEN BY: ISABELLA CARR PERRI

DESIGNED BY: YELIZAVETA KIUCHUN





GOING HOME



Written by Willie Soto

Designed by Sai Mahesh Podile

College can be a lot for some people, including a place for some to restart. However, it does make you miss your home, friends, family, etc. Most of all, I miss the food. College food isn't necessarily terrible but it is repetitive. I for sure can't wait to go home because I miss my family and the food that they make since no school can top their cooking. There are a lot of things to do over the break like hang out with friends or spend time with family.

The break can have a huge impact on one's life. For some college is better than home, and that reality may impact your emotional wellbeing as well as your friends and family. But it can go away by either distracting yourself or by just not going home for the break. At least for me, I can be fine with not being home for some time, although deep down I will cherish my parents cooking and the food that they put down. We go out and do some fun activities as well like watch a movie or if my brother has basketball games then we go to that and we cheer him on. Other than that, I have a good time returning home and seeing everyone and every delicious dish that is being served on the table.

For some, it may be quite difficult to leave a college because they may think it is better than home based on what is going on in their lives and that is understandable since college is a better life for them they and should enjoy every time they are spending here, even if that means staying on campus in the cold. However, even though your family may not be a very good one or the one that you were hoping for, your family is still your family. You still care for them as much as they care for you, if not then maybe not. But still, even though you were raised into what you think is hell, they didn't want that life for you at all. They always want you to be better than them, no matter how much pain you may cause them, they will always love you and wish you the best of luck on your wildest adventures.

So going home may not be what you want in terms of family situation or any other reason whatsoever, but it is what your parents would like. They probably miss you like crazy because they haven't seen you in forever, or maybe they just saw you like a week ago but they still miss having you around the house. Besides going back to your family, your friends may miss you and you can hang out with them again and do all the stuff you did with them you did before you left for college, like sneaking into movie theaters, breaking into abandoned buildings, etc. Going home could be wonderful and exciting, or could feel like your downfall.

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