



INFINITY FOUNTAIN, BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY | RUCHI JAIN/OPINION EDITOR

President Obama's New Education Plan

By **NICHOLAS SCHAFRAN**
Editor-in-Chief

This past August, President Obama announced a new education plan aimed at improving the system for the middle class. The plan, which the President recently came to Binghamton University to promote, consists of a multifaceted approach to make the entire experience of college easier for the struggling middle class. The President's chosen method to announce this plan was a bus tour of New York and Pennsylvania. Stops at SUNY Buffalo, Syracuse, Scranton, and Binghamton University, saw President Obama bring his message of "a better bargain for the middle class" and "college affordability" to various educational venues.

The stop at Binghamton University, which came on move-in day in August, found the President engaging with students and faculty and speaking in solidarity with President Stanger in the Mandela Room. Each stop on the

tour focused on a different part of his plan, in a different setting, from early education to post-graduate employment opportunity, and the President's stop in Binghamton focused largely on the concerns of college students debt.

The most prominent aspect is the plan to create incentives for "actors," as the President put it, which create the best values for college students. His most prominent course of action is creating a new ranking system for colleges, separate from the private ones like U.S. News and World, which would rank colleges value based on graduation rates, student debt, and jobs attained after graduation. In his speech at SUNY Buffalo, President Obama clarified this initiative, announcing that Secretary of Education Arne Duncan would be leading "an effort to develop a new rating system for America's colleges before the 2015 academic year.

Other plans involve reforming federal aid programs to "shift" aid towards schools which make efforts to keep tuition low, a \$1 billion investment in a proposed "Race to the Top" initiative for states, a \$55 million "First in the World" investment, investments in community college, and a myriad of programs aimed at early learning and K-12. However, the president's details on such systems are still very hazy, and reflect the primary steps of the plan, which he has indicated he will leave to Secretary Duncan to refine. So far, the President's most visible implementation of his vision in education is in his increases in grants and student debt subsidy.

During the Obama administration, Pell Grants have increased in total award value and in number received, up 50% since he took office.

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The Cost of Staying In

Emily looks at the weight on your wallet from simply staying home on a Saturday night

By **EMILY D'EMIC**
Copy Editor

It's a Saturday night. You're still somewhat worn out from the night before, a fun but somewhat frustrating night downtown. Now you're ready to take a break from all the stress and expenses that come with attempting to be social. But before you curl up in bed for a night of Breaking Bad reruns and junk food, consider the cash you're spending to simply relax at home.

First and foremost, at least for me, wine is always a necessity, and I will defend to my death my love for Yellowtail (13 bucks for an okay Chardonnay? Count me in!) Whatever your beverage of choice, be it a tank of chocolate milk, wine, or a six-pack, that's money being spent. And the cash flow doesn't stop there. Entertainment is a big requirement. Netflix is the go-to for an evening of random movies you've never heard of but simply must suffer through, or the classic Arrested Development marathon session. \$8.00 a month isn't so bad considering all of the options this wonderful invention has provided humanity, but the price definitely adds up once you consider our next category of hermit-life-necessities: food.

This category is - at least for me - the most extensive. Chinese takeout usually manages to hit the spot, but after an hour or so the hunger will surely strike back with a vengeance. You can end up with an excessive ingestion of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, Double Stuf Oreos, Cheez-Its, a stick of cookie dough (salmonella, anyone?), or

beef jerky. However, upon your return from the grocery store your plans are thwarted when you realize that this beef jerky is wrapped in a tightly sealed plastic that has surely been invented by sadists or astronauts. So, you're forced to drop an extra few bucks on a pair of scissors. These are the details that can leave even the mellowest of homebodies tired and forlorn.

With an abundance of wine and a favorite movie or television show, things can get pretty emotional. Therefore, another aspect to keep in mind is the emotional expense that comes into play with a night

in. Grab a box of Kleenex (\$4.47 for a three-pack at Walmart) and get ready to feel. When one is in such a state of emotional instability and disarray, it's always nice to have a cuddle-buddy. In my opinion, having a good friend or a significant other to accompany you

on your adventures in vegetation is extremely helpful, especially if you want to make yourself feel better about crying for the 30th time at the ending of Forrest Gump and devouring more Oreos than should be. If you're going to be at your worst, make sure to drag someone else down to your level! Everyone needs to put aside some quiet time to themselves, no matter what the cost. With that mentality, your life will be open to less weekend stress and many, many more Oreos.

"Having a good friend or a significant other to accompany you on your adventures in vegetation is extremely helpful."



the **free press**

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Things I Learned From My Ex, the Stand-Up Comedian

Lory shares the lessons that she learned from visiting comedy clubs to see her then boyfriend perform standup

By **LORY MARTINEZ**
Free Press Contributor

Things I Learned From My Ex is a new column about things that you just can't learn from your current boyfriend or girlfriend. I dated a stand-up comedian once and if you knew me, you wouldn't think it was that strange. I once dated a circus street performer because he wore a top hat and had a penchant for unicycles as a form of transport (but that's a whole other story, folks). What I can tell you though is that when you date a 26-year-old stand-up comic, you learn a few things.

People who go to comedy clubs regularly are either comedians themselves or friends of the performing acts. Either way, everybody there wants to be amused-like when the king orders a court jester to the castle, except that the court jester actually wants to be there and doesn't have to wear a funny hat anymore. And when everyone's happy, you hear

a roar. Case in point: one of my favorite things to witness in a comedy club is when a seasoned comic, or even a lucky rookie, tells a joke that is so good, that you literally cannot hear the next thing that goes into the microphone. It's best when even the most

it's not immediately followed by laughter, the silence that follows feels like the moment when you accidentally like someone's post on Facebook and the other person receives the notification, so there's no way to pretend that it didn't happen.

sometimes I didn't even get his jokes. Sometimes they even offended me. But when he made me laugh, when I could understand the way he looked at the world, with all its pain and suffering, I saw the humor in it. It was nothing but comedy gold.

Being funny is really hard. I mean, I like to think I'm pretty witty over here for creating long run-on sentences that take longer to read than to understand, but I know readers are checking their phones or spilling coffee on this paper because I am not Justin Bieber getting spanked by

Zach Galifianakis on Between Two Ferns. So, while I hope that you've read through to this sentence (Free Press five!), I'll just say that the lesson here is that we should commend comedians for writing their own material and testing it out on an audience full of strangers. And for making us laugh, of course.

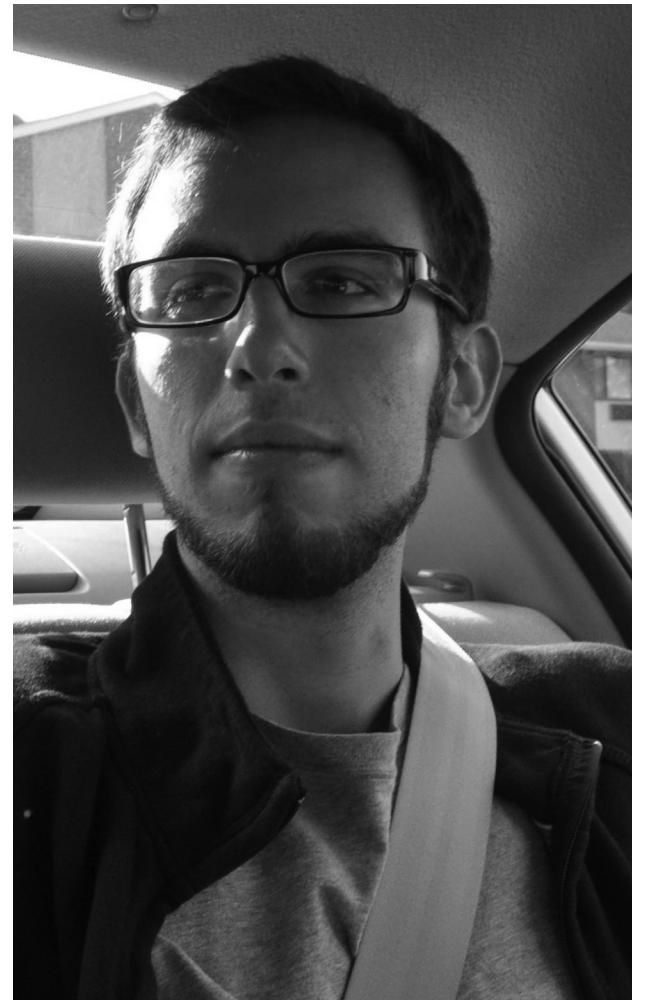
"Sometimes I didn't even get his jokes."



haggard looking guy can shine and his beard sparkles like the stars. But there's something about that whole comedy club scene that either makes you cringe with fear or chortle whatever you're drinking through those formerly pretty little nostrils of yours. When a comedian tells a joke and

Sometimes a joke will be extremely elaborate and there are all these references that only one or two people will understand in a crowd of say fifty. I didn't really get the point in not appealing to the masses with easy (what my-ex called) "hack" jokes, sprinkled in puns. But to him, those two people mattered. To be honest,

Student Feature: Harpur Students Take Advantage of Unique Internships



LEFT TO RIGHT: RUCHI JAIN, NICHOLAS SCHAFFRAN/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF; HALLIE MARKS, MELISSA NEIRA/PHOTO EDITOR; FRANK LEITGEB, RUCHI JAIN/OPINION EDITOR

A recap of some neat spots where BU students interned this summer

By RUCHI JAIN
Opinion Editor

Internships are crucial stepping-stones into the world of job security and/or advanced degrees. They provide students with a valuable learning experience and the opportunity to impress their potential employers. Truly rewarding internships are difficult to come by, which is why many students determine their plans for the summer as early as the winter before. For a liberal arts student at Binghamton University, some might be quick to assume that job or internship opportunities won't present themselves. But here we have compiled a list of unique, impressive, and rewarding internship experiences, taken advantage of by students of Harpur College this summer. These guys show that no matter what your major is or what previous experience you have, there are still opportunities out there for you. You just have to look in the right places.

BUSTING THE "ENGLISH MAJORS CAN'T GET JOBS" MYTH

Senior English major, and women, gender, and sexuality studies minor, Hallie Marks, interned at BUST magazine, a bimonthly women, feminist, fashion, and pop culture magazine based in New York City.

What was your official title and what did you do?

I was an Editorial intern. My main thing was writing articles - a lot of writing and doing research for blog posts everyday. I did a lot of other things also; some of them were remedial office tasks, like taking out the garbage and sending mail, drop-offs and pickups. Some days I sorted through products and things that we got.

Why did this internship interest you?

I've always been really interested in current events, whether it's media, pop culture, music, or politics. Feminism has become a really important identity to me in the last couple of years. Doing something that could tie in all of those interests together and being in an environment that's so woman-positive but also talks about gossip, music, and sex toys - It was my dream internship, pretty much.

How did you find out about this opportunity? And how did you apply?

I did a Google search for "Feminist Internships." A blog came up with a bunch of places and I saw Bust. It had an application and I submitted a resume. I got in contact with the person who runs the intern program and emailed her very early in the spring. We had a phone interview.

What were some cool events you got to go to or things you got to do as a result?

I was an assistant to the stylist of a fashion shoot, so I steam-pressed clothes for hours, running for coffee and lunch. I sat and looked at magazines with models to entertain them. I had a lot of opportunities to go to concerts and film screenings to write reviews. I got to see a lot of books and CDs before they came out because we got a lot of them to review. I went to their 20th-year anniversary party and there were a lot of awesome people there.

What is your advice to people looking for internships?

Apply to as many as you can find. It's never too early to start applying. Don't be afraid to be persistent either - send follow-up emails. Make it seem like you want it. Find smaller, local companies, especially if you've never had an internship before; you can build better connections to the people who work in your office, and maybe get better recommendations.

STARTING UP WITH START-UPS

Junior economics major, Justin Walsh, and I, Ruchi Jain, a senior mathematics major, interned for ZUUS Media Inc. It's a startup company by ex-executives of BET and MTV, aiming to be the "Pandora" of music videos. They have over 200 different channels and are expanding everyday with more music videos and content. Their offices are currently located in New York City, Nashville, and Miami.

What was your official title and what did you do?

Justin: I worked for the programming side of the company and I managed the music video libraries.
Ruchi: I was a Production Intern, so I had to help out at shoots and sometimes act as a second cam. I also did a lot of artist research to prepare for interviews. And I did a lot of office work and errand-running.

Why did this internship interest you?

Ruchi: I've always been really interested in photography and cinema. This internship was

really cool because I got to put my hands on a professional camcorder and actually record with it. Most production internships don't let you anywhere near a camera. This was also my first internship so it was a really good place for me to start.

Justin: This internship interested me because the music industry has always been an interest of mine. It will help me decide on a future career.

"Find smaller, local companies, especially if you've never had an internship before [..]"

Hallie Marks

How did you find out about this opportunity? How did you apply?

Ruchi: I went on the BU eRecruiting website a bunch of times to look for internships in New York City and I saw this one. So I sent in my resume

and got a call the next day. It turns out the person who made the posting was a BU grad.

Justin: I heard about this internship through a friend who found it on a Binghamton University list serve. After I heard about the opportunity I sent in my resume and cover letter.

What were some cool events you got to go to or things you got to do as a result?

Justin: Added benefits of this internship were that I was given the opportunity to attend a hip-hop festival in Brooklyn and the Rockstar Mayhem Festival for free.

Ruchi: I got to go to a rooftop party in uptown Manhattan for an upcoming Brooklyn artist and record an interview with her. I also got VIP access to the Village Voice 4Knots Festival.

What is your advice to people looking for internships?

Justin: My advice for someone looking for an internship is to act quickly on opportunities that present themselves, and to have a well-written cover letter and resume.

Ruchi: Take advantage of the resources around you. Many people don't use the Binghamton eRecruiting website or have ever heard of it, but it's updated every day with opportunities in Binghamton and nationwide. Not just internships

or full-time jobs, but also part-time jobs on or off campus.

PREPARING PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS
Senior Integrative Neuroscience major, Frank Leitgeb, took advantage of more than one opportunity involving animal care in the Binghamton area this summer!

Where did you intern?

I volunteered at Stable Movements [in Binghamton] and interned for the local Ross Park Zoo at the end of August. Stable Movements is a type of hippotherapy, where children with varying degrees of mental and physical ailments go to ride horses. I cleaned out the horse stables, gave them food and water, groomed them, prepared them to be ridden, and led them while children rode on them. The Zoo internship involved working with the keepers to learn how to provide care for the animals.

Why did these opportunities interest you?

These both interested me because I plan on applying to veterinary school in the future, which requires you to have experience working with various types of animals. And also I just love animals.

How did you find out about this opportunity? How did you apply?

I found out about this opportunity through the Pre-Vet Society [an organization on campus]. For Stable Movements, I just kind of showed up and said I was there to help. For the zoo I went to their website and filled out an application, then went in for an interview. I decided to take it for credit, so I also had to attend a meeting with the CDC.

What were some cool events you got to go to or things you got to do as a result?

I've helped out at the Special Olympics this summer and that was pretty fun. There was a barbecue and all the horses had their manes done and the kids really seemed to enjoy the competition.

What is your advice to people looking for internships?

I would say apply to anything and everything that interests you, cast a big net, that sort of thing. And if you really want something, keep applying, even if you don't get it the first time.



Binghamton: The Carousel Capital of the World

By **MALT WHITMAN**
Free Press Contributor

The city of Binghamton is the Carousel Capital of the World. The Endicott-Johnson shoe company was once the most successful shoe manufacturer in the US. While these two facts may seem unrelated, they are deeply intertwined not only with each other, but with the history of the place we call home for at least some part of the year.

George F. Johnson, after whom our neighbor Johnson City is named, built his shoe empire in the Triple Cities at the turn of the century. He started off in the industry at the age of fourteen by working at various shoe and boot companies in Massachusetts, until he was offered a managing position at the Lester Brothers Shoe Company in the town now named after him. Johnson was such a talented visionary that when the bankrupt brothers sold their business to the investor Henry Endicott, Endicott kept Johnson on as a worker, and eventually even as a co-owner. Endicott believed that Johnson's passion, talent, and honesty would bring the new Endicott-Johnson

Shoe Company to prosperity, a prophecy Johnson fulfilled beyond expectation.

The Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company was the largest company in the industry for several decades, and even provided the boots for American soldiers in both World War I and World War II. Johnson explained that the main reason for his success was because he had tens of thousands of loyal workers. However, their loyalty was not unwarranted. Johnson was one of the first promoters of welfare capitalism; he believed that it was the employer's responsibility to ensure that his workers were well-cared for. Johnson provided his workers with public libraries, playgrounds, swimming pools, theatres, golf courses, and, of course, shoes. He offered his employees and their families the most extensive medical plan in the country and even sold them subsidized homes at a loss to the company. He believed that by treating his employees like friends and by building a warm community around the company, he would have the

loyalty of his workers. This loyalty, he claimed, was one of the main reasons he was able to outproduce competitors and build his shoe empire.

After Johnson's death, the company declined and eventually was sold and relocated out of the Southern Tier. Many of the factories and homes Johnson built are now empty, but his statue stands strong in Binghamton's Recreation Park. "George F. Johnson," it reads, "Erected by an Appreciative Community to the Nobility of his Character and his Great Benefactions to the People." And beside his statue? A carousel Johnson donated to the city during his life. Johnson, who did not grow up wealthy, firmly believed that carousels are best when enjoyed by everyone. He donated six wood-carved carousels to Binghamton parks between 1919 and 1934 for use by the community in which he was growing his business and lifelong dream. There are currently less than 170 of these antique carousels on the continent. Because of their

uniqueness and rarity, all six of the carousels he donated are currently on the National Register of Historic Places.

To this day, carousels are free to all. Johnson insisted that no money was ever charged to ride his carousels, and thus, the rides are either free or require an 'entry fee' of one piece of picked up litter from the parks.

Carousel locations are listed below, and riding all six entitles you to an "I Rode the Binghamton Carousel Circuit" button. But hopefully, in addition to the button, you'll leave the carousels with increased appreciation for Johnson's lifelong dedication to our community.

- C. Fred Johnson Park, Johnson City
- George W. Johnson Park, Endicott
- West Endicott Park, Endicott
- Recreation Park, Binghamton
- Ross Park, Binghamton
- Highland Park, Endwell

Early Industrial Development of the Southern Tier

By **KARL BERNHARDSEN**
Free Press Contributor

William Bingham never set foot on the tract of land he purchased surrounding the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chenango rivers. He was a busy man; at the time of the purchase he was the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and a key advisor to then Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton. By 1795, he was a United States Senator and power broker par excellence renowned for his extravagance while entertaining European dignitaries. In his absence, he named Judge Joshua Whitney Jr. his regional agent, responsible for developing the first roads, courthouse and bridge. Bingham was dead by 1804, and it would be thirty years yet until the village heretofore known as Chenango Point would incorporate

under a new name in his honor: Binghamton.

The new community was perfectly situated for growth. Before the construction of canals and railroads lumber could only be efficiently transported via rivers. Binghamton had two, both flowing through vast tracts of virgin forest. By 1836, construction was completed on the ninety-seven mile long Chenango Canal, connecting the Chenango River Valley region to the Erie Canal. Twelve years later, the Erie Railway made it into town and thus began Binghamton's long reign as the transportation hub of the Southern Tier. The next century would see a cavalcade of industries all deciding to call Binghamton and its surrounding communities their new home.

Cigar manufacturers were the first to arrive en masse. More than fifty cigar factories were operating in Binghamton by 1890, employing thousands and churning out roughly 100 million cigars per annum. The ground floor of the former Hull-Grummond Cigar Company, located at the corner of Henry and Water Street, is now the location of the popular Lost Dog Cafe. However, cigar production dropped dramatically with the rise in popularity of cigarettes due to widespread distribution amongst soldiers fighting in WWI. War may have been the bane of cigars, but it was a blessing for boots, the other burgeoning business in Binghamton.

ROBOT ALIEN CYBORG MONKEY BABY

Elijah Alsdorf

Racmb: I must gain your assistance in a very special way. Do to the failure of the chicken-snake and democrat party rebellion. That only manger to kill 40,000 republicans and 10,000 dolphims. But we most destroy the earth. Here is my plan, we must go to the center of the earth to get the grand slurpie machine. It posses all of the pain suffering of all of those who work at 7/11's around the galaxy.

Old man: the galaxy? Doint ya Meyan tha earth? So what kind of power cell holds this collector of chaotic missery?

Racmb: it is in the shape of whale tail. It's a mockery on green piece because nothing about makes things "green" in the cool seance if the word. And it brings distraction in its wake, leaving no wun to live in peace or in a piece.

Oldman: hmmm well I have always wanted to harpoon something, but that was mostly in my college daze. I have a thing for wemon who are 7 ft tall and yodal a lot. But back to this power source, how does it react to tiers of kittens. Those rubbery squirts from there eyes can make greAt containers.

Racmb: not well I am afraid you see, the thing is tiers of kittens make them quite and remarkably violant. This means when they micks with the containers it may want to get married to you then divorce you leaving you with nothing but our anal probe.

Old man: it has many utilitez and it can pitch me a tent if I need it too. So no worries, what other options do we halve?

Racmb: we need to graft skin from the saggyist person on the planet. Madonna will do. But it will be hard to convince her that she is donating her skin to a good cause.

Old man: last I checked her skin was as air tight as the OJ trial. And smoother than a 13 year old boys back after acne medication. Racmb: in either case the skin grafting must be in such a manner that it becomes the whom for lactating, leech like, lethargic lollipops. The shape is key for transmits ideas and we hope those will be of he wort possible kind. In Oder to prevent of course the energy to feel my happiness in destroying the earth. And yourself after having a few moments with your corn wives.

Old man: I suggest if we need skin grafting that we paper out of human rope. Otherwise known as umbilical cords. But in order to do that we need to take the whole state of UTah hostage.

Racmb: that was one of my backup plans. We are going to create a public tv show in Salt Lake City. That advocates that Mormons snort pages of the Book of Mormon. Chopping the pieces of paper up very fine

will get them think very keenly. After some Mormons are on our side we tell the governed of Utah that we have the key to legalizing polygamy. If they do don't bow to our whims we will destroy the document or hide it in a cucumber. For it is in the shape of a green penis, like caption kirks secret fetish.

(New scene) the earth shakes old man has a very worried look on his face.

Old man: hey, do you feel that?

Racmb: yes the shaking, like you after eating garlic ice cream.

Old man: my anal probe is sending me a mad feeling, worse then the one I get when tricker treaters come and ask for candy in the shape of human flesh. Let me think for a moment.

(Old man's butt begins to glow with colors acting speractic)

Old man: it seems to me another alien race has come to destroy the earth.

Racmb: I will not let this happen, I am the only one who can destroy this planet!!!!!!

Old man: hmm I think we should use back up plan 69,

Racmb: no! I will not use that plan because it requires me being merciful to people who work at the DMV. But if we can enlist the help of the corps of giant snail I will accept it, because the sliminess will create a demonic equilibrium.

Old man: demonic equilibrium?

Racmb: yesssssss, the DMV is the single lathargiest source of evil on this planet that could rival

my own. In order to combat that evil you need something that it can send form, make stand in endless lines and impose gross amounts of fines and needless regulations. The snail corps is already dead but constantly sacreats slime.

Old man: it being dead will not have any need to complain hmmm

I happen to have a giant gun that shoot waiters from 80s films, their mustaches are sharper then a sword made of lasers.

Racmb: that's far too simple of a plan, and my guess is that they will be using bras, massive and intertwined. The waiters my get attracted to that until they realize the bras are not for transvestites. After which they will be repelled back at us.

Old man: if only we could hide in a cave made from the bones of 80's b-Celebrities. They would secrete a kind of funky cheese that would act as a barrier as the earth is being destroyed.

Racmb: that could in "theory" work. Unfortunately the American Girl Scouts have been selling the bones of 80's in so etching you would never guesse.....there mothers hair for locks of love. A charity organization giving hair to cancer patients. The mothers kidnap all of the bones of every 80's tv star and grind them up into badges. Once the little girls fail at arbitrary actions the mothers consumer the badges thus secreting them from thier hair.

InDidjInUs

Old man: I reckon that if you were a radio host an outcry of biblical proportions would

demand that you be locked up in an insane asylum. Some how you might enjoy that.

Racmb: I would endeedeth! I can meat a hundred incarnations of nepolians!

Oldman: These plans won't work they are too darn simple and logical. What we need is three things. The help from earth's one and only super hero ?AND!!!!!!!!!!!!!!..... to make giant cookies and use them as ninja stars of doom. Last but not least summon the lizard Mormons from underneath my barn. The Mormon lizards are not "Mormons" in the religious sense. But that's what they call themselves. Although they are Christian, claim that Indians were Jews and their profit was named yosephey smith. But in truth they really have nothing in common. If we can get them to use thier tungs all at once it might be a critical factor in the battle.

Racmb: oh no, no no no no no no. I do not want to enlist earths one and only super hero. Every time I talk to the guy he gets stronger. He poses a great threat to me destroying the earth.

Old man: yep that's why we need you two to act as one. Caption absurdo gains his power by hearing absurd ideas. No one human can come up with the kind of absurd ideas you halve.

Racmb: tis the truest thing since hearing a virgin cry is space after watching the sun turn to a lettuce cheese manikin.

Old man: with our combined forces we might save the earth so it can be destroyed later. Racmb: I like your thinking. So it is agreed save the earth to destroy it later. Do you have any idea what species these aliens are?

Old man: I reckon that they are the oldest aliens in all of history. A hive mind of not funny comindians in fat suits. They are the only logical species to want to invade earth. Largely because we have kept our own unfunny comindians alive. Rambo: it is the greatest boom inaction since the discover of condoms.

For not letting the greatest freaks of nature to be born thus causing pain and mayhem.

(New scene) the air is thick with anticipation, a giant ship in the shape of a middle finger covered in herpes hovers over hearth.

Voice in the sky: humans we are the "oh my, thank The Lord, we in so much trouble . HmMMM (fart noise) of fat joke in served her" we have come to destroy your planet. But before we do so we will

send two of our ambassadors to the Grand Canyon in the us. They are known as duke dildo the vibrating vavillian and vogart the human nipple, you are permitted to hear him squirt.

(Segway you see a shot of caption absurdo suiting up in his cave of sexual harassment causing self deprecating indeerment. He seems shocked and watches an episode of a silly cartoon to gain some strength)

Caption absurdo: my time is rising like a blanket in a writing by Frans Kafka. All hale the wife's cleavage yeast, when in water we shall rise together.

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Going Downtown: What Do You Think You Paid For?

Marcus examines the price of going out for guys vs. girls and what it really means to both

By **MARCUS GARCIA**
Free Press Contributor

It's Friday night, the week is finally over, and it's time to get ready to go out and start the weekend off right. The first order of business, naturally, is to call up your boys and/or girls and find out what's going on tonight. Where are we going? Frat house? Club? Bars? Or maybe some crazy combination of all three. Where are we going to meet up and pre-game? What time are we going out? How are we going to get there? Most importantly, how much money should I bring?

The answer to that question depends on a lot of things, but mostly it depends on whether you're a guy or girl, man or woman, gentleman or lady. Why? Because even after you've gotten all dressed up and ready to rock, we - I'm talking to you guys - will still have to wait in line to shell out however much money wherever we have decided is the cost of what they're selling. If you're a guy, let's face it: you're probably going to be waiting in that line a lot longer than the group girls wearing short dresses and high heels. The only reasons they'd have a tough time getting in would be how big their group is. In any case, they're getting in before you and more often than not they're paying next to nothing. Originally, you'd heard that tonight was ladies free until 11pm and cover for guys was \$10. When you check your phone, it's midnight, you've been in line for an hour but now you've

finally made it to the front and the bouncer is checking your I.D. He gives you the O.K. then says, "Cover's \$30." For a moment, you're

assumed there would be a treasure trove of attractive women, you screwed up. You were tricked into thinking that by paying so much

to screen its clientele, prioritize and commoditize the females in attendance, and then markets them to its male clientele by placing an expensive cover price. From there it trickles down to us, who all just assume that the more we spend, the better and easier everything gets. The problem is that we all go out at night expecting the wrong things. With all these expectations, it's hard if not impossible to just have a good time. Guys have to worry about spending their life savings to enjoy female company, while girls have to worry about being harassed by every bastard who believes he's already put a down payment towards grinding up on her and taking her home. This kind of craziness starts in college and follows us well into adult life; it's no wonder dating sites and apps have started catering to a younger audience. How is anyone supposed to go out and meet someone organically with all of these preconceived notions in place? Cliché as it might sound, we assume too much. We need to ask ourselves what it is we think we're paying for when we go out. It might be easier to see the problem from behind the velvet ropes, but by no means does it stop there. It follows you right in like an entourage you can't ditch, and it's ugly.

"In that moment, when you paid that increased cover price to get into a place where you assumed there would be a treasure trove of attractive women, you screwed up."



stunned, thinking, "Why is it so expensive?" but you've waited all this time, and the night is young, so you dig through your wallet for some cash.

In that moment, when you paid that increased cover price to get into a place where you

more to get in than every girl in there, someone owes you something, that you're supposed to be reimbursed for your investment. If you paid the club, the girls should pay you back right? Wrong.

It starts at the top, with the venue deciding



REAL ESTATE AT MOE FEST '13 | MELISSA NEIRA/PHOTO EDITOR

The Worst People at Indie Rock Band Concerts

Agree or disagree?

By **RUCHI JAIN**
Opinion Editor

The guy taking pictures of the opening band
The guy filming the opening band
The guy filming the whole thing
The guy giving a thumbs up to the frontman
The frontman
The girl who dances like no one's watching
The girl who is trying to sing along but doesn't know the lyrics
Why are you so dressed up, do you think people are here to look at you the whole time?
Is there anything else you have to say besides "so good!"?
The guy who is standing in the front and chewing gum, with his arms crossed
The kid in a band t shirt

Giants
The guy who is still trying to convince his girlfriend that this was a better idea than getting froyo
Hipsters
Hipster bros
Bros
High schoolers on coke
High schoolers smoking weed
High schoolers drinking
High schoolers
PhD candidates
Whoever used the word Postmodern just now
All of the fans of this band
Girl who thinks she's the best person at this concert

President Obama's New Education Plan

From Page 1

In 2009, his administration established the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which gives 9.4 million students college tuition aid annually.

This haziness has left him open to attacks from opponents on the right, who are skeptical of the value of public intervention in private colleges. The New York Times reports that Senator Marco Rubio, a Republican of Florida, opposes the plan on the basis that federal standards for higher education lead to a slippery slope in which the private sector loses freedom of innovation.

"The U.S. did not create the best higher education system in the world by using standards set by Washington bureaucrats," says Rubio. A statement from Representative John Kline (R-MN) was

also skeptical, stating, "I remain concerned that imposing an arbitrary college ranking system could curtail the very innovation we hope to encourage." In the wake of Republican skepticism

and the government shutdown, implementation of the President's goals faces considerable roadblocks. Pell Grants will continue to be distributed, despite the fact that most of the Department of Education's employees will be furloughed.

The President's education plan is very multi-faceted, and will prove to be difficult to implement in time for his self-imposed 2015 academic year deadline. We will keep you up to date with information as more details emerge.