

# THE PAW<sup>🐾</sup> PRINT

Summer 2015 • The Student Newspaper of LCCC • Vol.1 No.2

## The Paw Preview

### Style & Entertainment

Remember those songs from the '90s that you just couldn't get out of your head? Read up and reminisce on your favorites.

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### Health & Fitness

Missed the Self-Defense seminar last month? Here's your chance to see what went on.

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### Opinion

If you find yourself constantly complaining about slow wi-fi, you may never do so again.

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## Summer Fun

Traveling to another country? Back packing across the country? Going on a mission trip? Let us know at pawprint@lccc.edu. Writers are interested in the student body and their summer plans. Perhaps your adventures could be featured in the fall issue of THE PAW PRINT.

## Student-run club unites LCCC

**Lindsay Ehret**  
Writer

Students at LCCC come from all over the world, and their heritages and cultures make them who they are. How can people become involved in this cultural awareness? Join the Intercultural Student Association.

The Intercultural Student Association is an association here on the LCCC campus. It is comprised of students of all different cultures, and its aim is to bring the community and students together to form an understanding of all the different types of cultures and values people have. The association does this by planning different events on campus.

From February 27 through April 24, students have participated in 18 hours of volunteering, where students in the club visited and volunteered at the Second Harvest Food Bank every Friday. They also plan to host an International Night on campus, in which students will be able to become familiar with all of the different nationalities there are and what those nationalities practice and value.

The association is made up of students who have a passion for learning about different cultures. Karen Peralta, LCCC student and president of the association shares more about this.

"The association seeks to provide the



**Photo by Lindsay Ehret**

*Students taking part in the Intercultural Student Association volunteer at the Second Harvest Food Bank. Students do anything from packing to transporting goods while giving back to the community.*

understanding of other cultures, and the opportunity for students to come together."

She also explains some of the association's goals.

"When first making the association, we wanted to bring the awareness to everyone, to those who really feel good about opening up, and also to those who don't. We wanted a way for students to be able to share things about themselves and be open to the different opportunities and events that the association brings," Peralta concluded.

The Intercultural Student Association continues to put in many efforts to bring the students of LCCC together, and to make people aware of the differences each individual has.

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## THE PAW PRINT Contact Information

Please direct all questions, concerns, and comments to the following address:  
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# Words from the editors

**Ashley Delp**  
Editor

With summer so close, many people can not wait until the semester is over, while I am dreading it. This semester has been more than a learning experience for me. I have been reminded time and time again on why I love writing.

What is a more permanent way to express oneself than through written words. The joy that flooded me upon seeing my name printed and distributed among the student body rivals anything that I have experienced thus far in my twenty years.

This has brought on a need, not a want, to see my name printed over and over again. This indescribable joy has created a chain reaction within myself leading to an entire career change. I have always seen my writing as a mere hobby but with closer inspection I can see more than a hobby. I can see a future.

I would have always thought of my writing as a hobby and nothing more if a professor had not taken a chance with me. By allowing me to bring the paper to the students of LCCC, he has given me more than a few credits. He has handed me the possibility to create the joy I feel and spread it with others. Not only has he sparked this in me but within my fellow writers.

With the end of the semester, I will grudgingly hand over the reins to the new editors, who I have complete faith in. My unwillingness springs not from them being ill-prepared but rather the desire to return as the editor in the fall. They shall be in good hands and I know I should not worry but I will always worry. When I look at them I will see the fresh-faced newbies from the first day I met them and not the experienced journalists they have become.

Ashley Delp

**Kimberly Kroznuski**  
Editor

The end of this semester brings with it a multitude of emotions. Many professors provide last-minute projects, clubs try to wrap up any activities as they prepare for their next chapter, jobs pick up more as the new season approaches.

And somehow, on top of all that, I've found the time to sleep, eat, bathe and co-edit a newspaper. Through it all, who would have guessed that the most stress-inducing part of my semester would also be the most amazing experience I've had in my two years at LCCC?

As my winter break came to an end, I had no idea what to expect from this paper. All I knew was that I had my best friend as my co-editor, a class full of students ready to write and a professor who wanted to supervise. If I had known from the start just how well this would pan out, maybe I wouldn't have worried so much.

I'm now in a position where this newspaper is more than a class - it's a way of life. I spend most of my time thinking about what I should work on next, how I can pass on my knowledge to the wonderful new students taking on this position next semester and how to let go of it all as I carry on in this next chapter of my life.

I take this chance to thank you, the reader, for supporting our newspaper as it ventures forward into the next school year. Without the reinforcement from the students and faculty here at LCCC, without the professors and students ready to take on the challenge of making The Paw Print a reality, I would not be walking away with the knowledge and the self-esteem to keep on writing. Without you, the happiness I'm filled with would simply not exist.

Kimberly Kroznuski

## Information & Policies

THE PAW PRINT is a student-run campus newspaper, printed to bring its students and community comprehensive coverage of the news and events affecting our campus. The editors encourage interested students to become involved in the production of The Paw Print. Interested students should contact the newspaper via email (pawprint@lccc.edu).

Students and community will soon be able to access THE PAW PRINT online. The newspaper will be updated twice per semester. PDF forms of the printed newspaper will also be accessible shortly.

The editors and advisors are the decision-making body of the newspaper and governs its operations. The paper is dedicated to accurately reporting on the activities and proceedings on campus and in the surrounding areas. Opinions and views expressed in the newspaper are those of the journalists and editors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Lehigh Carbon

Community College.

THE PAW PRINT reserves the right to make changes and corrections as they are deemed fit, and will not promote or advertise any illegal products or services. The newspaper will not invade the privacy of people, involved or likewise, and will not print anything deemed libelous or in poor taste.

THE PAW PRINT editorial policy reflects the ethics of college journalism. The paper, both as a whole and as the journalists individually, strive to protect and uphold this policy at all costs.

# news & features

## Project SEED fuels postsecondary success

**Jared Waylen**

Writer

The other thing that I envision is diversity on campus...this helps us become a truly diverse campus.” That quote comes from Joseph Davis, a professor at the college who is also involved with Project SEED.

The SEED program is designed to help students with disabilities prepare themselves for postsecondary success.

The goal for the program lies within the acronym. The desire is to provide each student with success, engagement, education and determination. In the project’s words, the goal is to plant the seeds of success for these students.

Starting in July, the program will begin providing students with a background in either an academic or career track. Each track helps with several of the same key factors, such as improving social skills.

“I want to see the individuals grow themselves...whatever success means to them is what I want to see,” Michelle Mitchell of Project SEED said.

The academic track helps students with a focus of acquiring a degree or diploma.

If a student has a desire to be involved in sports management or web design, they can simply pick the program’s major for that and learn all about what that requires.

The career track assists students who have a desire to do something that does not necessarily have a major. The program works with the individual on his or her goal similar to a technical institute.

In each track, one of the main components is mentoring. The students in Project SEED are paired up with another student who can show them anything about the campus. More importantly than that, however, is that their mentor will also be their friend.



Photo by Jared Waylen

Joseph Davis and Michelle Mitchell gather to discuss the beginning of Project SEED this summer. The two emphasize the importance of the mentoring that will take place between students at the program and stress the importance of having a friend on campus.

“You just don’t come to college just to learn your academics. You come to learn about life. I think the mentor program will help everyone learn about life,” Davis said.

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# style & entertainment

## Explaining pay phones to the kids

**Daniel Berrios**

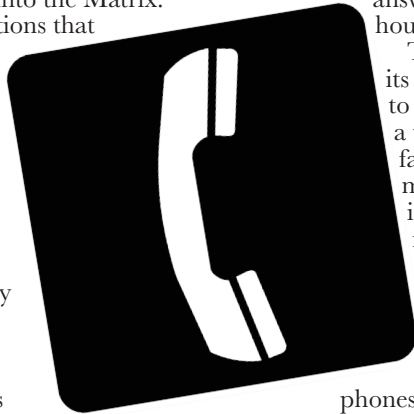
Writer

Technology is constantly evolving and it's only a matter of time before the robot overlords, err, peaceful caretakers, forcefully inject everyone into the Matrix. Kidding aside, the innovations that are being made every day to commonly used items like the phone, car or radio are astounding, but it is also a little sad to think about how a lot of the technology today will soon be obsolete.

One day everything cutting edge will eventually fade away giving rise to a newer, better technology. That said, in honor of Throwback Thursday let's take a look at some fading technology, specifically phones, before the next generation depresses everybody by saying, while playing some hologram video game, "Hey mom, what's an iPhone?"

When is the last time this generation

needed to use a pay phone? The answer might actually be years or never, as opposed to the previous generation who might have answered days or even just hours.



The pay phone was in its day a device designed to give the common man a way to connect with family, friends or just make an emergency call in case someone wasn't feeling generous that day or a private line was out of reach. According to an article in USA Today as early as 2002 the number of pay

phones in America were more than 1.7 million, however in the years that followed they have decreased to as low as 243,487 by the end of 2012.

For some the pay phone is still an invaluable service. According to U.S. Census data nearly 3 million American

households do not have a phone of any kind and must rely on borrowing a friend or neighbor's phone or use a pay phone.

This trend is not restricted to pay phones alone, however, as further census data reports that in 2011 only 71% of American households had landlines, down from the 96% of 15 years ago. In contrast, cellphone ownership has gone from 36% to 89% since 1998.

Cellphones are constantly evolving as the various brands try to design the perfect mini-computer, complete with high definition picture, recording technology and even in some instances fingerprint security. Of course some of this technology is still some distance from being anywhere near perfect, but for the next generation it might be obsolete in its own right and pay phones will be a funny story to tell the kids.

**\*Un-Fun Fact:** According to a UN report six of the world's seven billion people own mobile phones, but only 4.5 billion have a toilet.\*

## Prom: The night to remember

**Isabella Ellis**

Writer

Remember what it felt like to stand in a crowded room full of other students, dressed nicely while the music was softly playing the night of the high school prom?

Perhaps you were standing near the punch bowl when your date appeared, handsome or beautiful as can be in your evening attire. With the dual nod of approval, you both made your way to the dance floor and began to awkwardly slow dance.

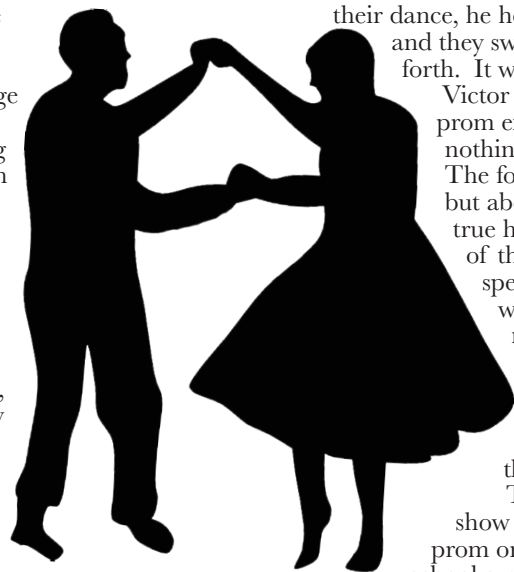
Regardless of experience, if it had anything to do with corsages, limos, and a bunch of pictures taken by your parents, prom was a make-it-or-break-it kind of ordeal.

From prom-posals to early dress shopping to tuxedo rentals, prom is a major highlight in any high school student's life. So much planning goes into this type of event, especially with the help of a prom committee. This group is mostly responsible for location, decorations, entertainment and catering. With

additional assistance from the school and willing chaperones, prom becomes a huge hit.

When reminiscing about their own high school experiences, some students at LCCC were asked to share their most cherished moment during prom.

One student, Corina Vaca-moran, said, "It was actually when the prom king and queen were announced, and the prom king was the only guy of color that went to the school, and there was this girl with a disability in a wheelchair, and for



their dance, he held her wheelchair and they swayed back and forth. It was really beautiful."

Victor Perez said, "My prom experience was nothing less than magical. The food was delicious, but above all else, I felt true happiness because of the fact that I was spending the night with the woman of my dreams. As soon as I experienced my first kiss, I felt it in my heart that she was definitely the one."

That just goes to show that memories from prom or any positive high school experience can last a lifetime no matter what the experience may have been.

# 6 THE PAW PRINT

## '90s Music: A lasting influence

**Kailey Herring**  
Writer

The '90s were a great decade for music. So many different genres were popular at the same time, giving everyone some diversity in taste of music. This is what made the musical era of the '90s so memorable. Pop, rap and alternative artists were most common, along with numerous one-hit-wonders that everyone had grown to love.

By introducing all these new types of music at the same time, it seemed to give each genre more room to mix things up. The earlier '90s were focused on dance music with songs from Technotronic's

"Pump up the Jam" to Sir Mix-A-Lot's "Baby Got Back." Then, the mid-'90s lightened up a bit in music style by introducing bands, Hootie and the Blowfish, Sister Hazel, The Backstreet Boys, and NSYNC. Finally, the late '90s focused mainly on the women, where they appeared on pop charts more than at any former time. Jewel, Missy Elliot, Shania Twain, and Madonna were some of the most popular women at this time. Mariah Carey made the charts 19 times in this decade alone. Where are these artists now?

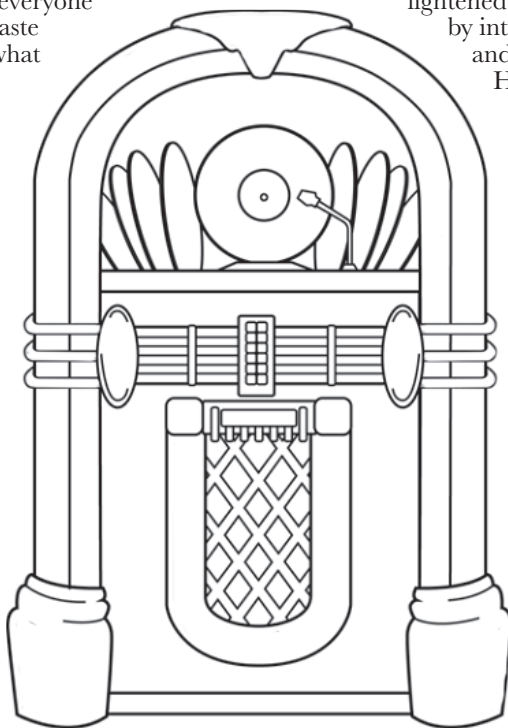
Many of them have retired from their years in the music industry, but their music has not been forgotten.

There are a few

artists who are still producing music today, and some have also gone on to be actors on television. Shania Twain is finishing up a two-year contract performing at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas and has announced to CMT that this influenced her to put some concerts together for a tour over the next year. Jewel recorded a country album which debuted at the top of the Billboard Country chart, along with recording two children's albums. Justin Timberlake from the popular '90s band, NSYNC, has actually announced to Billboard Magazine that they are rehearsing for a new world tour beginning February 2016.

Some of the most played hits on the radio in the '90s according to VH1 are listed but not limited to:

"Smells Like Teen Spirit" by Nirvana  
"I Want It That Way" by The Backstreet Boys  
"Baby Got Back" by Sir Mix-A-Lot  
"Baby One More Time" by Britney Spears  
"Waterfalls" by TLC  
"U Can't Touch This" by MC Hammer  
"Say My Name" by Destiny's Child  
"MMMBop" by Hanson  
"Mr. Jones" by The Counting Crows  
"Tearing Up My Heart" by NSYNC



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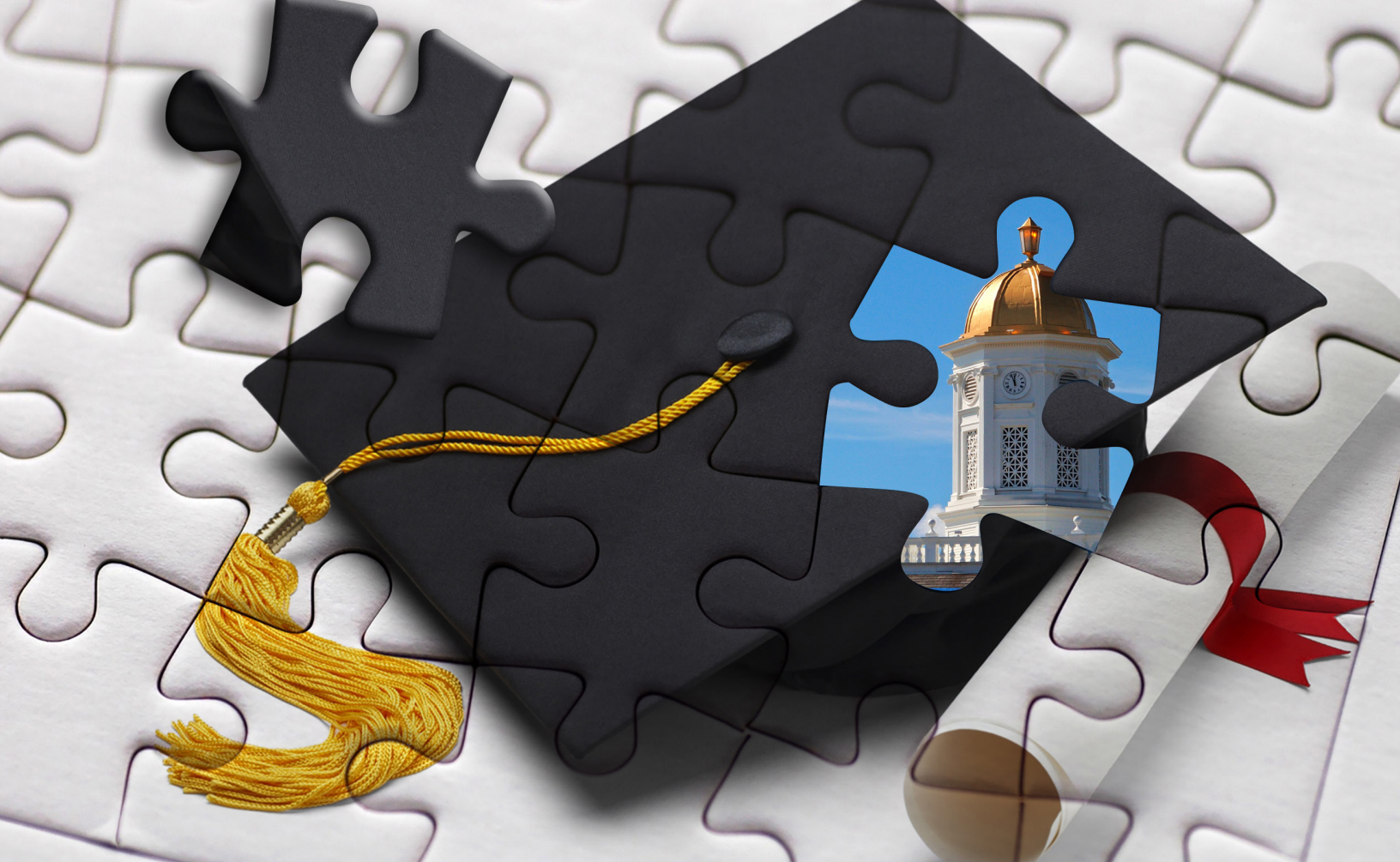
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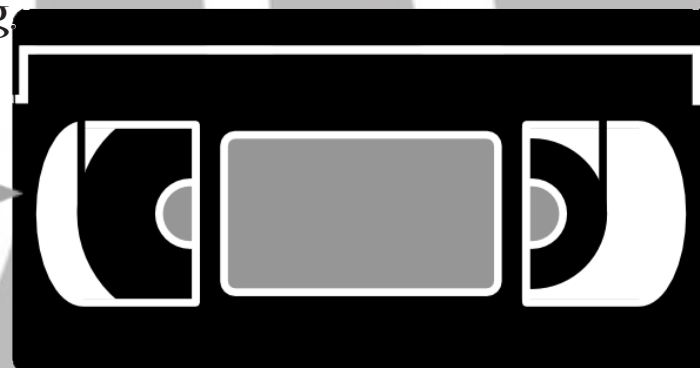
# InFocus: The Quintessential '90s

The '90s created some of the most iconic movies that are universally recognized. The cinematic explosion ranged from Science Fiction to Drama.

In 1993, Jurassic Park was launched in theatres and earned \$18,620,145 while in the box office. Based on the novel by Michael Crichton and directed by Steven Spielberg, Jurassic Park launched old-school film-making into the realm of computer generated effects. Audiences went in unaware of the technical aspects of the movie only to be amazed countless times throughout their viewing.

## Fun Fact:

The movie has a running time of 127 minutes – but includes only 15 minutes of actual dinosaur footage.



What movie raises more questions than the Titanic? The timeless movie was riddled with plot holes that divides those who watch it into two groups: those who love it and those who hate it. It grossed \$658,672,302 in the opening weekend and stayed in theatres for 15 weeks.

## Fun Fact:

After finding out that she had to be naked in front of Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet decided to break the ice, and when they first met, she flashed him.



The '90s were the decade of boy bands.

'Nsync vs. The Backstreet Boys: the debate of every teen girl. It was one or the other. Each boy band had their own following that still argue the rivalry today.

"I Want It That Way" by the Backstreet Boys can be considered the best song by a boy band. The Backstreet Boys also had the benefit of being on the scene before 'Nsync. They had launched into international stardom with their self-titled album in 1996. Posters of Justin Timberlake were plastered on every teen girl's room during the height of 'Nsync's reign. Songs like "Bye Bye Bye" and "Tearin' Up My Heart" had millions of girls flocking to this side of the rivalry. They also rocketed to stardom after releasing a self-titled album in 1997.


Fashion was one of the few mistakes that came out of the '90s. Flannels, windbreakers and overalls were a staple to anyone during the '90s. While some trends, like flannels, have made a comeback let's hope the rest do not. Clothing was covered in bright, neon colors and strong abstract patterns. Girls partnered their outfits with scrunchies, chokers and slap bracelets while guys went with bucket hats, hemp jewelry and fanny packs.





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Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

# Students join forces to tackle the outdoors

**Jessica Fritz**

Writer

The outdoors club is a new club at Lehigh Carbon Community College.

This new club is for students and faculty who love the outdoors and activities, providing fun with friends and a healthy activity.

According to Evan Genay, the club president, "The outdoors club organizes and participates in outdoors and outdoor – themed activities including, but not limited to hiking, rock climbing, ice skating, whitewater – rafting, camping, biking, and kayaking."

With all these fun activities there is something for everyone. Yet, some may be wondering what the outdoors club has done in the past.

"We just had an event this past Saturday at Sky Zone Trampoline Park," said Genay.

Even though they just had the trip to Sky Zone the outdoors club is also planning another trip in the near future.

"The next event will be held on Saturday April 25th," Shelly Maley, a club advisor, said. "Club members will hike to Mt. Tammany and Sunfish Pond near the Delaware Water Gap."

The Outdoors Club currently meets in Berrier Hall room 4 on the first and third Thursday of each month at 2:30 p.m.

The Club Advisers are Shelley Maley and Parker Lessel and the President is Evan Genay.

For anyone interested in joining this club or wanting more information, contact the club President Evan Genay at (Genay22@gmail.com).

Don't forget to check them out on Facebook or just come to a meeting.



**Photo courtesy of Evan Genay**

*Students in the outdoors club gather at one of their outdoor events. The outdoors club meets in Berrier Hall, Room 4, at 2:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month, and plan activities at different outdoor complexes and trails.*

# Self-defense workshop more valuable than ever

**Natasha Zosky**

Writer

The biggest misconception about self defense is the belief you don't need it. To not be prepared is naive," Rob Wetmore said.

Wetmore is the owner and lead sensei at Leading Edge Martial Arts Academy with two locations in Allentown and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

On April 9, Wetmore hosted a self-defense seminar for the students of Lehigh Carbon Community College. He has hosted these events for the last two semesters on the campus.

"I have never been to anything like this," Karlen Heilan, LCCC student, said. "I feel that self-defense is something that's important to a woman. Violence is unexpected in this world. It is good to be prepared."

The workshop offered lasted 60 minutes, but within that time students learned over a dozen valuable tips and tools to protect themselves.

"Self-defense has always interested me, but I never took any classes," Tara Brown, LCCC student, said. "I had many friends who practiced Taekwondo techniques and

I felt that could provide them with the ability to protect them, so this sparked my interest."

Leading Edge Martial Arts has been offering a variety of classes to the community for the last 15 years, including martial arts for both adults and kids, as well as cage fitness classes.

These types of classes are mixed martial arts, taught to enhance an individual's confidence, self-defense skills, promote stress relief and all around good physical fitness.

"It was really fun," Tori Diehi, another LCCC student, said. "I learned a lot of great ways to protect myself. Different from what I expected, I never considered how much I can use my environment to my advantage."



**Photo by Natasha Zosky**

*Tori Diehi practices a powerful right forearm maneuver at the self-defense seminar, held in Berrier Hall on April 9. Sensei Rob Wetmore showed students over a dozen different maneuvers in order to fight off potential attackers.*

Wetmore plans to continue hosting these self-defense seminars on campus, and feels that it is a valuable lesson to the students to be able to fight back and be protected.



## A Packed Schedule Relieves Stress for Student

**Jared Waylen**

Writer

Versatility is a tremendous quality to have in life. In the classroom, at work or even on the softball field, it can come in handy anywhere.

That quality is definitely possessed by Amanda LaCesa of LCCC's softball team. She enjoys both academic and physical situations and excels at them too.

LaCesa has a very busy schedule. It consists of the honors program, the STEM program, the hiking club and an important role on the softball team. All of this while balancing her schedule as a student majoring in chemistry. Above all of that, she balances work at Colonial Kennels.

"The best way to say how I handle this is time management," LaCesa explains. "Without it, I would have no time to study, do homework, and still be involved in so much."

A lot is demanded of LaCesa in each of her various activities. On the softball field, she is a starting catcher.

For the honors program, she goes to listen to many guest speakers. A 3.0 Grade

Point Average is expected, and getting involved in the community is also required.

Her extracurricular activities may seem stressful, but are quite the opposite. "I am a very active person, so doing these activities reduces the stress that school can put on me," LaCesa says.

LaCesa has been playing softball since she was seven-years old. This year, however, she has also begun to coach.

When she's not at LCCC or playing softball, LaCesa is at work. At Colonial Kennels, she works with different dogs every day. She has also had the interesting experience of learning how to train dogs recently as well.

"This is all a lot to balance and my days are always full, but it is all worth it at the



**Photo Courtesy of Amanda LaCesa**

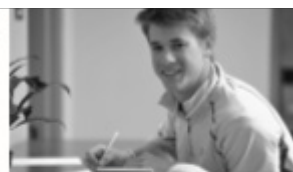
*Amanda LaCesa awaits her turn to take the field. In moments like these, LaCesa draws from experiences such as baseball camps she has attended.*

end of the day," LaCesa says.

Whatever environment she is thrown into, she can handle it. From a softball field to a chemistry classroom, LaCesa has experienced a lot.



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# Childhood toys ruined with sexist undercurrents

**Ashley Delp**  
Editor

Toys made in the '90s are part of the Golden Age of Nostalgia for young adults of today because of their mass popularity during childhood years. The easily recognizable toys generated millions of dollars during the height of their popularity despite that many of these toys promoted gender stereotypes and a sexist culture.

Easy Bake Ovens planted ideas of Holly Homemaker in every young girls' mind for years. From gender specific colors to the female dominated advertisement, Hasbro marketed directly at young girls. The pink and purple color scheme of the toy excluded young boys of the time.

The message that was sent from this toy is

simply put, "Cooking is girly."

Until recently, Hasbro still manufactured Easy Bake Ovens with the same color scheme and packaging despite the mass

amounts of backlash it has received about it.

Barbie and other dolls ruled a young girls room and still do today. It is still taught today: girls get dolls, boys get trucks. The "Teen Talk Barbie" instilled into young girls that gender stereotypes are true because their parents are buying them.

The talking doll was programed to say phrases like, "Math class is tough!" and "I love shopping." Mattel continued along these lines with the launch of "Slumber Party Barbie."

She came equipped with a scale permanently at 110 pounds and a "diet book."

The book had two words of advice for young girls, "Don't eat!"

Even games that come across as gender neutral were slightly male centric. Guess Who, a classic childhood game, is riddled with androcentric ideas. The game is host to 19 male characters and only five female characters. If a player draws a female Mystery Person, she is essentially a sitting duck. The first question asked regards gender, more often than not.

Then there are games that are blatantly sexist. Girl Talk: Date Line enforced gender roles and narrow-mindedness. The girls interests included talking on the phone, shopping, stuffed animals and cute boys. While the only one who bucks tradition by liking Latin and Algebra has glasses and dark hair and looks the nerdiest.

The '90s may have been a great time for many to grow up but the toys enforced gender roles and stereotypes that are still being shed today. Looking back, the toys that were considered "innocent" and "safe" during our childhood generated millions of dollars for a patriarchal society while leaving women and girls with ideas of home and hearth.



## Millennials prefer reminiscing to experiencing

### Staff Editorial

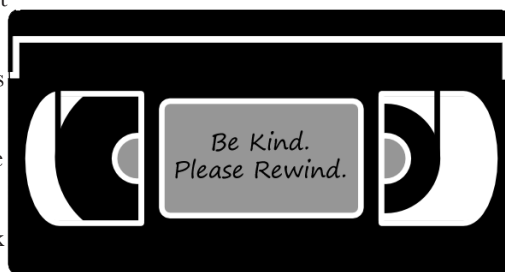
Skaweeerureweert! Ah. The sweet sound of internet.

Let's journey back to the 1990s. The sounds of dial up filled the air. Movies had to be rewound after watching them. The Microsoft Office paper clip. Inflatable furniture. Sounds amazing, right? While reminiscing on the '90s, many people forget all the frustrating things that are associated with growing up during that decade.

Instant access to movies, television shows and music was not possible in previous decades. With the advancement of technology, it is possible to download entire albums and movies right from one's bed compared to having to drive to a store and buy the album or VHS tape and drive back home. Even then one was not guaranteed a copy of the album or movie he wanted to purchase. The power of digital download makes it simpler and hassle-free to shop.

Going to watch a movie? Better make sure it is rewind. There was nothing more disappointing than going to watch a movie

and having to rewind the whole VHS because whoever had it last did not, despite the, "Be Kind. Rewind" sticker. Now it is as simple as placing the DVD in the player or logging onto Netflix, Hulu or Amazon Instant Video. Even the cartoons of one's childhood are online for instant access.



The '90s were home to a menagerie of music. From 'Nsync to Vanilla Ice to Third Eye Blind, every genre of music was represented in the growth. Just look at Billboard's Top 20 Songs of the 1990s, it

is a collection that spans multiple genres. Artists range from Boyz II Men, LeAnn Rimes, Mariah Carey and Savage Garden. Music today would not be the same without the growth that the '90s witnessed. Alternative, Grunge and Indie Rock are all children of the '90s.

Spotify, iTunes and Pandora mobile apps make it possible to listen to the best music of the '90s without the hassle of CDs. Without the technological advancement that has happened, one would still be listening to music on cassettes and CDs instead of on iPods and phones.

The '90s had their time. It has come and gone. Everyone who has experienced the '90s spout how it was a better decade but does one really want to live in a time before Netflix and Spotify? When it was either call someone or going online? The '90s do have some advantages over today but instant access has made reminiscence easier than actually experiencing.

# Youth wants instant gratification, but at what cost?

**Kimberly Kroznuski**

Editor

Try turning it off and on again. Try turning off the wi-fi and see if cellular data loads faster. Close out the app and try re-opening it.

We've all had those troublesome experiences with technology. Websites won't load fast enough or at all. The days of dial-up internet have long since passed, and the modern age has our information traveling at lightning speeds, but sometimes these record speeds are still not enough. People are constantly reaching for instant gratification, and become brutally angry at the fact that things sometimes just don't work.

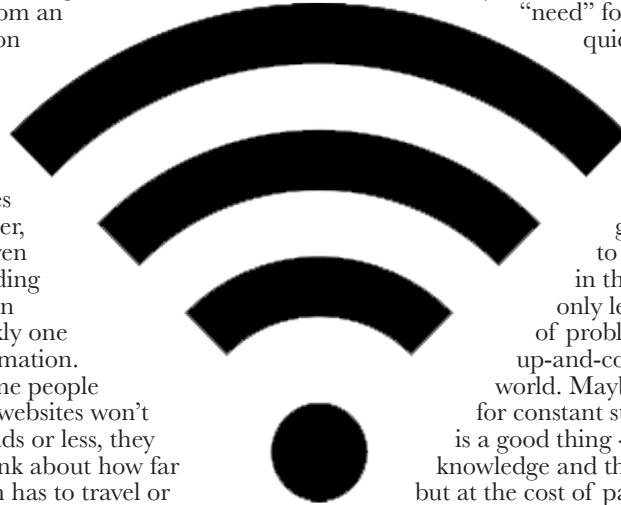
The average smart phone user accesses about 9 GB of wireless data per month, which has climbed drastically over the last three years (compared to a mere 450 MB per month in 2012). People are constantly reaching out for information - whether it's to look up what actor is in a certain movie or to check-in at your favorite restaurant on Facebook.

The consistent networking is backed up by high-speed internet, which (most of the time) can load pages almost instantly. There

are rare occasions where wireless speeds are not fast enough for the consumer, and spontaneous frustration ensues, but why?

Wireless signal can be affected by a number of things. Since most cell phone data is traveling through cell phone towers from an unknown location somewhere in the world, this information is flowing in waves across massive expanses of space. Weather, elevation and even the type of building a person is in can affect how quickly one can access information. Considering some people have a fit when websites won't load in 15 seconds or less, they may want to think about how far that information has to travel or just how much information is being received.

This generation has become one of instant gratification. We crave and desire for information to move faster, for packages to come faster, for lines to go faster. Patience has been pushed to the wayside and the consistent "need" for something quicker or better does not allow for lessons to be taught. For the present generation to be so selfish in their "needs" only leaves a world of problems for those up-and-coming in the world. Maybe the want for constant streams of info is a good thing - to increase knowledge and the use of it - but at the cost of patience, at the cost of a quality with infinite use, some should reconsider that as a priority.



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# 16 THE PAW PRINT

## A woman with a goal inspires those around her

**Daniel Berrios**

Writer

The classroom door opens, in walks a petite woman, her smiling face warm and inviting. She belts out, "Hello everybody" and everyone smiles in return. She squeezes between desks as she heads for her seat, greeting each person as she passes them.

Sitting with a relieved sigh she turns to the person next to her and asks how they're doing, genuinely interested. It is almost impossible not to smile in her presence and some even look forward to when she'll start laughing.

Melinda Santos-Solis is a Communications major at Lehigh Carbon Community College. She's also not what many would describe as a "typical" college student. At 55-years old Melinda is generally at least 30 years older than her classmates, but ask any of them and they will say they hardly notice.

Her joyful, pleasant personality can make anyone grin, but her motivation to continue her education is what's truly inspiring.

"I wanted to know how to communicate by writing. I didn't really have a solid

education or high school under my belt...I was tired of not knowing how to write."

Some people might think it's strange or maybe even pointless to return to the classroom after almost 20 years, but Melinda chooses to ignore those people.

"I don't care what they think, this is for me."

Melinda knows that she only has a few years left before she retires, but it is not about finding a job. It's about bettering herself, which some might say is the goal of education. She has a goal and she's going to do everything she can to reach it.

Her confidence inspires those around her and the mark she leaves on her classmates and professors can be easily seen by what they have to say about her. Tyler Winston, another Communications major and a reoccurring classmate of Melinda's had the following to say.

"Melinda is a happy person and she just wants to spread that happiness. It's so contagious even when I'm having a bad day



**Photo by Daniel Berrios**

*Melinda Santos-Solis greets her fellow classmates as she sits down and prepares for class. Santos-Solis, a communications major, attends college as a way of bettering herself.*

I can see her and I'll leave feeling so much better." Tyler laughs as she adds, "I don't even know if it's a conscious effort."

When asked if she had any advice for students Melinda said, "...to make sure they're studying what they love. It's not all about money, school isn't always about money."

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