Welcome back to the place that we all know and love, the State University of New York Institute of technology….Polytechnic Institute, or SUNY Poly for short. It's 2015 folks, and whether you are a second semester freshmen, transfer student, or a soon to be graduating senior, you should make 2015 your year. The spring semester always brings a feeling of “YAAASS, it’s almost summer” but pause real quick and think about this. Why are you more excited for what's coming up rather than what is currently happening? There are a lot of things to look forward to in 2015. The results of the Cosby allegations, Star Wars Episode VII, and the PC port of Grand Theft Auto V would have anyone on the edge of their seat. Just remember the phrase “be here now” from time to time and though cliché, it still holds some serious weight. Don't get me wrong, I know that it's always good to look ahead and plan accordingly, but try not to put all of your eggs into the “man it’s cold, I wish it were warmer” basket because before you know it it’ll be mid-July and you’ll be wishing that it was Fall already because it’s too damn hot (plus I’m sure you just love the way the leaves look in the fall). Just accept that you live in Central New York and that the weather changes like well… the weather. So in an effort to combat any confusion expressed on social media pertaining to the weather, I've compiled a list of answers and tips for your queries and comments:

- It is snowing/cold out because it is winter
- The spring equinox is on March 20th
- The weather will not tweet you back about why it’s changing
- Lake effect snow is deceiving (#dontfreakout)
- There is a thermostat under the radiator in your dorm room to regulate the temperature in your room
- Dress warmer (if you can) and you’ll be warmer
- Most phones have a weather app (pay attention to the real feel)
- The weather is always subject to change

I hope that this brief list helps clear up some of the air surrounding this season that makes most of us want to curl up in a blanket with a hot cup of tea watch Netflix. Stay warm and travel safely.

- Mike Simpson

Designed By: Karen Segerberg

Greetings and salutations,

Thank goodness we live in the future, folks, and I use that term loosely. I know that I'm contradicting my other article that emphasized the importance of being here now, but with all the neat gadgets that are readily available to anyone with a couple stacks of dead presidents to blow, how could one not be excited for what the future holds? We've come a long way, from dial up to DSL. The way that we communicate and compute has changed dramatically. So let's talk about the “Next Big Thing”, and no, I'm not referring to the Samsung Galaxy whatever phablet that will establish Apple's market survivability for the next two years. I'm referring to Window’s HoloLens. Don’t worry if you don’t know what this device is yet. I’ll give you a nice breakdown. So like the Oculus Rift headset for gaming, HoloLens is headset that fits snugly around your head but unlike the rift, doesn’t obstruct your view. Instead, high definition holograms become projected into your immediate vicinity, allowing you to physically interact with them, or as Microsoft say, “blends holograms with reality.”

Now before your mind goes completely in the gutter, check this. With HoloLens you can design and shape holograms to fully express your creative ability. You could design a new body for your motorcycle and physically see the designed parts on the actual body of the bike. The world will become your canvas. HoloLens maps the room that you’re in allowing for the blurring of boundaries between holograms and your environment. Want to check the weather? Put it on your coffee table. Want to watch Netflix, put it on your wall. This is the future! Check out Microsoft's website for a more in depth look at what HoloLens can offer. http://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-hololens/en-us

NEW TECHNOLOGY

WRITTEN_BY//MIKE_SIMPSON
DESIGNED_BY//ASHTON_SIMONS
## Self Improvement in the New Year

"New Year, new you!" Right? Wrong! This is one of the many tricks your subconscious plays on you in order to delay and sabotage any progress you make in terms of losing weight, or starting healthier and productive habits. This handy guide will show you three things to watch out for when trying to make gains in the New Year.

### January 2015

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### 1. You Can Change Whenever You Want:

Don't let a calendar day dictate when you start changing your habits. January 1st is a meaningful day, as the calendar refreshes its dates millions of people also feel refreshed as if they received a brand new clean slate to write their improvements on. But this is usually a "delaying tactic" the brain uses to prevent change in the same token as "This is my last cigarette, Monday morning I'm quitting!" and "I just need to eat all of this junk food now so I can give a proper goodbye to my old lifestyle." The "symbolic date" and "just one more" mentality are great tactics your chemically addicted brain uses to get the most rewards, fat, salt, sugar, nicotine, etc., with the most minimal of efforts. If it's important to you, you'll find a way, if it's not important, you'll find an excuse. Before you go shopping for celery and lean meat, just know that...

### 2. Your Body Hates You:

As it was stated before, the body wants the most pleasure for the most immediate reward, but you're not only negotiating with your most ancient survival instincts. Daniel Blumenthal of the Clinical Nutrition and Metabolic Care Journal asserted in 2010 in Neurobiology of Food Addiction that the brain is just as addicted to junk food as it can be addicted to drugs. The neural pathways that assist drug use and the eventual release of dopamine are eerily similar to junk food and procrastination addictions. The next time you think about giving in towards fatty food, or staying inside when you should be hitting the weights, notice that tingling sensation in your brain. That's your brain actually releasing dopamine when you even think about doing something lazy in order to keep you hooked on your habits. In the moments before you even put that slice to your taste buds, or that cigarette to your mouth, before you even turn the key in your car to drive to McDonalds or get that pack of Reds out of your bag, your own mind is already releasing the pleasure neurotransmitter dopamine to encourage your bad behavior. But don't let that get you down, in your war on many fronts here is a nuke that will demolish your bad habits.

### 3. Complete the Chain:

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is a prolific entertainer. Being the star of a sitcom that raked in $2.7 billion, with a "b", and releasing hours of comedy material on a nearly annual basis, he uses one method to great effect that encourages good habits and steady progress. In an interview with Brad Isaac of LifeHacker, Seinfeld reveals that by getting a large calendar that shows all of the year's dates, or even a page that is numbered 1 through 365, he commits to a goal and then crosses off a day after completing his goal. It's really just that simple. All you have to do is "complete the chain" without letting a day pass by. What happens is that you focus more on lifting yourself up by your past accomplishments than peering helplessly at the mountain of work that stands before you. The more the "X"s pile up, the more confidence you gain in yourself and the less you worry about the future. For Seinfeld this forced him to write a joke every day, even when he felt like the least funny man on earth. Today Health mentions how it can take someone between 18 to 254 days to build a habit, so if you really want to make progress by December 31st, 2015 and not repeat the same New Year's resolution over and over, ask yourself how many days you have left, and start now. You may find helpful complete the chain calendars at KarenKavett.com (This is not a sponsored article, although I wouldn't mind the money).

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Written By: Elias Papatheodorou

Buy eggs

Design By: Zach Handzel
The Darwin Awards
Written by Kira Gregory
Designed by Matt Handzel

Larry Walters was bored. He was sitting outside in his Los Angeles backyard, resting on his Sears lawn chair, when he had the idea. He purchased 45 weather balloons, tethered them to his lawn chair, and filled the balloons with helium to a diameter of four feet each. His dream of flying was about to come true. Turns out, people have been tying balloons to various objects and soaring skyward long before Pixar’s Up. Larry’s plan was simple. He secured himself to his lawn chair, which he called Inspiration I, and brought with him some sandwiches, beer, and a pellet gun that would serve to pop a few of his balloons when he felt like coming down. His idea was to sever the anchor that held Inspiration I to the ground and slowly drift up into the sky, to a height of about 30 feet above ground. He’d float around up there for a while, enjoy his snacks, and then drift back down again. That was his plan. Larry had some friends cut the anchoring cord for him when he was ready to go. However, Larry did not drift gracefully up off the ground. He shot skyward. And he didn’t stop at 30 feet. Or 100. Or 1000. Inspiration I floated higher and higher until it reached its final height of no less than 16,000 feet. Too concerned to shoot any of his balloons, Larry drifted in the cold sky for 14 long hours. During that time he startled pilots of Trans World Airlines and Delta Airlines, who reported their unusual sighting. Finally Larry summed up his courage and opened fire on a few of his balloons, and he began descending slowly, at a speed he probably would have preferred for his ascent. He returned to earth safely, where he was arrested by the LAPD. After the flight of the Inspiration I, Safety Inspector Neal Savory of the Federal Aviation Administration commented, “We know he broke some part of the Federal Aviation Act, and as soon as we decide which part it is, a charge will be filed.” *

Every year, people like Larry seem to compete for the Darwin Award, an honor bestowed to folks who creatively do their species a favor by eradicating themselves from the gene pool in incredibly stupid ways. Larry himself failed to win the Darwin Award, which is awarded posthumously, but he has achieved the title of Darwin Award At-Risk Survivor. Many of Larry’s intrepid counterparts, however, have not failed to gain immortality along with their untimely deaths, thanks to the Darwin Awards. DarwinAwards.com is filled with stories like Larry’s. Among the headlines gracing the site are “Man Killed by Pet Hippo,” “The Human Bottle Rocket,” and “Selfie with Elephant.” Yet even though there’s an unbelievable number of true tales of stupidity, only select individuals meet the requirements and are eligible to earn the Darwin Award. The requirements, as presented on the web site, are as follows.

• 1. The candidate must remove themself from the gene pool.
• 2. The candidate must suffer an astounding lapse of judgment.
• 3. The candidate must be the cause of his/her own demise.
• 4. The candidate must be capable of sound judgment.
• 5. The event must be verified.

One man, Prakesh Tiwari, met these requirements by vaulting over a fence in India’s Calcutta zoo that was meant to keep visitors on one side and the tiger on the other. Prakesh didn’t stop there. He swam the moat and attempted to throw a flower garland over the tiger's head. The tiger, named “Shiva” after the Hindu god of destruction, killed Prakesh.

Others have won the award by shooting themselves in the head while attempting to prove their gun is unloaded. One At-Risk Survivor managed to shoot himself with a 22-caliber bullet... when he was armed with only a pellet gun. He was wondering what happens when you shoot at a bullet for target practice. Turns out, the shell explodes!

Even if these lapses of judgment seem outrageous to you (and they should), some deadly acts of stupidity occur all too often to qualify for a Darwin Award. Such acts include smoking in an oxygen tent, climbing into zoo cages, falling down a ravine while posing for a picture, or getting hit by a train or automobile. But perhaps if you combined these every-day occurrences in a creative way—say you climbed into a zoo cage with your friend and fell down a ravine while posing for a selfie with the pandas, and then blew your head off by smoking in your oxygen tent on the way to the hospital—that’s style. That could qualify you for the Award, and even better if you could work in the train or automobile. Seriously though, the Darwin Awards were created to amuse us as well as to try to save us from our own lapses of judgment. It’s a site where you can learn bazillions of creatively idiotic ways to die, stories which hopefully convey a clear message: YOU SHOULD NOT DO THESE THINGS. Yet, history continues to repeat. If you’re due for an astounding lapse of judgment, please try to keep it safe. There are thousands of other great awards you could win if you only live past 30. I really don’t want to see “Winner of the Darwin Award” in your obituary. *Story retold from “Lawn Chair Larry,” at darwinawards.com.*
Supertramp  
Based on a True Story  
Written by Kira Gregory

I didn't tell anyone, not even Tyler. He would have gotten a laugh out of this. And then he would have been concerned too. But that's all right. I don't ask for approval. All I ask is to be let alone for a while. And here I am in the wilderness of Alaska. Supertramp is home.

5 May 1992
A couple days' hike through the wild and I've arrived at an old bus, abandoned here. It keeps out the elements well. I'll stay. I'm beginning to live in the wild. I've eaten the rice I brought with me, and now I have only my Remington semi-automatic, my books, and my hands and mind to survive with. I've had good success so far. I had squirrel this morning from one of my traps, three days ago I had a porcupine. I find dandelion leaves bitter and disagreeable, but the roots are better. I'm learning. I'll get used to the hunger, or gain experience getting forage. The Alaskan wilderness is crisp and ruggedly beautiful, just as I imagined.

July 1992
Am hungry. Growing weak. Though blueberries will be ripe soon I'm leaving Magic Bus to return. It's time. Will go back up Stampede trail.

July 1992

[Note posted outside the bus]
Attention Possible Visitors.
S. O. S. I need your help. I am injured, near death, and too weak to hike out. I am all alone, this is no joke. In the name of God, please remain to save me. I am out collecting berries close by and shall return this evening.

Thank you, Chris McCandless. August?

Addendum
Christopher McCandless' 67 lb body was discovered in the bus, in his sleeping bag, by a hunter on September 6, 1992. He was long dead, of starvation. He was 24 years old. The legacy of Christopher McCandless is a divided one. He is an icon of adventure to some, and an emblem of stupidity to others. He failed to adequately plan for his adventure, and his series of choices eventually culminated in his death. Yet he had a dream, and he made that dream into reality. Every spring, hunters undertake the two-day journey to Supertramp's bus, to remember him there, and appreciate his spirit.

Whether you consider him a true adventurer who wasn't afraid to take on the elements and embrace the unknown, or a poor planner to the worst degree, I think we all have something to learn from the odyssey of the Supertramp.
Contrary to the belief of suburban America, not all British people are white. In fact, over 3 million British citizens are of African descent, and 13 million come from Asia - not to mention the many other ethnic groups in England making Britain one of the most racially diverse nations in the world. This leads me to the question of why TV and movies about British characters that have been around for decades and have gone through numerous actors playing the lead roles have always been white?

Dr. Who has been around since the 1960’s and has had 12 actors play the part of the Doctor. The show has written this constant changing of face into the show as part of the doctor's ability to regenerate his body as a means of escaping death. Actors playing him have been short or tall, fair or dark haired, and all different ages but always played by a white guy. Why? I get that he always has a British accent because that’s just the way you learn to pronounce words, but why does he keep coming back as Caucasian? Why not Asian or Latino or any other of the plethora of ethnicities out there? Hell, why does he have to keep coming back as a “he” in the first place? Speaking of women, anybody notice how the only non-white companion the show ever featured, Martha Jones, only lasted one season before she was replaced by yet another white actress?

Then there’s the James Bond movies, one of the most successful film series in history, which again has only had white actors. There have been 6 actors who have played Bond across 23 films since 1963 and the biggest fuss anyone ever made was how the most recent actor to play him is the first to have blond hair. What makes Hollywood think that only a white guy could pull off saying, “Shaken, not stirred”?

Or how about Sherlock Holmes? There have been a huge amount of movies and shows about this character that always find a new way of depicting him, yet for some reason only with white dudes. They even got an American, Robert Downey JR, to play one of England’s greatest fictional characters instead of letting the role go to a non-white Brit. I mean what about Sherlock Holmes’ depiction in these stories is so dependent on him being played by a Caucasian? Yeah. I’m sure the books described him as being white, but the films and show have proudly taken a different approach to the stories than the books. They’re willing to tell it in modern times or even hint at him being gay, but heaven forbid they let him be of a darker skin tone.

My guess is that either Hollywood still continues to reinforce the “charming heroes must be white” storylines or that people incorrectly assume that only white people inhabit the U.K. The first seems more likely. Think about most movies you’ve seen. If the character is black and charming, he’s either rising from the street or he’s a media mogul. If he’s Latino and charming, he’s a villain. If he’s Asian and charming; mega villain. Now, there have been a few exceptions to all this like Nick Fury being played by Samuel L Jackson when the character was originally white, but still only a few. There are so many other actors who could really do a good job at these parts. Idris Elba, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Benedict Wong, Mark Strong, or Jeffrey Wright are just a handful of great choices for these characters. Stories like James Bond, Sherlock Holmes, and Dr. Who have lasted because they say they have adapted with the times. Why not let actors of different ethnicities take a crack at playing these parts?
Fifty shades of Grey - This is the hot, steamy, sexual arousing film adaptation of one of the top selling books that has become a global phenomenon. This Rated-R movie is set to come out in theaters on February 13, 2015 to debut right in time for Valentine’s Day. The erotic romance and sexual tension between a 21 year old college student named Anastasia Steele and Christian Grey, a 27 year old wealthy CEO has everyone thrilled to see this movie. Critics are saying this movie glorifies the sexual violence and emotional abuse that is portrayed in the relationship of the couple. Fans of this series disagree with this accusation, and state that they are in love with the chemistry between Ana and Christian, not just the sexual encounters. Many of my female friends have discussed how Fifty Shades of Grey has changed their sex life. This storyline has opened up their views of BDSM (bondage, dominance, submission, masochism) and has piqued their curiosity. The sexual dynamic between Ana and Christian has become a type of romance attraction for plenty of women. I personally do not think Fifty Shades of Grey represented a healthy sexual relationship because of the stalking, sexual violence, isolation and manipulation that occurs throughout the book. I am all for people exploring their sexual behaviors but I do think this book is over-romanticized. This film is sparking lots of controversy and gossip and I am ready to see how this movie lives up to the hype of the book. This movie is Rated-R so we know not to expect the pornographic images that people probably read in the book. Let’s wait and see if this movie fulfills our unrealistic romantic expectations of relationships.

Fifty Shades of Grey or Abuse?
Written By: Rose Soljour  Designed By: Karen Segerberg
Do you think you're funny? Funny enough to stand up in front of strangers and make them laugh? Funny enough to do it for five minutes straight? I thought so. On the very first Monday of our new year I stood on a small stage in Manhattan’s Upper West Side, in front of a small crowd of fifteen members, and did my best impression of a Tomahawk cruise missile and bombed my set. These are the two essentials I took away.

1) Stage Presence is Everything The night before what you can detestably call my “set” I felt like a 500 horsepower racecar behind the line just roaring to take off. Pacing back and forth I practiced my set at least five times, I was nervous but ready. It takes a bit of arrogance to think you are good enough to have people listen while you waste air on stage but I was arrogant enough to want a fun time, try something new, connect with the audience and hear the sweet vindication of laughter during a good set. I never would have imagined explaining to them how a nervous disposition and a careless nature towards spicy food left me with an hour of sleep and a handful of jalapenos racing through my system like Vin Diesel through that exploding airplane in Fast 6. The only stage I was suited for was one with a bed and a bowl of soup. Fatigue ate through my energy and destroyed my charisma. I lost the energetic punch I had relied on to sell my material and my pacing and delivery were taken in the divorce. Stage presence is everything, from laidback comics like Mitch Hedberg to firecracker performers like Robin Williams, a steady voice solid enough to build a castle on and confidence in whatever comes out of your mouth is your bread and butter on stage. A small crowd can throw you off. You may send a joke out into that dark cavern and expect laughter to echo from out of your mouth as a segue, or as useful filler in between jokes. Remember, if it won’t make you laugh then it won’t make them laugh. Hopefully the following terrible examples can illustrate my point. Here is a joke with set up and delivery, "What do you call a dog with no set of morals and the work ethic of a potato? A cat.” I would hope someone who feels bad enough for me would laugh out loud at that joke. Here is the lesser type of joke I noticed some amateurs used, describing, it is something you must notice for yourself and never confuse with having a punch line or being a vehicle of outright laughter. It can work as a segue, or as useful filler in between jokes. Remember, if it won’t make you laugh then it won’t make them laugh. Hopefully the following terrible examples can illustrate my point. Here is a joke with set up and delivery, “What would a dog do with a car if it ever caught one?” It might be a funny idea, loud at that joke. Here is the lesser type of joke I noticed some amateurs used, myself included, thinking that it was punchy or funny enough to elicit laughter. "What would a dog do with a car if it ever caught one?" It might be a funny idea, but I noticed a lot of the second types of jokes being used as if they could stand up on their own. It would take a punch line, or a very well performed delivery to make that statement funny enough to elicit laughter. So this is when you must compare your material and your honest opinion of what qualifies for “laughing out loud.” There is a rhythm to a comic’s performance, knowing what really hits the funny bone hard and what isn’t uproarious but is funny enough to boost the quality of your set. Finding this rhythm is something important that I think can only be discovered with practice. The pace of your delivery, your tone, and where you place the killer material and the rest of what you want to say all make up the rhythm of your performance. I sincerely hope this meager advice from an unfounded amateur can improve your life. Even if you don’t see yourself doing stand up comedy, I implore you to consider the discussions on this page to improve your public speaking for work or school. And if you ever do want to try stand up for the first time, here’s one last word of advice; don’t mention how bright the spotlight on stage is, it’s the first thing everyone says.

2) Rhythm is Everything, Too The second thing I noticed was that there are jokes that are funny observations but they don’t have enough punch to draw the nectar of loud audience laughter that comedians feed upon. The typical joke is set up and delivery. Paint a picture of social norms in the audience’s head and then shatter it with your opinion. Create a scene of public expectations and then insert something ridiculous. These kinds of jokes have a rhythm and a familiar feel that lets people know when to laugh and what to laugh at. On the other hand, there is a type of joke that is more of an aside. It isn’t that funny, or it lacks a proper set up. It’s a humorous statement, a comedic expression of sounds that you may have thought people would laugh at in appreciation. This secondary category of humor, this “lesser” form of joke with which I’m having some difficulty properly describing, is something you must notice for yourself and never confuse with having a punch line or being a vehicle of outright laughter. It can work as a segue, or as useful filler in between jokes. Remember, if it won’t make you laugh then it won’t make them laugh. Hopefully the following terrible examples can illustrate my point. Here is a joke with set up and delivery, “What do you call a dog with no set of morals and the work ethic of a potato? A cat.” I would hope someone who feels bad enough for me would laugh out loud at that joke. Here is the lesser type of joke I noticed some amateurs used, myself included, thinking that it was punchy or funny enough to elicit laughter. "What would a dog do with a car if it ever caught one?" It might be a funny idea, but I noticed a lot of the second types of jokes being used as if they could stand up on their own. It would take a punch line, or a very well performed delivery to make that statement funny enough to elicit laughter. So this is when you must compare your material and your honest opinion of what qualifies for “laughing out loud.” There is a rhythm to a comic’s performance, knowing what really hits the funny bone hard and what isn’t uproarious but is funny enough to boost the quality of your set. Finding this rhythm is something important that I think can only be discovered with practice. The pace of your delivery, your tone, and where you place the killer material and the rest of what you want to say all make up the rhythm of your performance. I sincerely hope this meager advice from an unfounded amateur can improve your life. Even if you don’t see yourself doing stand up comedy, I implore you to consider the discussions on this page to improve your public speaking for work or school. And if you ever do want to try stand up for the first time, here’s one last word of advice; don’t mention how bright the spotlight on stage is, it’s the first thing everyone says.
Dying Light's story is one that, while existing isn't exactly that interesting. The core concept is that a fictional city in the middle east known as Harran has been flooded with an outbreak causing a massive zombie apocalypse in the region. At the time of the game, Harran's surrounding governments have already quarantined the city. You play as a U.S. government specialist dropped into the city in order to find a target with intel that the government needs, only to truly end up in the middle of the city's internal events. Where the story could have and should have gotten interesting was in its subplot of all of the cities survivors having split into two alternate self governed factions, each with different intentions and goals. Of course this story does progress and play out over the course of the story but unfortunately for Dying Light the game suffers much of the same story issues of its predecessors. Dying Light is held back by its boring characters and its relatively slow progression. Granted there are a few really interesting characters but unfortunately it is those same characters that we don't see enough of throughout the game. In addition, the game has story inconsistencies in things such as the player being told that one of the factions has runners who go out scavenging for their faction. Unfortunately these runners are never out in the game, and meeting up with other runners while roaming the city would have been an interesting touch to see. Dying Light does have one really interesting feature which is the game's day and night system. During the day you'll be running around scavenging, slaughtering zombies, finding new safehouses and completing missions without much problem but during the night time the tables change almost entirely. During the night portion the game unleashes a new zombie type called the Volatiles, horrifyingly transformed zombies, that have heightened senses, incredible speed and almost superhero like strength. While the game has certain missions which force you to play during the night phase it was an interesting system realizing that night was coming and that I needed to get to a safehouse. The game really kicked in my adrenaline when it was night time and even through my sneaking I'd get spotted by a volatile forced to sprint my way around and over buildings in the hopes that I got away safely.

When it came to Dead Island the most fun way to play was with friends and Dying Light is no exception. The game features four player co-op as well as a new "Be The Zombie" mode. While I have yet to actually be able to try the "Be The Zombie" mode due to an inability to connect to games, the game enables a player to play as a volatile zombie and invade other players games. Having had my game invaded numerous times I can say being on the receiving side is actually very enjoyable and was entertaining enough to force a big smile on my face. The excitement of trying to complete an objective while working with my friends to defend ourselves from this overpowering beast was overwhelming. The truth is however playing Dying Light alone will get boring. Running the same repetitive go here and do this types of missions will simply lose its appeal after a while, even with all of the zombie killing fun I was bringing. Playing the game in co-op, however, never seemed to feel dull. Obviously playing the game for its missions and killing zombies with friends is a good time but Dying Light also brought out competitions, enabling almost mini-game type gameplay to the co-op games. Trying to complete a mission while also fighting for who can collect the most loot or who can kill the most zombies simply made the game all the more fun.

Dying Light is a game which isn't the most original and actually feels like a direct sequel to a totally different franchise but the game is still able to be loads of fun. Playing on PC, the game's graphics are absolutely beautiful and the free running and day night system did make the game feel like a relatively new experience. While the title may get boring after a while of playing solo, the game doesn't cease to entertain via co-op and invading/being invaded by other players has been a much fun experience than I had expected. If you were a fan of the Dead Island series then Dying Light is a must buy however if you're buying the game without friends to play with you may want to wait until a price drop.

Dying Light gets 8 decapitated zombies out of 10
Hello Sports Fans, it has been a while since we have all been together on campus. But while we were away, some of our Wildcats have been here working hard to reach the NEAC championships. Other Wildcats have used the break to work on their games in order to have great seasons. We are all excited to see our great sports teams get back too, as our spring sports kick into gear.

While we were away, our SUNY POLY basketball teams were here working on their game. This year our men’s basketball team was entirely new - including a new coach. This is a cause for a lot of excitement around Wildcat Nation. Last year our team had a fantastic season racking up 17 wins. However, we were taken out of the NEAC tournament due to ineligible players playing early on in the season. But things were looking up due to the way the season ended. However, many of the players on that team did not return. The new looking SUNY POLY Wildcats did not start the season off great though, losing their first 3 games. However, as of January 26, 2015 they have won their last 4 games and things are looking up. Led by MAVERICK HODGE and KALEEL JOHNSON, these Wildcats are looking to turn their season around and make a run for the NEAC tournament. The senior point guard Maverick Hodge leads the team in scoring and assists looking to take control of this team. He is looking to play a bigger scoring role than last year due to the loss of some valuable members of the team. Kaleel has taken it into his hands to shoulder a lot of the rebounding load. This is evident by his 21 rebound game against Morrisville State. This is a career high and the second highest rebounding effort in school history. Kaleel holds the 3rd spot in the conference for rebounds per game. Kaleel has improved in almost every area in his game since last year including points, steals and blocks. These Wildcats may not have started the year off great but they are 5-2 in conference play which bodes well for their NEAC hopes. All we can do is wait and see if the team can put a string of good games together.

Our Lady Wildcats basketball team has started off the year on fire. They have a record of 9 wins and 6 losses. In conference play, they are 7 and 1 which leads the NEAC conference. Similar to the men’s team, the Lady Wildcats had a good year last year with a record of 18-7 and a conference record of 14 and 2 in the NEAC conference. However, due to the same issue that kept the men out of the NEAC tournament the women were unable to play due to ineligible players. However, they picked up right where they left off. Led by juniors GEENA GALLO, EMILY ALICEA, and LAUREN KNOWLES the Wildcats are looking to do incredible things this season. Geena leads the team in scoring and field goal percentage which is a big reason for their current record. Their floor general Emily Alicea leads the Wildcats in assists and minutes running the show for the Wildcats. Lauren Knowles leads the team in rebounds, blocks and overall energy. Her non stop energy and hustle gets the team and crowd pumped every game. These juniors aren’t the only ones who keep the running smoothly. Freshman MOLLY MACLACHLAN has shown that she is comfortable playing on the college level. She averages 14.3 points a game, 7.1 rebounds, and 2.1 steals per game. She is filling up the stat sheet in every category. She has also been honored by being named by the D3hoops.com team of the week. In 3 games she averaged 25.3 points and 7 rebounds while shooting 57 percent from the floor. She also scored 30 points against Penn College which was the most points in a game by a freshman in score history. I feel like there will be many more nights such as that one for the next 4 years. This team is poised to make a great run in the NEAC conference and maybe even the NCAA tournament. This is going to be a fun year.

The men’s volleyball team is just starting their season and it is starting off well. After their first 4 games they are 3 and 1. 2 of their wins were 3-0 shutouts to Bard and Wells. Also, 2 of their wins were during our own Wildcat Invitational. The men’s volleyball team is looking to repeat their success from last year winning the NEAC tournament. Since they won 19 games and only lost 5 last year they are on pace for a similar record. The loss of Sean Conte was a tough loss for the Wildcats but they are all stepping up to make up for it. Although it is early in the season the Wildcats are already bringing in awards. Senior JUSTIN RICH was named NEAC Volleyball defensive player of the week due to the work he did in the Wildcat Invitational. He registered multiple double digit dig games in this young season. This is a good sign for the Wildcats for the season. Let’s see if the Wildcats can repeat and win another NEAC championship.

It is great to be back at school to see all of our student athletes getting ready for their sports seasons. While the basketball season is underway for both men and women, we are also looking forward for men and women’s lacrosse, men’s baseball and women’s softball.
Thanks to Snapchat, most of us know that the 2015 X Games happened recently. This four-day event that took place in Aspen displays the skills of the best in the world in winter sports like snowmobiling, skiing, and snowboarding. There are several different events in these sports that focus on speed, tricks, and big air. It was non-stop action and excitement for four days as these death-defying athletes took to the snow and showed off some insane tricks. Let’s recap some of the action.

The superpipe event is a crowd favorite. It has the potential to show off big air, stellar tricks, and even some painful wipeouts if you are into that. This year in the snowboard superpipe competition, we had a stacked field with X Games legend Shaun White, the defending X Games gold medalist Danny Davis, and the guy with the best name out there: Iouri Podladtchikov. Shaun White had an outstanding performance in the qualifying round getting a score of 91.00 while hitting 19ft and 3in. As impressive as that run was he was one-upped by the defending gold medalist Danny Davis who got a score of 92.00. He needed a big run to make it to the finals and he did just that. When it came down to the finals, the stars came out to shine. On the last run Shaun White was sitting in 3rd place, Iouri Podladtchikov A.K.A. the Olympic gold medalist was in second, and Taku Hiraoka had a solid lead in first. Last to go was the defending gold medalist Danny Davis and he showed why he deserved that medal. They called it a storybook ending as he just narrowly surpassed a score of 92.33 to win his second consecutive X Games gold medal in Snowboard Superpipe.

Another jaw-dropping event in the X Games is the Ski Big Air competition. If you don’t know what it is, just imagine shooting down a huge hill then launching yourself off a ramp and while you are in mid-air you spin like the propelling of a helicopter. It’s insane and not for those with weak stomachs. While this event is amazing the competition was not as exciting this year due to the overall domination by Vincent Gagnier. He started off hot in the preliminary round getting a combined score of 86.00 after his first 2 jumps. This put him in first over the rest of the field just in the prelims. In the final it was more of the same. He set the tone again receiving a score of 47.00 which matched Bobby Brown for best jump of the competition. The only difference was that Bobby got that score in the prelims. However, Bobby Brown started the prelims with a score of 44.00 which meant he still had a chance. But Vincent put it away on his second jump with a score of 44.00 to get distance on the competition. He won the gold medal in this event with a combined score of 91.00, beating the silver medalist Bobby Brown who got a combined score of 82. The bronze medalist was Elias Ambühl who also had a score of 82.00; however, since Bobby’s best jump was better than Elias’ he was the winner.

The X Games is a great event that showcases some of the best talent in the world in some of the most difficult sports in the world. Maybe it’s just my opinion because I’m afraid of heights and crashing, but that doesn’t take away from how amazing it is. If you want to see more of the results go to xgames.espn.go.com and see a recap of the results and some videos of the best death-defying stunts. And Wee Man from Jack Ass. He’s the man.
These unimpressive looking insects exhibit an inexplicable attraction to electrical devices, and sometimes their swarm-like behavior leads to problems such as overheating and corrosion, not to mention the ants’ habit of chewing through insulation.

Rasberry crazy ants are native to South America. Their name, “Rasberry,” is borrowed from the exterminator Tom Rasberry, who spent a copious amount of time studying the species. Tom Rasberry was hired by the Johnson Space Center in 2008 to defend the site from crazy ant invasion. The ants are called “crazy” because of their fast, erratic movements.

Though Rasberry crazy ants have been observed in the US only in the southern states, they are certainly not the only ant species with an affinity for electrical equipment. A unique feature of the Rasberry crazy ant is its ability to neutralize fire ant venom by covering itself in formic acid, which acts as an antidote. This is the first known instance of an insect with the ability to neutralize another insect’s venom.

**Hoatzin, Opisthocomus hoazin**

This Amazonian bird has two functional claws on each wing, much like the well known fossil of one of the earliest birds, Archaeopteryx.

Adult hoatzins, which are medium-sized, showy birds, rarely use their wing-claws. However, hoatzin chicks regularly use their clawed wings along with their feet to navigate the tree branches near their nest. Nests are often built in swampy areas, and if danger threatens the chicks, they sometimes drop from the tree branches and swim underwater to cover. When the threat is gone, the chicks will use their wing-claws to climb back into the tree-tops and return to their nest.

Though the hoatzin shares some personality traits with the extinct Dodo, such as unwariness, hoatzins are not considered an at-risk species. Hopefully, they will be climbing around the Amazonian forests for quite a while yet.

**Cone Snail, Conus spp.**

This varied group of predatory sea snails use a needle-like modified tooth to inject venom into and paralyze their prey. Some of the larger snail species also have colorful intricately-patterned shells, which are very attractive to shell collectors. The cone snail represents a combination often found in sea organisms—deadly beauty.

Most cone snail species inhabit tropical oceans. Like many snails, the cone snail can retract into its shell, becoming hard to detect from the viewpoint of a shell collector. When an admirer picks up a live snail, the snail’s reaction is often to fire its venom-laden harpoon, and though the stings of small snails may be too worse than that of a bee, the venom of larger snails can prove fatal.

So, if you’re a shell collector, or perhaps just a vacationer wandering the Caribbean beaches and happen to spot a gorgeous, cone-shaped shell—admir from a distance. The inhabitant may still be at home.

**Saiga, Saiga tatarica**

This is one of the oddest antelopes you may ever see, and in that case you may never see one alive, since the species is critically endangered. There are about 50,000 saiga left—compare that with about 800,000 white tailed deer alive in 1988 in New York state alone. The saiga has dark, extra-large eyes, and two sharp horns, but its most distinctive feature is its snout. This antelope has a face that would blend in nicely at Mos Eisley spaceport—its nose is like a small trunk, made to filter out dust and to warm cold air as the antelope breathes.

Saiga are native to the Eurasion Steppes. They have been hunted extensively for their horns, which fetch high prices in China as medicine (about $4,600 per horn in US dollars).

**Mantis Shrimp, order Stomatopoda**

This is one formidable little shrimp. Sea-predators that spend most of their time hiding out in tunnels, the mantis shrimp has gained the title of “thumb-splitter” due to its ability to inflict injury with its powerful claws... and “powerful” is an understatement. All crab-like animals have powerful claws, but mantis shrimps possess unbelievable speed and power in their mighty little pincers.

Mantis shrimps strike with an average speed of 51 mph, simply by flicking out their claws, and pull over 10,000 gs of acceleration in the process. Even if the actual strike fails to hit the prey, the resulting shockwave can incapacitate or even kill the target. Large mantis shrimps (lobster sized) have been known to break aquarium glass, causing them to fall out of favor with some aquarists.
**Bid-a-Date**

Feb 27th

6PM

Kunsela Auditorium

**Come get your bid on. Don’t forget your wallets. CASH ONLY!!**

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**Cosmic Bingo**

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February 21st

8pm

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