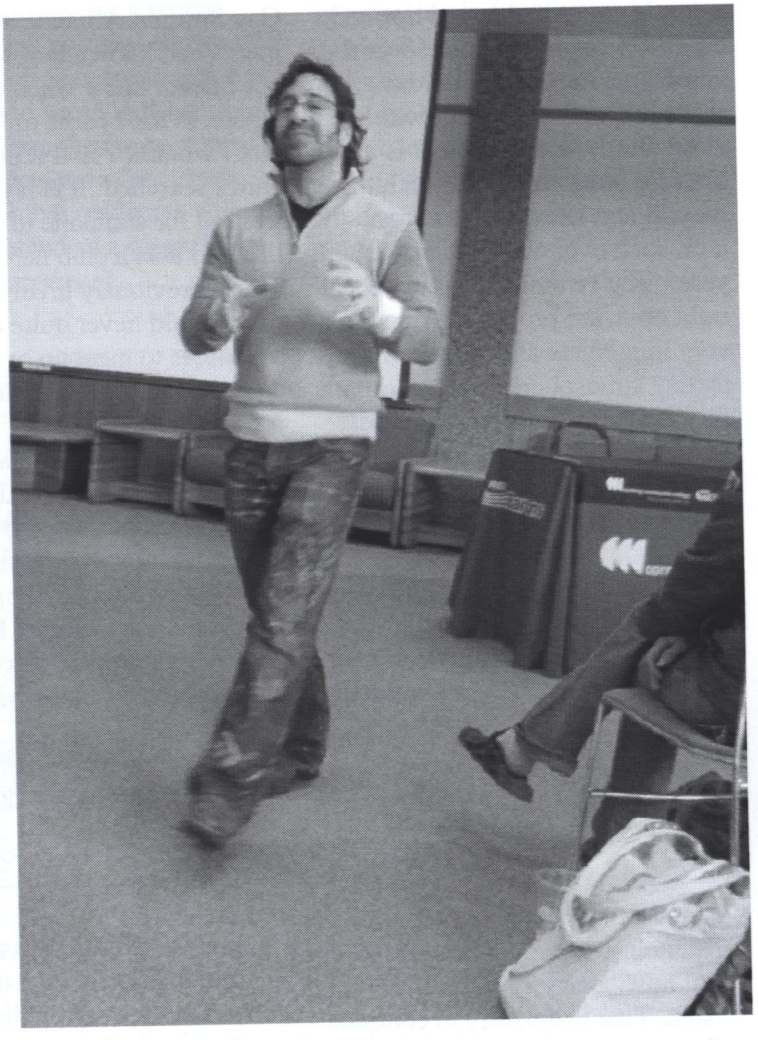
THE CRIER
CORNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fall 2010 #3

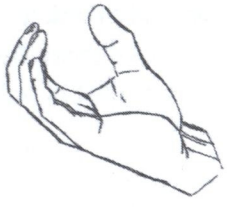
Scott Fried: Aids, Love, and the Secret Lives of Teenagers

By Sebastian Swanton



In recognition of World AIDS Week, Scott Fried came and gave a talk in the Triangle Lounge on Thursday December 2nd. He came to talk to us about HIV prevention, but his message was larger than that. His message of safe sex was two-fold, contraceptive and spiritual. He began the lecture with the story of how he found himself to be in an unsafe sex situation resulting in his contraction of HIV. He said that the reasons why he chose to have unprotected sex were as pivotal in this contraction as the sex itself. Most people lead some sort of double life, in fear of social stigmatization. For Scott, a closet homosexual at the time, this anxiety caused deep insecurity, which lead to his decision to have unprotected sex. He felt that in order to have someone care about him, he had to prove himself. We all do this in some capacity, and insecurity can come in many forms. We drink or smoke, eat to cope with depression, we throw ourselves wholeheartedly into our work at the cost of any other aspect of our lives, sleep with people we don't really want to or do want to; just not right then and not in that situation. The message is an important one; safe sex is not just prophylactics, you need to feel safe while have sex. Allowing self-consciousness to dictate your decision making, especially when interacting with other people, can be dangerous, as Scott so sharply demonstrates. Following his talk, he showed a video featuring forty of his friends who have died as a result of HIV. Each was accompanied by an anecdote about his relationship with them. The video was incredibly moving as Scott showed a wide range of intelligent, caring people whose lives were snuffed out by HIV. Doctors, actors, artists and more, these people stand as a warning to others to practice safe sex, both with contraception and by making decisions based on what you want, not what you think others want of you.

Scott Fried is an author and motivational speaker who has traveled the world spreading HIV awareness. He has spoken at hundreds of universities, summer camps, high schools, synagogues and churches. He covers topics such as sexual responsibility, body image, suicide, alcohol and drug misuse, eating disorders and self-mutilation. For 18 years he has spread awareness and compassion to teens and young adults. He is also the author of several books including "My Invisible Kingdom: Letters from the Secret Lives of Teens". He can be found at www.ScottFried.com.



Are You Aligned?

By Mills Horton

It's that time of year, once again. A time of chapped lips and cheeks, a dusting of snow over the landscape, hot cocoa, holiday shopping, and time spent with close family and friends. It is a time for unity. We stand with those we call and know by name and look back over our lives in the past year. You're thoughts as a student right now, are probably placed in a very immediate and stressed day by day atmosphere. You're looking forward to the break and the last thought on your mind isn't going to be, "I wonder what activities I can be involved in for next semester?"

But, as it is a time for unity, so it should be to stand united together to create a cohesive and harmonious balance here on this campus. Did you know that we had a Gay Straight Alliance here on campus? I had known that we had one, but I never knew when they met or where. What I came to find out, is that I wouldn't find it no matter how hard I searched. It is laying dormant, waiting for someone to come revive life into it as a club here on campus. Those previously involved in its activity could never quite coordinate schedules to meet up or always become too busy to keep it running properly.

For next semester, I want to jump start the Gay Straight Alliance. LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender) issues are pressing and need to be talked about and opened up to the campus as a whole. I wish for this club's purpose to possibly provide a voice for those who feel hushed to hide who they are, a place for those to feel comfortable, a source of information for those looking to understand, a place led by tolerance and an openness to any questions, and a dwelling where unity can flourish. Our sexual identities are just as important as our spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical selves. Each facet of our being works intricately together to create the uniquely wonderful people that we all are and grow to become.

I will have more information for you at the beginning of next semester about a meeting time and location. But, in order for the Gay Straight Alliance to succeed, we need student involvement. So, I ask you to think about this over the break and consider helping to make this student body become more unified.

Streaming Television to Increase Advertisement Length

By Sebastian Swanton

Advertising on network-owned or affiliated streaming websites has up until now been far lighter than on television. That is unlikely to continue after consumer testing conducted by Turner Broadcasting. According to Jack Wakshlag, chief research officer of Turner Broadcasting, viewers of online streaming television responded well to tests involving as much as 20 minutes of advertisements during a 30 minute program (note that most television programs are closer to 22 minutes due to the ad load on television). They found, for example, that people watching the TBS sitcom "Meet the Browns" watched for 40% of the episode with one minute of ads and 37% if it had sixteen minutes of ads. These studies lead Wakshlag to recommend far higher advertising loads, finding that this would not reduce viewer interest significantly, and noted that retention rate for advertisements is far higher in online streaming than on television. So what does this mean for us the viewing public? Well we can expect similar amounts of advertisements on streaming video as on television, if not more.

While I can see the urge to increase short term profits by selling off more ad space, it seems the entertainment industry has learned nothing from the crippling effects of software downloading on the record industry. In reaction to exorbitant pricing of CDs, millions of people who would not otherwise have broken the law boycotted them and downloaded the music for free instead. Despite governmental involvement the peer-to-peer software downloading network becomes faster and more sophisticated year by year. If it is decided to increase the ad load on online streaming shows, especially if greater than on television, they will encourage people to watch shows through other means such as sites that do not feature such obnoxious ad loads or p2p downloading. Even if one were to presume such a thing to be immoral, the American public has shown clearly that it will not tolerate profit at the cost of service from the entertainment industry any longer, so the morality becomes irrelevant. The government has failed consistently over the years to even stem the tide of free data transfer and I think it most short sighted indeed to see how far the public will be pushed in order to increase ad revenue.

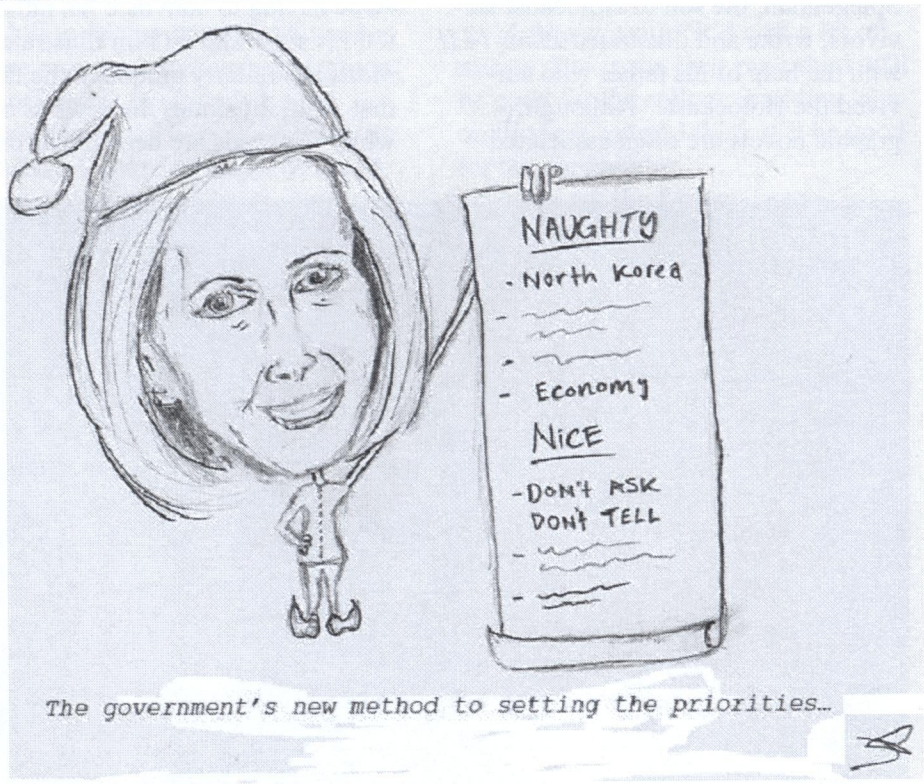
Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Debate

By Jake Prechtl

One of the most hotly debated issues on the national stage currently is the discussion around the repealing of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) military policy. The policy as it currently stands forbids openly gay individuals from serving in the armed services and can expel them for 'coming out' while in the military. A recent Pentagon survey of the military on the issue has only increased the intensity of the debate. Those opposed to the repeal of the policy argue unit cohesion and combat readiness will be negatively affected, pointing out that between 40 and 60 percent of Marines and troops surveyed by the Pentagon believed repeal would have negative consequences. Those against repeal also argue that a new policy should not be implemented during a time of war.

Supporters of the repeal argue that people should be able to serve in the military regardless of sexual orientation, and note the Pentagon survey found 70 percent of those surveyed believed there would be either positive, mixed, or no consequence due to repeal. Some liken it to the state-sponsored segregation that existed within the military until Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981 which integrated military units in 1948. They also argue the military should be a reflection of the society it defends which is overwhelming opposed to not allowing gays to serve in the military (supporters cite a recent *Washington Post* poll that showed 75 percent of Americans are in favor of allowing gays to serve in the military). Many claim the supporters of DADT use speculation that troop morale and combat readiness will be negatively affected as a disguise for being anti-homosexual.

The House of Representatives recently passed a bill for the repeal of the policy. However it is believed by many, including Senate Minority Leader Republican Mitch McConnell, that the Senate will force the debate to wait until the new Congress comes into session in January. Now is the opportune time for constituents to educate themselves on the issue and let elected officials know their thoughts on the debate.



The government's new method to setting the priorities...

Crisis in Korea

By Jake Prechtl

The situation on the Korean Peninsula continues to grow increasingly dire, now reaching its most critical point since the ceasing of military hostilities in 1953. In 2006 it was learned that North Korea had developed nuclear weapons, elevating instability in the region. In March of this year the North Korean military torpedoed and shank a South Korean Navy ship, killing 46 sailors. On November 23rd the tensions reached a new level when North Korea bombarded the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong, causing the death of 4 civilians.

The South Korean government is now seriously considering cutting off food aid to the North. On top of this North Korea has become upset and concerned over planned South Korean artillery drills and joint military operations exercises with US forces that were initiated as a response to the bombardment.

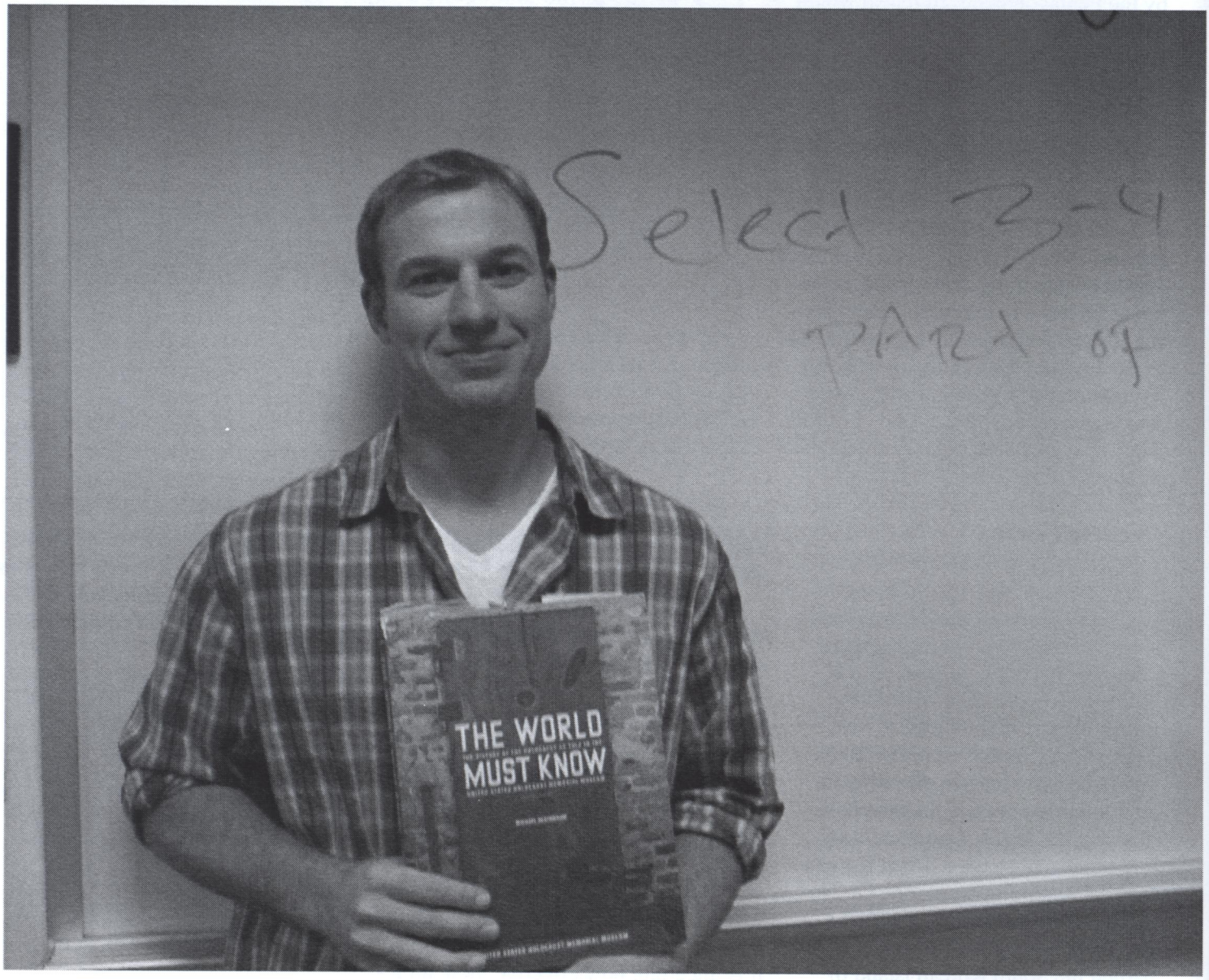
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is pushing for a diplomatic solution involving the so called "six-party talks" which includes the US, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Russia and China. It is uncertain how effective these diplomatic attacks will be since the North has historically used threats of war as leverage to gain more aid which it then usually squanders on its high-maintenance military.

Despite clear North Korean aggression, a diplomatic solution appears the necessary course of action. A potential war could prove disastrous for all sides. North Korea would likely use its small nuclear arsenal to bomb Seoul, the South Korean capital city, endangering the lives of the 24 million people in its metropolitan area.

What I'm Taking Now: English 2800 Special Topics: Holocaust Literature

By Jonathan Fritsch

In Holocaust Literature class this semester with Dr. Atkins we have explored one of the most infamous events in history through literature that ranges from historical facts to first hand testimonies and second generation accounts. Possibly the most famous second generation description of the Holocaust is conveyed through the unlikely medium of a graphic novel. Artie Spiegelman, the son of Holocaust survivors, wrote and illustrated *Maus I&II* with the help of his father who survived the Holocaust. Although graphic novels are often associated with comics and comedy these books in no way make light of the situation. They provide the reader with an intimate peek into the life of a survivor, the events leading up to the Holocaust, and the death camps. One fascinating aspect of *Maus* is that it is a story about writing the actual story, and as a result it often jumps from the past to the present. It begins with Artie having to convince his father to tell his story and let him illustrate it. *Maus* is similarly unique in the fact that Artie illustrates the Jews as mice while the Nazis are depicted as cats and the Americans are dogs. This is similar to stereotypical role they played in Nazi propaganda where Jews were portrayed as vermin. Furthermore, Artie cleverly conveys the struggles he is having with his own life when he incorporates a comic within the novel that he wrote while in college which vividly describes the horrors he lives with. All in all, if you know nothing of the Holocaust yet would like a place to start then you shouldn't look any further than the graphic novels *Maus I& II.*



The Elmira Center

By: Tyrell Fitch

On any given day, the Corning Community College's Elmira Academic and Workforce Center can been viewed as a hive of lighting bugs. It is a small branch to the main Corning campus that is seamlessly full of energy, no matter its size.

"It's kind of small, so there's a closeness here that isn't on the main campus," said Paul McNaney, an English Professor at CCC. "A lot of students have each other in their same classes; they get to know each other. There's that less distance than there is in the main campus."

"Because it's so clustered, everything is all on one floor so they see each other all the time. So I think it's a tighter community here than on the main campus."

The Elmira Center was opened in 2008 and has steadily grown in enrollees through the years. Many of the students that take classes at the Elmira Center live in the Elmira area and love the fact that they can further their education without traveling far.

"It's closer to home and it's better than driving on that hill in bad weather with a bunch of inexperience drivers," shared Mike Long, a Liberal Arts Major in his third semester. "I mean obviously the Main Campus has a bunch of cool stuff creating up there, but what college doesn't have that."

Alex Houghton, a Liberal Art Major also in his third semester said: "It's much easier to get to if the weather is bad. It's not fun on that hill. On the bus, it's scary."

Nevertheless, even though the Elmira Center is a nice substitute compared to the main campus – in the end, one must still take the journey up the hill to further their education because only a select number of classes are offered at the Elmira Center. Classes such as Holocaust Literature and Irish Culture are some of the attractive classes the Elmira Center offers, yet the main campus still dwarfs it in comparison of appealing classes.

"One of the problems that I think a lot of students encounter is simply that it's limited," said McNaney. "There are a lot of students who want to take a lot more stuff here, but they can't because at some point they kind of run out of classes.

"Not everything is offered here, they don't have the facilities, things like science classes. So it's a limited stock. At most one could take two semesters then they're gone."

And one of the reasons that students have to eventually take that climb up the hill for classes is because the lack of labs at the Elmira campus.

"You're going to have to go up to the Corning campus because of lab work. So when I get ready to do my labs, I might have to put it off for a couple of semesters," said Tonya Vazquez, a first semester Human Services Major.

McNaney said: "It'd cost a lot of money. But in the long run I think it'll be good for the college (building labs on Elmira Center) I think it'll be good for the community.

All in all, the Elmira campus is a nice addition to CCC – regardless of the lax amount of classes offered.

"I've been teaching at both places here now for going on three years, and I really like coming here. I like the students, I like the classrooms – they're much nicer classrooms and everything is modernized. To me this is a great place to teach."

Higher One Controversy

By Penny Kelley

The campus is all a buzz about this Higher One credit/debit card we were given to get our disbursement money. Student government had a representative from Higher One come to our SAGA meeting and try to clarify just what is going on with these cards. It was a nightmare, people were getting more and more upset with the lady. She couldn't tell us what we wanted to hear. Her answers were vague and she didn't have answers to most our questions. She was finally hustled out of the room because the meeting was in chaos. Later, I found out that the woman was just a sale representative and had been with the company for only seven months.

Higher One sent us two reps that knew what they were talking about, sadly I could not go to the forum that was Thursday at 12:00 in the triangle lounge. I heard through the grape vine that this meeting was heated to say the least and some people were escorted out of the room.

So, here is what I found out about the card number, you should not use the card as a debit card. You will be charged a fee every time you use it. Every time I swiped my card it automatically sets it up as a debit transaction, so I get charged a fee. I don't know how to stop it from doing that other than to tell the cashier to use it as a credit card.

When you want to withdraw money from the card, the only way to do it without getting charged a fee is to use the Higher One ATM. If you use another ATM you will be charged a withdrawal fee. The only machine that I know of is in the classroom building. I have no clue where others might be or even if there are other Higher One ATM machines out in the community. If you use an ATM to check your balance you will be charged a fee. The only way to check your balance for free is to do it online at the Corning-cc Card web site.

Well we will have to accept the Higher One card because Corning Community College has a contract with Higher One for two years. Hopefully when the two years are up Corning will not renew the contract. I am going to change the status of my account with Higher One and have them put all my money into the bank and then I will not use the card.

The Arctic League Needs You!

By Hannah Whitney

The Arctic League is an organization that was founded in the December of 1912 with the goal of providing the joys of Christmas to young children. Every year they accept donations and applications from volunteers during November and December. Beginning in April, Directors from the Arctic League headquarters travel to New York City to purchase the presents for children between the ages of 1 and 12. Each family is provided with a hygiene kit and family game and the children will receive three toys, candy, cookies, a hat, mittens, a book, and a toothbrush.

In early December a group of volunteers will assist the Arctic League directors set up an assembly line with three rows of tables with huge piles of toys and presents on either side. Each packing night begins at 7:00 pm. The process for the packing line is quite simple. A director reads from a printed label what each family should receive (the names are always anonymous), each volunteer is placed between the tables and a stack of a particular gifts. While the director calls the item, the volunteer in charge of said item must place it in the bin.

If an assembly line is not the type of volunteer work that fits you, you could always sign up to deliver the gifts to the families. Those willing to spend their Christmas giving back to the community can show up at the Arctic League Headquarters at 6 am on Christmas morning. They provide each volunteer with free hot chocolate, coffee and other refreshments. The American Legion also provides volunteers with a free breakfast. Many of these volunteers sport the Christmas cheer with various accessories such as elf ears, reindeer antlers, colorful scarves and Santa beards. The joy of Christmas is apparent among the smiling faces of these volunteers. It is definitely an abstract way to start off Christmas morning.

On another note, have you noticed the Christmas tree that is proudly displayed at the Clemens Center? This is another contribution the Arctic League makes to spreading the Christmas spirit in our community. Each year the Arctic League's 'tree selection committee' search throughout Chemung County in search of the perfect tree. With a specific criteria, the League searches for a tree that will best serve their cause. Maybe you could help to find the perfect tree with the rest of the Arctic League.

Donations are always appreciated! By sending a contribution to Arctic League Inc. you could help brighten a family's Christmas. Please visit http://www.arcticleague.com for more information on how you could help make the best of this Christmas season. Don't forget to visit the Clemens Center in downtown Elmira for the Arctic League broadcast on the first Sunday in December from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. Listen for the telecast on WETM-TV and WENY-TV. Or visit www.wetmtv.com for a live stream of the broadcast.

Donations:
Arctic League Inc.
P.O. Box 113
Elmira, NY 14902

Contact Arctic League
249 W Clinton St
Elmira, NY 14901
(607) 733-4576
info@arcticleague.com
http://www.arcticleague.com

Oh the Places you'll go!

The semester is coming to an end and snow is starting to fall. It is time to look your holiday best and get yourself into some festively fun activities.

•First, a fun show based on the hit movie Legally Blonde. The Clemens Center will be presenting Legally Blonde the musical on the 16th and 17th of this month, if you want fun, music and a lot of pink then you'll love this show!

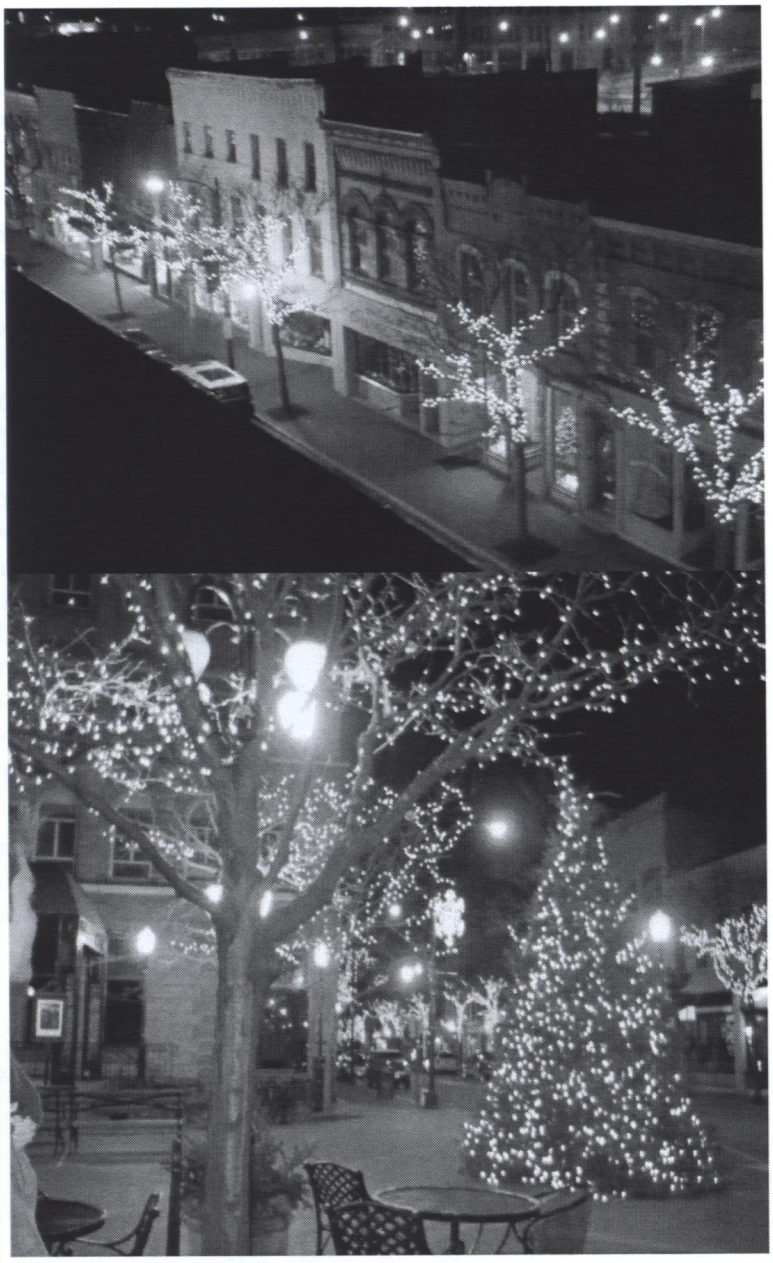
• If you have a chance to make it to Mansfield this holiday season you might be surprised by the events there. On the 12th there will be a grand vendor fair in the Mansfield fire hall. Also that day there will be a 5k walk/run where all the proceeds go to Mansfield's home for the holiday's charity.

•A great thing to do as it gets colder is visit the Greek Peak ski resort in Ithaca; whether you're a beginner or expert these frosted slopes are affordable and fun.

•If you're looking for a sweet fix, Rochester is your place to be between now and the 15th for the Sweet Creations: Gingerbread House Display. This holiday tradition is a treat for all of your senses.

(98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed.)

Its holiday shopping time and a store in Corning's Gaffer district definitely caught my eye; Pips Boutique is perfect for everyone on your shopping list. Creative gifts at reasonable price, what more could you ask? They sell Jewelry, accessories, clothing and shoes all in a store which features local talent.



Penny's Pet Peeves
By Penny Kelley

Black Friday was such a mess, it seems like everyone had gone nuts. I stay home on black Friday there is no way I will leave my house. A couple of years ago I needed something and when I got to the store place was wall to wall people. The aisles were full of people and carts; when I tried to get to the items I came for I was blocked. I even caught some elbows in the side when I tried to maneuver. Trying to ask them to move is futile; they either ignored me or gave me a dirty look. What the hell turns people into such rude idiots on black Friday? Now the retail stores want to move Black Friday to the day after Halloween. Well they will have to come up with a different name for Black Friday because the day after Halloween is not always a Friday.

It really pisses me off, Black Friday has been around since I was a little girl; I still remember my Mom taking us to the mall on that day. It was always magical, the way we would celebrate Thanksgiving then the next day, like magic, all the stores would be decked out for Christmas. Only then would you get into the Christmas spirit. Nowadays the Christmas stuff is on the shelves before Halloween is even over. By the time Christmas gets here I am so burnt out on Christmas that I can't wait to get it over with.

Hey readers I want your pet peeves, this is where you can get something off your chest. I want to hear from you, anybody can write to me with their pet peeves and I will do my best to get it in the paper. If you want to comment on one of my pet peeves go ahead, I look forward to other people's opinions. You can reach me at pkelley6@corning-cc.edu **Come on people I want your thoughts and ideas write to me.**

What About Our Future?

David Cremidis

People nowadays wonder about what is going to happen to our society in the future; there are talks about social security funding running out and having no backup. Or that our state education system has no funding, which is something I agree with. However there is not enough attention towards the middle class youth, the18-25 year old demographic and their debt. With huge numbers playing towards the "national deficit" , Republicans have been able to win a huge margin in Congress. When the brush of their November victory wears off, what will their solutions be? Why do people agree that we need to cut spending? Do they not realize that if the government cuts spending, the middle class, the demographic which decides most elections in this country, will be hurt?

The 18-25 year old college students will be hurt, if Republicans pass the budget cuts they will cut student aid. Isn't it peculiar that the first thing these tea partiers will want to cut are social welfare and educational program? Furthermore, why is Rand Paul the only Republican, offering to compromise by offering cuts on the defense budget? I personally believe that in order to get out of an economic recession, we can't cut down the competitive degree of our country. After all, we are the only economy that turns over the most MBAs and PHDs in the world, if we cut student aid then middle class kids like me and many others will not be able to continue their education.

At the moment the average college student retains around $30,000 in debt at the point of graduation. While there are no figures for future debt by college students this figure can only increase. If we cut student aid programs, then it wouldn't be surprising that debt grows immensely, this is a crisis that is waiting to happen. If you really do care about your future, and your family's future then ask our local Congressman Tom Reed.

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