Ebola: hype or havoc?

The burial team at the International Medical Corps Ebola treatment unit in Liberia's Bong County sprays the grave of 11-year-old Anna Singbeh with a chlorine disinfectant. The bodies of victims are dangerously contagious, which means locals must abandon common Liberian rituals such as washing the bodies of loved ones. (Robyn Dixon/Los Angeles Times/MCT)

By Rob Buffum

Campus Life released a statement Oct. 17 regarding information about Ebola for DCCC students. It included information from the Pennsylvania Department of Health Ebola Resources, such as symptoms and preventive measures.

Ebola has been a front page story in both the New York Times and USA TODAY several times in the last few weeks, offering headlines such as USA TODAY’s “Confusion driving U.S. Ebola policies.”

Yet the average person, when asked what Ebola is, given a variety of answers. Students may recite the symptoms of Ebola, or tell you they heard the Philadelphia airport is detaining people.

“They’re doing a lot of Ebola work in trying to make us understand what it is,” said Robert Warren, an engineering major at DCCC.

But is Ebola really a threat at DCCC?

“The average person, when asked what Ebola is, given a variety of answers. Students may recite the symptoms of Ebola, or tell you they heard the Philadelphia airport is detaining people.”

“You cannot get it by being around people with it, unless you come into contact with the infected person’s skin or bodily fluids. Ebola is not spread by air or water. You cannot get it by being around people with it, unless you come into contact with the infected person’s skin or bodily fluids.”

The Mayo Clinic lists the symptoms on its website. They begin with fever, severe headache, joint and muscle aches, chills and weakness.

“These symptoms are similar to those of a common cold or flu. Therein lies the confusion for most, yet Ebola grows increasingly severe over time and leads to more painful symptoms, according to the CDC.

“These include nausea and vomiting, bloody diarrhea, raised rashes, chest pain and cough, stomach pain and severe weight loss. Ebola is not spread by air or water. You cannot get it by being around people with it, unless you come into contact with the infected person’s skin or bodily fluids.”

The CDC says good hygiene and proper hand washing are some of the best preventive measures.

No treatments or vaccines that have been scientifically proven to work are available, according to the CDC. The only treatment they recommend is keeping the patient hydrated, wait it out, and treat other infections in the patient.

The current outbreak began in March 2014 in multiple countries in West Africa. It has caused countless infections in those countries and even affected some health care workers in the United States.

There is a confirmed case in Spain where the woman has fully recovered, according to the CDC.

On Oct. 10 a local unnamed man on a flight from Philadelphia to the Dominican Republic made a joke about having Ebola after sneezing. According to the Philadelphia International Airport, the flight was met by local officials in the Dominican Republic in hazmat suits.

The next round of testing on their experimental drug has only been successful and that a cure continues to be successful and that a cure close.

No charges were filed against the man by either the Dominican Republic or the United States.

The airport has since put out a statement on Ebola preparedness.

“It states that the airport will monitor and question all travelers displaying “symptoms of communicable diseases such as Ebola,” even though the airport has no direct flights from West Africa."

On Oct 27, Swissmedic approved an application for a trial of an experimental Ebola vaccine. Swissmedic is a European pharmaceutical research company with similar powers to the FDA.

In San Diego, CA Mapp Biopharmaceutical Inc. has used an experimental drug that has only been used on monkeys until July when it was used to save the lives of two U.S. missionaries who caught Ebola while working in Liberia.

The University of Texas at Austin's College of Pharmacy has been testing an inhaled Ebola vaccine. Swissmedic is a European pharmaceutical research company with similar powers to the FDA.

The airport will monitor and question all travelers displaying symptoms of communicable diseases such as Ebola, even though the airport has no direct flights from West Africa.

The University of Texas at Austin graduate student Kristina Jonsson-Schmunk in a press release from the university.

The next round of testing on their experimental drug has only been successful and the cure continues to be successful and a cure is close.

Contact Rob Buffum at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu
More than 15 faculty members attended a class on mindfulness Oct. 20 at the Marple campus. Francesco Bellini, an assistant professor of religion, organized the event in the STEM building’s aerobics room.

According to Bellini’s presentation, mindfulness is not magic, therapy, religion, a cause for more stress, or a relaxation technique. Instead, it is a way to deal with stress, fear, difficult students, collegiality, and institutional effectiveness. Bellini said it can be practiced anytime and anywhere.

The class focused on exercises and techniques to utilize in the classroom or one’s personal life. Participants performed breathing exercises with eyes closed and ate lunch while mindfully focusing on their food.

"Mindfulness means to be aware of what is happening in our present experience, observing with compassion and curiosity," said Bellini.

Tanya Gardner, an assistant professor of communications, said her students benefited from mindfulness techniques in the classroom. Her students performed exercises to remain in the present moment, such as quietly sitting and reflecting at the start of class. Students also walked quietly and observed their surroundings.

Gardner said the students’ attentiveness and peacefulness improved as a result.

DCCC student, Amanda Howard, spoke about her personal successes with mindfulness. She said mindfulness helped her to manage emotions, decrease anxiety, deal with the pressures of daily life, and improve memory problems. Mindfulness allows her to create a more positive environment in general, she added.

Kristen Doran, a professor of psychology, said she also uses mindfulness in her classes. She admitted that she was not an expert in mindfulness, but suggested that participants do not need to be experts to benefit from it.

Associate English Professor Tanya Franklin was another participant who felt the mindfulness training was beneficial to teaching.

"I truly enjoy teaching and interacting with students and am always looking for ways to improve the learning environment,” Franklin said. “Taking the mindfulness workshop will help me to create a positive and stimulating setting for my students and for me.”
Wolf could face tough road ahead with GOP Legislature

By John Guerriero

Gov.-elect Tom Wolf completed a remarkable turnaround in Pennsylvania politics by defeating Gov. Tom Corbett. But his toughest work could lie ahead when the Democrat tries to get his initiatives through a Republican House and Senate majority that saw gains in Tuesday’s midterm election.

Wolf, 65, a York County businessman, was one of the few Democrats nationally who claimed victory on a day the GOP ruled. His defeat of Corbett, also 65, placed the incumbent in the dubious category of being the first sitting Pennsylvania governor to lose re-election.

If he wants to restore cuts in education, funding to school districts, Federici said. “And under the cover of Wolf’s victory, Republicans that would otherwise perhaps not vote for an extraction tax, might vote for it,” he said.

Part of Wolf’s success in promoting a legislative agenda will depend on his leadership skills, Federici said. And Wolf might be better at that part of the job than Corbett, he said. “Corbett doesn’t have the sort of skills to foster a relationship with the state Legislature that leads (to) support and pass his legislation. He’s just not good at it.

And it remains to be seen whether Wolf is good at it. But it’s hard to imagine that he would be worse than Corbett was,” Federici said. Even so, Madonna said Wolf will have a tougher time in the House than the Senate.

Many House Republicans are more conservative, and the chamber is more polarized, he said. “Most were elected (Tuesday) with significant percentages. They don’t need (Wolf),” Madonna said.

Democratic candidate for Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf talks to a crowd of people inside the Berkey Creamery on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014 in University Park, Pa. (Nabil K. Mark/Centre Daily Times/MCT)

Springfield man protests anti-gay marriage sign in Havertown

By Nicole Ryder
Special To The Community Item

A Springfield man protested a “Ban Gay-Marriage” sign in front of a Havertown residence Oct. 29, despite the rain.

Steve Pickhaver, 44, said he felt the need to step up after a close, gay family member informed him of the sign.

Pickhaver rushed to the sidewalk of the Havertown home on the 1500 block of Burmont Road early in the afternoon to display home-made signs that read: “Love has no Gender!” and “Equality for Everyone!”

Later, his two sisters joined him in the gloomy weather to stand up for what they believe is right, they said.

The homeowner, Ed Quirk, 66, called the police after Pickhaver told him he was going to remain there until dusk. Since Pickhaver was not disrupting the peace, authorities allowed him to continue protesting.

The following day, Quirk removed the anti-Gay marriage sign. But he continued to voice his objections. “The only people who are against [gay marriage] today are Republicans,” Quirk said. “We live in a country where it’s a marriage between a man and a woman. It shouldn’t be man-man or woman-woman because down the road there won’t be as many children. Future generations will be living in a society that is morally warped.”

Several passers-by slowed down to read Pickhaver’s messages. Most people that slowed down shouted words of encouragement: “You tell ‘em!” and “Thank you!”

Pickhaver said a simple gesture, even a smile, was much appreciated. “I got a tear in my eye when I came to see [the sign] for myself,” Pickhaver said.

“I don’t believe this is right, but I don’t think it’s going to make a big difference,” Pickhaver said.

Steve Pickhaver protests an anti-gay marriage sign on the lawn of a Havertown residence Oct. 29 by displaying his own sign which read: “Equality for Everyone.”
WASHINGTON _ Newly elected Democratic Rep. Alma Adams of North Carolina said Wednesday that being the 100th woman in Congress comes with a lot of responsibility.

And part of that responsibility, she said, will be advocating for women, children and families, workers and others.

"I'm glad I'm finally here," Adams said in an interview Wednesday as she walked between celebratory events on Capitol Hill. Later that evening, she was one of three new lawmakers sworn in _ weeks ahead of other newly elected members _ because she is filling the 10-month vacancy left by former Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C., who resigned to serve as director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. The special election to fill his seat was held at the same time as the general election.

Adams took the oath of office on the House floor, to applause from family watching in the gallery. During her prepared remarks, the newly minted lawmaker acknowledged the women who came before her.

"I stand on the shoulders of the fearless women who shattered the glass ceiling," Adams said.

At a reception Wednesday, Adams took time to thank her constituents and friends who helped her get to Washington. She was surrounded by family and friends, high school classmates, former students, campaign workers and volunteers.

"Think about it; I'm the 100th woman that will be sworn into Congress tonight," Adams told her guests. They grinned, whistling, clapping and cheering, "Yes!"

"It truly is a special day for me, and for the citizens of the 12th (congressional) district," she said.

While new to Capitol Hill, Adams isn't new to politics. Her experience includes time on the Greensboro school board, the city council and in the North Carolina General Assembly. She is not only known for her political work, but for her style. She said she wears one of her 900 hats almost every day.

She had to leave her hats at home, however, for her swearing-in because they are banned on the House floor.

"I know that I can't have one on the floor, so I didn't want to mess my hair-do up," she said as she popped from event to event Wednesday.

Her first order of business as a new congresswoman will be getting her district offices open and letting her constituents know what resources are available.

"My district has waited 10 months for representation," Adams said to her guests. "That's too long, so I'm prepared to get to work, and I'm going to get to work right away."

As the 100th woman in Congress, women's issues are a big concern.

"All issues are women's issues, whether we're talking about finance or job creation," Adams said in the interview. "Women are heading households, women are losing jobs."

In a statement, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida, chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, said she was "encouraged to see more women making their voices heard and taking their seat at the table." But she also added, "It is also a sobering reminder of how far we have yet to go. Women comprise more than 50 percent of our nation's population, but less than 20 percent of our elected officials in Congress."

Partisanship in Congress, and Democratic losses last week in the House could mean a tough session for her party. But Adams said that to combat the political acrimony, representatives will have to come together on common ground.

"I think we spend too much time on those things that we differ on," Adams said, "and that's why people see this as a Congress that can't get anything done."
Ending Washington gridlock largely in Mitch McConnell’s hands now

By Lisa Mascaro and Michael A. Memoli
Tribune Washington Bureau

(MCT)

Mitch McConnell built his ascent to Senate majority leader on voter anger over Washington gridlock that he helped foster while in the Republican minority against President Barack Obama. Now the Kentucky senator will need to convince tea party Republicans who thrived on that approach to join him in a new strategy that depends, in part, on making deals with Democrats and the White House.

A clever, if stiff, tactician who excels at the art of constructing elaborate political mazes so he can lead the way through, McConnell presented a softer image Wednesday, smiling and confident as he promised a new day in Congress.

“We’re going to go back to work and actually pass legislation,” McConnell said at the University of Louisville, a day after his party had secured at least 52 Senate seats. “There will be no government shutdowns and no default on the national debt.”

For McConnell, who once famously said the Republican Party’s top priority was to make Obama a one-term president and saddle him with “an inventory of losses,” the strategy of opposing the president may no longer be enough. The new Republican-controlled Congress will be under intense pressure to prove that it can change the slow grind of billmaking.

McConnell is expected to move quickly on several fronts, such as approving a budget and passing a string of modest bills with bipartisan support on issues such as approving the Keystone XL pipeline, boosting international trade talks and tweaking the Affordable Care Act.

One idea with support on both sides of the aisle is repealing a tax on medical devices that is part of the health care law.

Despite campaign promises about repealing Obamacare, Republicans _ with 52 seats so far and three states still in play _ lack the 60 votes needed to block a Democratic filibuster and the 67 votes necessary to overcome a presidential veto.

“The first thing I need to do is get the Senate back to normal,” McConnell said Wednesday, predicting that Republicans and the White House would find areas of agreement. But a more calculating side of McConnell was also on display, seeking to drive an early wedge between Obama _ who might want to round out his final two years with a few bipartisan legislative victories _ and congressional Democrats, who may be reluctant to give the GOP credit for easing legislative deadlock.

McConnell said he had talked to the president Wednesday about new trade initiatives and tax reforms, issues that cause shudders among many Democrats who pre-emptively blocked such initiatives from the White House when they held the majority. “The Democrat that counts is the president of the United States,” McConnell said. With an expanded majority in the House, Speaker John A. Boehner is expected to take a similar approach, busying the chamber with votes on smaller-scale bills to cut regulations on business. “You’re going to see Mitch McConnell doing everything he can to make the Senate work,” Corker said.

That means bringing back robust floor and committee debates on bills that outgoing Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid had all but abandoned, as well as extending the work week and sending legislation to Obama despite the threat of a presidential veto.

Corker said McConnell had been preparing Republicans for the opportunity to control the Senate for years, adding that GOP lawmakers would “revolt” if the new leader’s promised reforms didn’t happen.

“I think some on the other side of the aisle question Mitch’s commitment. We don’t,” Corker said. “I think they’re wondering whether he would back the Kentuckian for the leadership post.”

Ironically, several moderate Democrats who might have supported McConnell’s agenda lost their seats Tuesday, including senators from Arkansas and North Carolina.

But other Democratic senators will welcome the chance to join Republicans in crafting bipartisan legislation, lawmakers say. “A lot of Democrats are willing to sit down _ as long as it doesn’t take a blatantly political approach,” Sen. Joe Manchin III, D-W.Va., said.

“The bottom line is we can’t continue in the Senate the way we’ve been,” said Sen. Richard J. Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat, said in telephone interview from his state, Illinois. “If compromise can be found and Congress can function, he said, “everybody looks good.”
Will you be compelled to shop on Black Friday this year?

By James Pearson

As Black Friday draws near, businesses are preparing for the multitude of customers that will be assembling outside their stores later this month.

Although I have never gone out early in the morning or late Thanksgiving evening for Black Friday shopping, I am probably in the minority.

“Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is a term used by the retail industry in the United States that signifies the start of the Christmas holiday shopping season,” writes Eastern Illinois professor Linda Simpson in An Analysis of Consumer Behavior on Black Friday.

“In the 1950s, some factory managers referred to the day after Thanksgiving as “Black Friday” because so many workers called in sick,” wrote Nancy Koehn in an article titled “The History of Black Friday.”

According to Koehn, in the early 1960s, Philadelphia police used the term to describe the congestion of shoppers in center city.

“By the 1980s, some shop owners pointed out that the profitable post-Thanksgiving rush put ‘black ink’ on their balance sheets for the first time all year,” she wrote. “The idea that ‘Black Friday’ was the day when retailers historically came out of the red and went into the black by beginning to turn a profit.”

While Black Friday is a great time to buy gifts early, not all people feel the need to do so on that day.

But Black Friday does have numerous pros and cons associated with it.

When it comes to Black Friday, there are benefits that shouldn’t be ignored which include special bargains on products for customers and finishing your holiday shopping early.

The Consumer Reports website predicts that televisions will be the highest selling item this year.

One survey, done by the retail trade website, National Retail Federation, suggested that consumers will spend an average of $459.87 on gifts for their family, up 6.5 percent from $432.00 last year, and $80.00 on gifts for friends, up from $75.00 last year.

However, some concerns about Black Friday are the dangers involved.

In 2008, a Walmart worker in Long Island was trampled to death by shoppers who damaged the store’s door, while in 2011, a woman in Los Angeles pepper sprayed shoppers attempting to buy a XBox gaming console and Wii video games.

Despite the violence that may occur on this day, consumers remain interested in Black Friday shopping. It has reached its highest level in eight years, according to Accenture's annual holiday shopping survey.

Since Black Friday has become popular, other days have been created that promote consumer excitement.

In 2005, Cyber Monday, which is the Monday after Black Friday, was established by online retailers to service people who purchase products via the internet for discounts.

During Cyber Monday consumers can have access to free shipping, depending on the store’s policy.

Whether you’re a supporter of Black Friday or not it all depends on the way you perceive the holiday.

I believe that retailers should reduce the hours that employees work on Black Friday, so it doesn’t squander family time.

Also, it bothers me to see violence happen for getting a sale following a day you were saying what you were thankful for.

But if you do go out on Black Friday this year, remember to exercise caution and plan well, especially considering the risks of identity theft, stealing, and fighting.

Contact James Pearson at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu.
What could a Republican controlled Congress mean for you?

By Robert Craig

The 2014 United States midterm election was a game changer.

According to Philip Bump of The Washington Post, "This will be the most dominant Republican Congress since 1929, with an almost certain 8 percent majority in the Senate and an 11.7 to 17.7 percent majority in the House."

As the midterm election came to a close, the Republican Party won 22 of the 36 Senate seats and they also won 246 of the 435 seats in the House.

These wins gave the Republican Party a net gain of seven Senate seats and 13 House seats.

Most voters know that Republicans are known for their extremely conservative values. What could this new Congress mean for the younger, more contemporary population? More importantly, what could this mean for you?

According to the GOP's Republican platform, here are a few things you should realize.

... if you’re gay, don’t expect to be able to get married in some states. Also, don’t expect your lawful marriage in New York to be recognized in Alabama.

If you’re a woman, don’t expect equal pay as men, since Republicans have consistently voted against or sought to block the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Because the Republicans want to overturn Roe versus Wade, certain states may not allow women to have abortions, or just may make them more difficult to obtain. So if you’re a woman, don’t expect full control over your body anytime soon.

Furthermore, don’t expect to be able to get an abortion even after you’ve been raped in some states, if some Republicans get their way.

Republicans believe in “preserving and protecting traditional marriage,” which means the union of one man and one woman must be upheld as the national standard, according to their platform. So if you’re gay, don’t expect to be able to get married in certain states. Also, don’t expect your lawful marriage in New York to be recognized in Alabama.

If you’re a single parent with little college education, don’t expect minimum wage to rise high enough for you to actually support your children and live comfortably, thanks to Republicans voting against increasing the federal minimum wage from $7.25 to $10.10 an hour.

The Republican platform has a “vision” of a free people using their God-given talents, combined with hard work, self-reliance, ethical conduct and the pursuit of opportunity. This philosophy does not allow for any public assistance or what they call “entitlements” of any kind.

If you’re terminally ill, don’t expect the best health care possible.

Finally, if you’re an undocumented, but responsible, hard-working immigrant, don’t expect to become an American citizen as long as Republicans continue to block immigration reform.

For an even longer list of what the Republican party supports and opposes, head to www.gop.com/platform or any other Republican or GOP website.

GOP fear-mongering about Ebola and Mexico is baseless

MCT FORUM

By Jose Miguel Leyva

McClatchy Washington Bureau

Republican claims that Ebola could slip into the United States through Mexico are completely unfounded.

Former Massachusetts senator and current New Hampshire senatorial candidate Scott Brown recently made such an assertion.

“One of the reasons why I’ve been so adamant about closing our border, because if people are coming through normal channels ... can you imagine what they can do through our porous borders?” Brown said in a radio interview.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., and North Carolina GOP senatorial candidate Thom Tillis have expressed similar sentiments. Tillis actually demanded in a recent debate that the U.S.-Mexico border be sealed. And Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, has opined that the Ebola outbreak may not be a completely bad thing, since undocumented immigrants will be terrified to cross the border with infected Africans.

But such notions have no basis in fact. There’s never been an outbreak of Ebola in Latin America. And there have been no reports of Africans sick with Ebola attempting to enter the United States via Mexico. Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, responded at a congressional hearing, ‘That is not happening,’” when asked about the probability of Ebola reaching the United States through its southern neighbor.

The linking of immigrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border with frightening rumors in which Latinos are seen as unclean. This is the reason that conservative politicians and media outlets have found it so easy to link immigrants to epidemics such as Ebola.

Until we all learn to recognize that the racialization of disease undermines efforts to deal with the reality we face, right-wingers will continue to use divisive tactics. As responsible citizens, it is our duty to stand up to these reckless claims and demand that our politicians act on fact, not fear.

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Vikings: What happens after Adrian Peterson’s reinstatement hearing?

By Brian Murphy
Pioneer Press, St. Paul, Minn.
(MCT)

Adrian Peterson’s fate is in the hands of an arbitrator selected by the NFL and Players Association to determine whether Commissioner Roger Goodell can discipline him after the Vikings running back settled his criminal case in Texas.

A hearing is scheduled Monday, ProFootballTalk.com reported Tuesday. A ruling is due by Nov. 22 at the latest, according to the timeline established by the collective bargaining agreement.

Peterson could not be reinstated to Minnesota’s active roster until the Nov. 30 game against the Carolina Panthers, keeping him off the field for at least two more games -- Sunday at Chicago and Nov. 23 at home vs. Green Bay -- and a total of 10 games this season.

The protocol in the labor agreement is certain, but questions linger in the case of Adrian Peterson v. National Football League:

Who is the arbitrator hearing the case?
Shyam Das will take testimony and review evidence at a hearing, according to PFT. Das is president of the National Academy of Arbitrators, which helps resolve labor disputes throughout North America. He was Major League Baseball’s arbitrator from 1999-2012. MLB fired him shortly after Das overturned a performance-enhancing drug-related suspension for Ryan Braun of the Milwaukee Brewers.

What is at issue?
The NFL announced last week that it would not reinstate Peterson until reviewing his case for possible discipline under the Personal Conduct Policy.

The Players Association accuses the league of reneging on an agreement to idle Peterson on the Commissioner’s/Exempt list with pay until his child abuse case was adjudicated. Peterson pleaded no contest Nov. 4 to misdemeanor assault in Conroe, Texas, for whipping his 4-year-old son with a switch.

Das will be asked to determine whether the agreement defined reinstatement or whether games Peterson missed while he defended himself in Texas factor into potential discipline.

When will Das rule?
After Monday’s hearing, he has five days to issue a decision, according to the collective bargaining agreement. Das took 23 days to rule in 2012 on the Saints’ bounty scandal, siding with the NFL in determining that Goodell could suspend four New Orleans players who funded cash pools to award teammates for violent hits on opposing players.

Does Das have the final say?
Not exactly. Each side has the right to appeal his ruling to an arbitration panel, further delaying the process. Ultimately, the losing side could take the case to court. Peterson could seek an injunction from a judge to force the NFL to allow him to resume his career while the league decides whether or not to discipline him.

What is at stake?
So much for so many:

-- A maximum of five more games this season for Peterson, whose value as a 29-year-old running back with three years and $46 million remaining on his contract is plummeting.

-- Goodell’s authority to deliberate a criminal plea involving a 4-year-old child amid heightened scrutiny the league faces after his bungled handling of the Ray Rice domestic abuse scandal.

-- The Players Association’s power to hold the league accountable and protect the rights of a player who negotiated a misdemeanor conviction and will sit out his ninth straight game this weekend.

-- The Vikings getting return on their 2014 investment in a potential hall of famer who could bolster their fledgling playoff chances.

-- Or the franchise avoiding a politically charged decision to welcome back an exiled running back whose actions caused a revolt among corporate and charitable partners when the team initially tried to reinstate Peterson.
Vitra—Design, Architecture, Communication: A European Project with American Roots

Friday, November 21, 2014
Perelman Building, Collab Gallery

Galleries open at 9:00 a.m.
Remarks at 10:00 a.m.
Refreshments will be served.

On view from November 22, 2014–April 26, 2015, the exhibition explores the story of Vitra, the family-owned Swiss furniture company, from its American roots and distinguished design collaborations to its architectural commissions and educational outreach.

With more than 100 works, the exhibition includes furniture, design objects, publications, models, photographs, and videos divided into the following sections: American Roots; Communications; Architecture/Site; Products/Designers and Vitra Design Museum, Collections/Archives.

The Philadelphia Eagles helped to commemorate Veteran’s Day Nov. 10. The field was covered by an American flag held by players for both the Eagles and the Carolina Panthers, and by many service men and women, as Retired Navy Petty Officer 1st Class General Wilson sang the National Anthem.

Photo By Shannon Reardon

“Ball” Wall Clock, designed 1948, designed by George Nelson, made by Vitra GmbH, Basel, Switzerland © Herman Miller Inc.;

Wiggle Side Chair, designed 1942 by Frank O. Gehry; made 2005 by Vitra GmbH, Basel, Switzerland (Lent by Vitra Design Museum);

Eames Elephant, designed 1945 by Charles and Ray Eames (Lent by Vitra Design Museum)
Arts & Entertainment

By Maryleigh Sharp

Picture a man sitting in the lobby waiting for his interview. Brown hair slicked back, tight white button down shirt, pressed blue cotton dress pants. He sees a woman who is late for work in jeans and a T-shirt, and whose long blonde hair is a mess. She runs to the bathroom and comes out all dazzled and new wearing a black dress shirt and pants. That girl could be me!

Promptly, he asks for my number. Would he have asked for my number before I changed? Would he have even looked my way without my makeup on? Probably not, but that’s the exciting part. It’s the knot you get in your stomach when you meet someone for the first time, perhaps the way he smiles and laughs because of how nervous he is. That’s what I miss about meeting someone for the first time.

The technology we have now is great, but it seems like we are judging someone behind a screen instead of getting out there and meeting someone face to face.

According to Jess Donn and Richard Sherman, psychologists with the University of Miami, “7.7 percent of college students and 19.7 percent of graduate students had taken steps to meet a potential romantic partner online.”

Which brings me to the smartphone app called Tinder. Tinder allows its users to rate each other over Facebook pictures. But it doesn’t post anything on their Facebook.

According to Tinder’s website, “Tinder sees more than 850 million swipes and more than 10 million matches every single day.”

Basically, Tinder tells users, “Swipe right on a photograph to fall in love or get that boost of confidence and swipe left on a photograph to deem the person unattractive.”

The dazzling woman swiped right and so did he and now they are a match, which means the option of “keep playing” or talking to each other occurs.

What will they do? I guess we’ll never know.

Obviously Tinder is giving love seekers a whole new way of meeting someone, including getting those butterflies in the stomach when a match occurs or often reading sayings messages such as “I want to meet you now.”

But by using Tinder we are solely judging people off their looks, and, sadly, that is the one thing the app is doing right.

Now before you say, “I don’t judge people off their looks,” or “I’m not that kind of person,” consider the following. When I asked a group of 10 students how they would like to meet their “ideal love interest,” three said they would want to meet through a friend, one said at the bar, and five said on the Tinder app, which was not suggested as an option.

Most people use the Tinder app to get the occasional “hook up,” while others look for “Mr. or Mrs. Perfect.” That’s oddly enough what the app is doing right. Despite its potential for finding my perfect match, I deleted the Tinder app after two days because of what some men said: “D—m girl, I want to paint you green and sp—k you like a disobedient avocado,” or “That shirt looks great on you but better on the ground.”

And the only reason I put it back onto my phone was because my friends told me to give it another shot.

Yet, by giving it another shot I realized one thing: I don’t think Tinder’s approach on dating is the right way to meet someone because it treats relationships like a game. We have the option to “keep playing” and that’s what throws me off. I want to like someone and talk to him, yet I have the option to pick out more than one person to “fall in love with” or “hook up with.”

So I become addicted to “playing” an active role in someone’s life in hopes that it will improve my love life.

My experience with Tinder just wasn’t one I ever want to go through again. I don’t think that any person should have to deal with a company who can make a game of an individual’s dating life, when one’s heart is more valuable than the cost to make the app.

So I would rather have my heart not “keep playing.”

Photo Courtesy of Pinterest

Proponents of Tinder, the free dating app, believe, “We are all looking for the special someone in our life. Why not use Tinder?”

‘Swipe right to fall in love,’ they said..

By Maryleigh Sharp

Photo Courtesy of Pinterest
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BEIJING _ A landmark agreement on climate change between the U.S. and China, the world’s top two polluting nations, faced immediate challenges from experts who warned that it would require an overhaul of China’s economy and from Republicans in Congress who vowed to undermine the deal.

President Barack Obama’s ramped-up push on environmental issues set up a clash with GOP leaders, who blasted the far-reaching agreement with China as bad for business and promised to try to block the regulations necessary to meet its targets for curbing carbon emissions. Administration officials asserted that they would not be deterred.

The standoff was the clearest sign yet that Obama plans to prioritize his agenda _ and his legacy _ over hope of sowing goodwill with the incoming Republican-controlled Congress. Even as both parties promised to heed voters’ calls to find common ground after last week’s midterm election, the White House and Republican leaders have since drawn lines in the sand on climate policy.

At the heart of the deal announced Wednesday, during Obama’s visit to Beijing, are nonbinding goals for alternative energy use and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Obama said he had agreed, for example, that the U.S. would cut net emissions by at least 26 percent by 2025. Experts note that the unexpectedly high targets can be reached only if both countries enact new policies that speed up the transition from carbon-based fuels.

“It’s an ambitious target without having Congress weigh in, but it is doable using existing authority,” said Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists. “But the administration will have to look across industrial sectors and under every rock and pebble they can find” for the cuts needed.

In agreeing for the first time to cap carbon emissions, Chinese President Xi Jinping broke from his nation’s policy of instead trying to slow the pace of increase. It’s unclear how difficult it will be for Beijing to make good on its new goals, which include setting a target for 20 percent of its energy consumption to come from alternative fuels by 2030 and capping emissions by then. The agreement does not set a target level of pollution for 2030 and does not specify whether China would lower emissions after that date or simply level them off.

Still, most experts said the new goals would require substantial changes to China’s coal-addicted economy.

“China will need to adjust its economic structure, limit its use of coal and scale up renewable energy supply,” said Ranping Song, a China expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The government has been considering policy options, such as capping coal use and putting a price on carbon, Song noted. “But robust, on-the-ground implementation of those policies requires strong political will.”

Such resolve is building fast in China, spurred by the country’s debilitating and embarrassing smog problem, said Bonnie Glaser, a China expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

“Pollution itself has become, I think, a threat to the legitimacy of the party and the political stability in China,” Glaser said. “And the failure to take action on this issue is really going to come back and bite the Communist Party. I think Xi Jinping has realized this. The deal, she noted, is not as politically controversial in China as it is in the U.S. Given the reaction from Republicans today, it’s the president that has the uphill battle much more than Xi Jinping does,” Glaser said.

By Christi Parsons, Julie Makinen and Michael A. Memoli

Tribune Washington Bureau
(MCT)

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