By Ryan McBrearty

The English program at DCCC is considered vandalism and is discouraged, carefully monitored and deleted by an automated program called Cluebot and by members of the Wikipedia community. But not every piece of information presented on the site can be effectively policed.

Wikipedia is also subject to corporate and organizational censorship, recently exposed by the Web site www.WikiScanner.virgil.gr designed by Virgil Griffin, a student at the California Institute of Technology. WikiScanner traces the IP address of each individual user responsible for an edit on Wikipedia, revealing when a user on a specific corporation or organization's network has been tampering with information to polish its image.

WikiScanner keeps a page dedicated to what it calls "solicitous edits." One salacious edit originated from the network of oil company Exxon-Mobil. The user deleted information regarding $5 billion owed by the company to Alaskan fishermen for the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Information about the long-term environmental effects of the spill was also deleted and replaced by an article promoting Exxon-Mobil's image.

According to WikiScanner, an IP address on the DCCC network was not responsible for the Armenian genocide. In 2005, Nature magazine did a study comparing Wikipedia articles to those found in the Encyclopedia Britannica. The study found that the average Wikipedia article had four errors, while the average Britannica article had three. The study concluded that, "the difference in accuracy was not particularly great."

Sandra Ordonez, a member of the Wikipedia Press Team, defended the credibility of the site in an e-mail, saying that most articles are continually being edited and improved upon, and most contributors appreciate knowledge and have a desire to improve the quality of a particular article.

"The volunteer community of editors is vigilant in trying to check edits and correct errors," said history professor Tony Makowski. "Students should trust but verify." Makowski said that it is a great compilation of information, but that the problem is that it can be edited by anyone.

Wikipedia acknowledges that it is not an authoritative source and that it is generally a good practice to cite an original source when writing a research paper. Also, it is usually not advisable to cite any general encyclopedia, user maintained or otherwise.

"Wikipedia is a great place to start your research," Ordonez said, "but students should not use it as the final word on any subject matter."

Contact Ryan McBrearty at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

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By Kara Davidson

The opinions I always had about myself, all of her descriptions were correct. Hammonds said the object contained both of our energies, making it harder to read accurately.

Hammonds continued for a few minutes with the object in her hand, until Platt suggested that I write my name and address on paper so that Hammonds could get a reading from just my energy. With the necklace still in her left hand and the paper on her lap, she put her right hand flat on top of my writing and started to "visit" my house.

Hammonds then began to describe the basics of my house, such as how big it is, the amount of land it's on and what the area around my house looks like. About five minutes later, Platt told Hammonds to enter my house in her mind and describe what she sees.

She started to tell me about my bedroom and some of its details, such as the color, the types of curtains and how number of windows. Yet again, her descriptions were correct.

Hammonds "visited" my house only for about 20 psychics who have different ways of interpreting information and who were able to help locate Saddam Hussein.

One of the ancient methods of focusing on the present and collecting the conscience is creating a Mandela circle. By drawing anything from a simple to an intricate circle, it helps to center and soothe, along with integrating the mind, body and spirit.

At the end of the introduction, one of the other group members arrived. Cris Hammonds is a hands-on healer, mystic and clairvoyant. She currently works with a clairvoyant.

After we were introduced, the first reading started.

Hammonds asked if I had a small personal item that she could hold in her hand to read some of the energy it released. I gave her my necklace, which was made for me by my closest friend.

Hammonds held the necklace in her left hand and closed her eyes to focus. After a few moments of silence, she started to speak, telling me characteristics about the creator of the necklace. Even though she confused some characteristics about my friend and me, most of her descriptions were correct. Hammonds said the object contained both of our energies, making it harder to read accurately.

Hammonds continued for a few minutes with the object in her hand, until Platt suggested that I write my name and address on paper so that Hammonds could get a reading from just my energy. With the necklace still in her left hand and the paper on her lap, she put her right hand flat on top of my writing and started to "visit" my house.

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Hammonds "visited" my house only for a few minutes longer until Platt told me what she had read from my energy while I was in the room. She had been taking notes the whole time that Hammonds had done my first reading.

Platt reviewed her notes and then started to tell me all about my own characteristics.

Although she hadn’t asked me anything previously about myself, all of her descriptions were accurate, such as how I organize objects around me in a certain order, so that they are some what symmetrical, and also that I have difficulty with math and numbers.

The opinions I always had about myself were confirmed by Platt’s reading: for instance, she said I mean what I say and I say what I mean, and also that I like to take time to be by myself and to reflect upon my surroundings.

The next part of the meeting was to get a tarot card reading done by Platt with a new deck that she had just bought, called Osho Zen Tarot of a Mandala circle.

Each deck of tarot cards leans towards a type of lifestyle or religion. For example, a deck could be predominantly Christian or Catholic pictures. The Osho Zen Tarot focuses more on Buddhist ideas, including the art of zen.

Platt thought it would be interesting if we all experienced the new deck together. Platt shuffled the cards and fanned them out in a circular pattern, imitating the form of a Mandala circle.

I was told to pick five cards out one at a time and align them next to the circle. After I selected the cards, Platt arranged them in a five card cross-like pattern, with the fifth card in the center.

Platt instructed me to turn over the first center card. According to the Osho Tarot deck, the card represents the issue at the moment.

Continued on page 3
Friends and family filled the room on the morning of Nov. 9 as members of the four fall 2007 New Choices classes received their diplomas. Loud cheers filled the room as each graduate walked by with a ribbon tied around their necks from their instructor of the nine-week career development course.

Opening the ceremony, program director Sandy Gera explained that this group of graduates had more job placementottons while the program was in session than other classes had even after the program was completed.

Instructor Joan Kelly added that 48 percent of her students obtained either new employment or a higher salary within nine weeks after starting the program.

The New Choices Web site states: “The mission of [the program] is to assist single mothers, displaced homemakers and individuals in transition in achieving economic self-sufficiency.” Although it is open to everyone, the program is attended predominantly by women—many of whom come from abusive relationships.

Like many of the program’s participants, Peters hadn’t had experience with a computer before attending New Choices. Peters graduated from DCCC in May 2007, and now works for a long term temporary employment association.

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By David Richman

It’s December 2007, and the weather’s finally changing. Indian summer has ended. Winter has begun. The temperature dips as the days become colder and the snows get longer. With Christmas just around the corner, many college students will head home for the winter break.

But for many American families, their holiday will not involve happy memories and warm hugs. The cold weather is already here, causing many people to worry about how they will live. Today, Delaware County’s ranking students participated.

How do these families survive, let alone live year round in substandard housing? When it comes to giving, people and families unable to acquire conventional loans for housing, according to habitat.org.

Habitat For Housing does not provide lunch for its volunteer/safety orientation at one of Habitat’s affiliates. Habitat affiliates do not provide lunch for its volunteers.

Fourth, wear the proper shoes. Hard soles are recommended, but no open toes, flip flops, or fashion footwear. It’s also a good idea to bring a pencil, measuring tape and utility knife are also allowed. Disposable dust masks and hard hats (sometimes safety glasses/work gloves) are provided, if needed.

Sixth, be aware of your surroundings. Be mindful of ladders, scaffolding, tools, where you are going and who’s working there.

Lani, be respectful to your fellow volunteers and considerate of the neighbors. Please help with the clean-up at the end of the work day.

Jennifer Lawton, a volunteer coordinator with Montgomery County’s Habitat For Humanity says, “The most important thing about Habitat is that it’s fun! And you never know who you are going to work with. Plus volunteering looks great on a resume!"

For more information about Habitat For Humanity go to www.habitat.org

Contact David Richman at communitarian@mail.dcc.edu

Page 3

Volunteers build a habitat for those in need

But without its volunteers, Habitat would not have changed so many people’s lives for the better. More than 30,000 American families agree.

Anyone can volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

A skeptic learns to trust the cards

The fifth card had a picture of a mountain range, an eagle flying in the sky. This was Possibilities, which means one has become more loving with others and themselves, thereby opening endless new possibilities.

When your tarot card was reading was finished, Lani asked Platt to show a tarot card for herself.

Platt resuffled, fanned out the cards in the Mandala pattern again and picked out one card to read.

The picture on the card was of a small child looking out from behind a gate. It was the Outsider card, which means one should let go of the past and old pains in order to gain clarity into what you can become.

After Platt’s turn, Hammonds resuffled, fanned the cards in a basic linear pattern and then picked her tarot card. It was the same card that was drawn from my tarot reading, the Thunderbolt card.

Once the readings were finished, Platt and Hammonds asked me to give them feedback on their experience. I shared with them my amazement over the details they seem to know about me.

Going into the experience, I was skeptical, yet I got so much more than I ever expected. I learned more about myself, and how to take time and appreciate the present, without being stuck in the past. This experience was one of a lifetime, and I would jump at the next opportunity to do something like this again.

contact Kara Davidson at communitarian@ mail.dcc.edu

Students given the frightening facts about STDs

By Lia Andrews

Special to The Communitarian

All the desks were taken. Students had to sit at the table with a chair on the floor. Regardless, everyone shared the same wide-eyed expression as they listened to Craig Beneke, a representative from the AIDS Care Group.

“If I cut myself and bleed on this table, the virus won’t be there, but the virus would actually appear.”

Beneke explained how important it is to learn about other STDs too, because he believes that HIV can take over in the numbers of those infected within the next five to ten years.

After the program ended, students pushed their way through others to pick up pamphlets on more information on STDs and how to get tested.

“Just assume everyone around you has HIV,” said Beneke. Students looked around at each other as if they would suddenly be able to pick out those who had HIV.

After discussing the dangers in Delaware County, Beneke shared stories of his hardships in coping with HIV and offered answer to any of the student’s questions.

During the question and answer portion, a student asked why the numbers of people with HIV aren’t decreasing due to the awareness learned in health classes and presentations like Beneke’s.

Beneke shook his head and chuckled. “People think that the awareness has gone up, and to some extent it has,” said Beneke. “But still have students ask me if they can get AIDS from hugging or sharing the same drink with someone HIV positive.”

Beneke explained how important it is to learn about other STDs too, because he believes that Hepatitis C will overtake HIV in the numbers of those infected within the next five to ten years.

Habitat for Humanity has been building homes since 1978.

Continued from page 1

A card had a picture of a face made out of a wooden puzzle, with a hand holding a piece over the forehead.

The card was Completion, which means one has finished whatever was preoccupying the mind, and can now see the situation as a whole, including all the little pieces of the problem. When it is complete, one can finally end the past and move onto the new.

The left card was next, which stood for the problems that I’m unable to see.

The card was a picture of a rainbow colored turtle, which is moving towards something. It was Sloping Down, which means one should be at ease and take in the fullness of their surroundings and the present.

The next was the card to the right, which represents eternal influences that I’m aware of.

The picture was of three women dancing in a circle in a river. Each of the women is wearing a different color dress. This was Celeurbation, which means one is becoming more open to different opportunities that will celebrate the joy of life.

The bottom card was next and represented a resolution of the issue.

When turned over, it revealed a picture of a cross legged creature, resembling a Buddha-like statue, surrounded by lightning and two small figures of a man and a woman falling. The card was Thunderbolt, which stands for one’s inner foundation shaking, but it is necessary because after the wreckage, one will become stronger and prepared for obstacles in the way.

The top card was the final card to be turned. It represents the final resolution and the understanding that I need to have.

The card was called Thunderbolt, which stands for one’s inner foundation shaking, but it is necessary because after the wreckage, one will become stronger and prepared for obstacles in the way.

The group held a program where students could be informed about HIV and other STDs.

Students looked around at each other as if surviving AIDS from hugging or sharing the same drink with someone HIV positive.

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“If I cut myself and bleed on this table, the virus won’t be there, but the virus would actually appear.”

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After the program ended, students pushed their way through others to pick up pamphlets on more information on STDs and how to get tested.

“All I can tell you is if I get tortured to students if I see their eyebrows rise every so often while I’m talking,” said Beneke. “Today I saw quite a few eyebrows rise.”

To learn more, visit the Aids Care Group at http://www.aidscaregroup.org.
Student responds to smoking commentary

In your last issue, you published two articles regarding smoking on campus - one from each point of view. While I commend you for trying to bring to the light the serious issue of smoking, I must say that the people you chose to represent both sides of the issue leave a lot to be desired by way of content. Elizabeth Trubey’s article, “Smokers should both be allowed to live,” on the other hand, was nothing but a vehicle for discussion on what is best for the majority of students on campus. A non-smoker’s perspective, I believe, would have a positive impact on both students who shared and opposed her stance. Her article could have been much more compelling.

Instead, Trubey came across as a self-centered and pompous know-it-all who seems to come across as the smoking police. She does not give any real example of a smoker from her side of the fence. I have known a lot of smokers myself, and most of them have no idea about the harm of smoking. They are as clueless as any non-smoker about the dangers associated with it.

I acknowledge that the smell of smoke is unpleasant, especially when it is thrust upon you against your will. I am a smoker, so I know what it means to have the lingering smell of smoke around you on a regular basis. However, someone should let Trubey know that her $65 perfume can be just as offensive as cigarette smoke. It also tends to linger in the air (especially in elevators) and seep into every porous surface it comes in contact with. While smoking on the flip side, Gregory Weber did smokers everywhere a serious disservice by using public articles for the cure.

I got to the third paragraph. If you are serious about this issue, I would appreciate it if you could have a compromise. I believe that a compromise can be reached between the smokers and non-smokers. DCCC has few organizations to be a part of—compared to a four-year institution—which may be one of the reasons it gets a less-than-stellar reputation. I think one of the aspects of the college forces students to be more open-minded towards their classmates.

Walking into the dining hall at Shippensburg University, I remember how many different opportunities there were to get involved and meet people. There were a lot of different fraternities, clubs, internships, and volunteer programs. This aspect of college is something you should be allowed to be involved with without any restrictions.
By Tamika Murphy

According to a 2003 Higher Education Research Institute study, 76 percent of college students believe that religious beliefs have a purpose in life. Some students find what they are looking for in some form of religion. For many students, it may be difficult to reconcile religious commitments with academic pursuits. The question becomes how to maintain these commitments and religious obligations, as both are important to their individual practice of faith, especially with respect to religious holidays. The college has to find a way to drop a course when advised by a professor that I could not take an exam earlier than scheduled to accommodate an assignment requiring religious observance that I had. It was not as important to practice their religion. To combat the thin line between restricted and protection of religious rights, the University of Michigan’s policy states that every reasonable effort is made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without academic penalty. Likewise, Montgomery County Community College’s policy states, “This type of strict interpretation of the attendance policy is not to be made except when the religious obligation cannot be avoided. The college “recognizes that diversity enriches education programs, activities, admission or employment practices. To express through actions their claims of diversity-based, after all, canany university institution that does not provide accommodation really claim a mission of diversity?” I’m sure that the 76 percent of collegians searching for meaning and finding it in religious life would beg to differ.

No matter how much this country, which was built on religious principles, tries to push those principles aside, the Holy Bible says, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.” If we don’t wish to be penalized for doing what we are commissioned by our faith to do, we must be the voice for change.

By Greg Weber

Goodbye, fall semester. I can’t say I’ll miss you. Oh there were some good times, it’s true, but those are far outweighed by the many things I can’t wait to leave behind.

For instance, I won’t miss pairs of people walking down the halls together, traveling at the speed of a DMV waiting line. Though they’re talking about truly vital things, such as what Sally wore to last night’s party, I can’t help thinking they should pick up the pace a little.

No, that’s an understatement. What I can’t help thinking is, “Wouldn’t it be great if a ceiling tile randomly fell, crushing these two idiots?”

Polite people would tell me that I should just say, “Excuse me.” Polite people have never dealt with chatting pairs who either can’t hear or don’t think passersby are worth their attention. Polite doesn’t work. No, the only real solution is to drive a small bulldozer through the halls while honking the horn. Everyone gets out of the way of a construction vehicle.

There are other things I won’t miss. For instance, walking to school from the parking lot, which is located in another state. At least that’s what I feel like at nine in the morning, when still blurry eyed and yawning, I set out from my car toward campus. Some days I get scared I’m going the wrong direction and will end up in California. After all, only the distant speck of the Academic Building on the horizon is a guide, and it takes the same amount of time to go from the parking lot to the Pacific Ocean as it does to go from the parking lot to my psychology class. The only difference is that traveling to California would be less dangerous. Dodging cranky drivers with soup-up cars gets my blood pumping before every school day.

Believe it or not, I won’t miss the free time I had between classes either. Most of those hours were spent eating lukewarm meat patties with synthetic cheese laid over them. The “cheeseburgers” are only $2.50, a real bargain. Steak burgers cost a little more, because they have to use real meat for those: read kill.

After that, I’d spend the majority of the time looking for a warm place to sit out of the rain. We have lounges at DCCC, but for some reason 10 chairs don’t provide enough spots for the whole student body.

Sometimes all you can do at those times is smoke a cigarette. But even as you sit there, wet and shivering, just trying to enjoy five minutes as best you can, someone always has to comment on how smoking is bad for you. And how it’s not allowed in the courtyard.

Still, now it’s all over. I’m free. I’ll take all the expensive books I never used during the semester and sell them back. Then I’ll use that money to upgrade to the extra value meal at McDonald’s.

COMMENTARY

Tenacity

The winning edge. The rest is history.

Natalie Morrison
STIM 2001 Student Development Manager National Constitution Center

Debbie Brown

FOR YOU, GOOD ENOUGH JUST ISN’T GOOD ENOUGH.

You’re driven to go above and beyond. Temple’s programs in tourism, hospitality, sport, and recreation management will help turn your ambition into achievement, giving you the leadership tools and networking resources to succeed. Don’t reach just for the stars. Reach beyond.

To learn more, call 215-204-3103 or visit us at www.temple.edu/stim/colleges.

Join us for one of our upcoming information sessions on main campus, 1700 N. Broad St., Room 412, at 5 p.m.: November 15 | December 10 | January 23
On Nov. 27, Professor Linda Durkin’s Teamwork class hosted an Eagles pep rally during Q-time to raise funds to donate to the David Akers’ Kicks for Kids Foundation. The event was highlighted by a wing-eating contest, a guest appearance by two Eagles cheerleaders, and musical entertainment from the Eagles radio station 94.1 WYSP. The pep rally provided a welcome break from the norm, as numerous students gathered in the cafeteria to join in the festivities. The raffle provided most of the money raised and featured signed Eagles merchandise and official NFL gear.

Thanks to generous donations from Target, the Eagles Organization, Sovereign Bank, and David Akers, the raffle raised funds in excess of $600. Participants hoped this holiday season will be brightened for a great number of deserving children through the efforts of the DCCC community and the David Akers Kicks for Kids foundation. Students and faculty wish to thank all those who contributed to make the event such a success and hope that some of the great Eagles spirit that was shown at the pep rally will carry over onto the field for our boys in green.

Go, Eagles!!

The Teamwork class would like to thank the following sponsors and donors:

BUS & CIS Department
Campus Life
Teamwork Class
WYSP
Eagles Cheerleaders
Eagles Organization
Sovereign Bank
Target
Brock & Company Food Services
McDonald’s Corporation

***All photographs courtesy of David Branson***
The Business students involved were Joel Abboud, Jessica Angoy, Duran Cherry, Roslia McMaggio, Andrea Francisco, Chris Joyce, Alex Lenz, Mike Murphy, Amanda Naimoli and Greg Reilly.

The Wing Bowl winner was Destin Mahalik.

The Wing Bowl contestants were Marshall Bruno, Shonette Parrilla, Jessica Verna, Destin Mahalik, Kask Appenzeller, Alex Guich, Gabrielle Scott, Adrienne Cichonske, Natasha Clark and Jazmine Gadson.
“Arcadia accepted all of my credits.”

“I’m a Video Communications Major at Arcadia and this semester I have a great internship at Unisys Corporation. Italy Preview was my first trip abroad—”I got to know other students, visited Rome and Florence, and earned two credits,” Aaron Clark ’08.

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Attend Arcadia’s Transfer Evaluation Day
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Grey Towers Castle

Bring your transcript for a credit evaluation. Find out about scholarships, grants and loans.

Register at www.arcadia.edu/transfer.

Arcadia Offers a World of Opportunities to Transfer Students
◆ Italy Preview and other opportunities to go abroad. Find out more at www.arcadia.edu/italypreview.
◆ Up to 75 credits accepted from a two-year school.
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◆ Scholarships are available up to $15,000 per year as well as personalized financial aid counseling.
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