New media art featured at DCCC

By Lilach Assayag
Executive Editor

"Beyond," showcases 150 paintings, drawings, and sculptures donated from public and private European and American collections, including 60 by Cézanne, and others by artists such as Henry Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and Jasper Johns.

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As part of her curriculum, Gunman assigned her students the task of creating their “own Cézannee” by mimicking the

Cézanne inspires generations

By Nicholas Boerlin
Staff writer

If you want to see a unique collection of one of the world’s greatest artists, you better hurry up.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is currently exhibiting the work of French painter Paul Cézanne, along with 18 other artists influenced by the painter’s work, through May 31. The exhibit, titled “Cézanne and Beyond,” showcases 150 paintings, drawings, and sculptures donated from public and private European and American collections, including 60 by Cézanne, and others by artists such as Henry Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and Jasper Johns.

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DCCC Business Society dresses for success

By Michael Brisgone
Staff writer

In today’s economy, companies are cutting back not only because they are hiring, which is why it is more vital than ever to put your best foot forward if you land a job interview. On March 31, a fashion show, organized by DCCC’s Business Society, offered a unique opportunity for students to check out some of the do’s and don’ts when it comes to job interviews and business dinners.

“The first fashion show at DCCC was done in 2003,” said Lynne Moyer, 21, a business administration major and the coordinator of the show along with Katja Steciuk, 28, who is also a business administration major. “I loved that idea and wanted to do it again.”

The show offered fashion tips from head-to-toe including outfits, grooming, accessories and even shoes.

“I wanted to do something that would help students in college to be professional,” Moyer said. “I wanted to do something fun that would involve and be run by DCCC students.

The models in the show were students from the Business Society and other students who volunteered for the part. The runway photographers were also DCCC students.

The show gave guests a chance to see first hand what outfits are appropriate for

Volunteer model Jasmine Kaur, 18, strikes a pose for the crowd.

See FASHION on Page 5

Becoming ‘The Good Woman of Setzuan’

By Tim Brennan
Staff Writer

Imagine having to memorize hundreds of lines, cues, and movements along with learning a new style of theater. If you can do that, then you have just found yourself in the same shoes as Sandy Lawler, a 19-year-old theater major who played the lead role in DCCC theater’s production of Bertolt Brecht’s “The Good Woman of Setzuan,” directed by Stephen Smith, assistant professor of drama and communications.

The story centers on Shan Te, played by Lawler, who, upon taking three gods into her home, receives a small business as a reward, but because of Shan Te’s good nature, the business struggles. The role became a unique challenge for Lawler because Shan Te develops an alter ego, Mr. Shui Ta, who is Shan Te’s complete opposite. Shui Ta does the things that Shan Te won’t to keep the business in good shape, regardless of whom they may hurt.

Lawler noted that playing the dual role wasn’t very difficult for most of the rehearsals because she would usually perform only one role each day. However, it became more of a challenge once it came time to run through the show and she had to switch back and forth between Shan Te and Shui Ta.

But before reaching that stage, there was a long process for Lawler and the rest of the cast.

It all started with auditions. Two monologues were taken from the play, one for women and one for men. “Stephen told us to be larger than life in our auditions,” Lawler said.

But Lawler seemed to miss the point. Consequently, she said, her first read of the monologue was not what Smith was looking for.

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Google ogles Web worldwide

By Walbert Young
Staff writer

The best April Fool’s jokes are at once unbelievable yet plausible.

At 11:59 p.m. on March 31, Google announced its release of CADIE, the Cognitive Autonomic Distributed-Intelligence Entity, an artificial intelligence whose icon is a cartoon image of a blushing panda.

With CADIE at the helm, Google’s many departments announced a slew of robotically enhanced products, including AutoPilot (to “automatically manage your inbox better than you can, with zero effort from you”), Brain Search (which “uses CADIE technology to index your brain to make your thoughts and memories searchable”), and gMail (a ball with “the ability to measure kicks, get kicking tips, notify talent scouts and locate your last ball on Google Maps”).

Does this sound unbelievable? Yes.

But implausible?

Not from Google, the international corporation that offers a 360-view of every street corner in America, satellite images of land and sea, a searchable database of nearly every book published, YouTube, and the world’s predominant gateway to the Web.

Google has become so inescapable that “to google” is a verb in most dictionaries. Many students have no memory of a time before Google — a mere research project of Stanford students Larry Page and Sergey Brin in 1996 — and its growing list of subsidiaries. The years Before Google (B.G.) had libraries with index-card catalogs, phonebooks with yellow and white pages, road maps with keys and legends, and television reruns with limited viewing schedules.

Certainly, the value of Google’s modern convenience is undeniable.

But what is the cost?

In a report released in 2007 by Privacy International, a global non-governmental organization, Google received the lowest possible score in protecting its users’ privacy. The organization says Google has won a “race to the bottom — in corporate possible score in protecting its users’ privacy. The organization says Google has won a “race to the bottom — in corporate

by resisting a subpoena issued by the U.S. Justice Department demanding search data that would help restrict child access to pornography.

“Google’s acceding to the request would suggest that it is willing to reveal information about those who use its services,” Google wrote in a letter to the Justice Department. “This is not a perception Google can accept.”

Yet earlier that year, Google accepted demands from the Chinese government and restricted access to keywords like “human rights” and “democracy” on Google China.

Google’s level of cooperation with our government is different, the satellite technology that makes Google Earth possible was purchased from the CIA.

Google’s role as the gatekeeper of all digital information is disconnecting. A study led by the University of Graz in Austria concluded that 61 billion Internet searches were conducted each month in 2007. The study found that an average of 37 percent of U.S. searches are done through Google, and up to 95 percent of Internet users use Google sometimes.

“Google has become the main interface of our reality,” the authors of the study noted.

“Where will this lead?” asked Google co-founder Brin, in an interview with Playboy in 2004. “Who knows?”

Currently, Google is in talks to buy the social networking site Twitter. Twitter’s cofounders, Evan Williams and Biz Stone, sold their site, Blogger, to Google five years ago.

“But it’s credible,” Brin told Playboy, “to imagine a leap as great as that from hunting through library stacks to a Google session, when we leap from today’s search engines to having the entirety of the world’s information as just one of our thoughts.”

It would be just as credible to have one’s thoughts within the entirety of the world’s information.

“We are not currently planning on conquering the world,” Brin joked at Google’s second annual Analyst Day in 2006.

Needless to say, the best punch lines need time for setup.

For more information, google it.

Contact Walbert Young at communitarian@dccc.mail.edu

Economy leaves college applicants very cautious

By Patricia Alex
The Record (Hackensack N.J.)/MT

HACKENSACK, N.J. — Take a bad economy, mix in a record number of high school graduates and you’ve got one unpredictable and par-
ticularly maddening season in college admissions.

“The historical trend lines mean nothing,” said Jonathan Wecker, admissions director at Fairleigh Dickinson University. “I still don’t sleep well at night because you don’t know what’s going to happen.”

At this stage of the game, applicants and their families have likely heard whether they’ve gained admission to schools. But that’s only half the battle — particularly in a year when finances are topsy-turvy.

In these next two weeks, the admitted students will be poring over financial aid packages and deciding just what they can afford before they have to commit to schools in May.

“April is really the critical month,” said Kristen Campbell, director of college prep programs for Kaplan Testing. “Things are competi-
tive every year, but this year, with the economy, everything is turned on its head.”

Fairleigh Dickinson offers a case in point. Conventional wisdom would hold that, given the economy, students would eschew private schools — with tuition of nearly $30,000. Yet applications are up by nearly a third over last year at the university, said Wecker.

Ninety percent of those applicants are from New Jersey, and Wecker surmises that the school’s location in a high population area is an advantage as families realize they might not be able to afford to send their kids out of state for college.

New Jersey’s state aid packages are still good relative to other states. Local guidance counselors are reporting more former stu-
dents are sending home for transcripts because they are transferring back from out-of-state schools.

For more information, google it.

Contact Patricia Alex at camellia@record.com

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Homes are needed for children with special medical or emotional needs and for siblings who wish to live together.

For more information, contact Kathy Lucy, executive director, at 215-697-2456.
Nicole Wilson, executive director of Delaware opposition of two unlikely organizations, said welfare bill, can be attributed to the strong than 60 dogs may “dispatch” with them as he or
affected by Act 119 is that it is now illegal to
indefinitely,” Smith said. “The only change
only 6 inches of head room, and rabbit hutches,
still allowed to keep their dogs in cages, with
“Breeders are still allowed to keep
their dogs in cages, with
only 6 inches of head
room, and rabbit hutches,
indeed.”” Bill Smith
founder of Main Line Animal Rescue
According to its Web site, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association supported many aspects of Act 119, including doubling cage sizes, elimination of stacked cages, annual veterinary exams, better standards for ventilation and euthanasia being performed only by veterinarians. However, the organization expressed concern about removal of wire bottom cages, claiming that solid flooring might promote unhygienic conditions in commercial facilities. Although the PVMA states that it endorses regular outdoor exercise for dogs, it opposes unregulated access to the outside because the temperatures in Pennsylvania can be too extreme for some breeds.

However, “some of the veterinarians within the PVMA work for puppy mills,” said Bob Baker, an investigator for the ASPCA and a member of Governor Rendell’s Ad Hoc Committee on Commercial Dog Breeders, and suggested their opposition, in part, was financially motivated, a claim that was disputed by the PVMA: “The PVMA has been accused of somehow profiting from the commercial breeding industry, and having less than honest motives. This is not the case,” read a statement on their Web site.

According to Baker, wire-strand cage bases are not only painful to stand on but also trap and break the legs of small animals. Baker said that “runs,” elongated cages with both wire and solid flooring, are just as sanitary and safer than their counterpart.

“A dog will instinctively relieve itself over the wired area as no dog will soil the solid base on which he sleeps,” Baker said.

Dr. Dominic Dallago of Byas Maw Veterinary Hospital also disagreed with PVMA’s position regarding unregulated access to the outdoors, claiming that regardless of the weather in Pennsylvania, the permanent entrapment of hundreds of dogs within a small, unlit barn is far more dangerous. In perpetual darkness without fresh air, a dog’s immune system is weakened, Dallago said. Furthermore, a dog can develop respiratory problems and production when constantly exposed to the high ammonia levels of a “milk” barn in which hundreds of dogs urinate, he said.

According to their Web site, it is the mission of the American Kennel Club (AKC) to support the sport of purebred breeding and to protect the health and well-being of all dogs. A registry for purebred dogs, the AKC supplies certificates to breeders, which are considered by many consumers to be a confirmation of pedigree authenticity.

“It is because of the AKC’s opposition that I was forced to organize, would cease to exist,” Wilson said.

For more information, contact Main Line Animal Rescue please call: 610-933-0066 or e-mail: volunteer@MLAR.org
Contact Maxwell McAdams at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu
CAMPUS

This professor means business

By Ronelle Bradley and Nicholas Boerlin
Staff writers

When Susan Stranix walked the halls of DCCC as a freshman, she probably never imagined that one day she would stand before college students as a professor of business.

Stranix, an alumna of the class of 1978, has been teaching at DCCC for more than 20 years.

Stranix’s credentials include a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Shippensburg University and a master’s degree in business administration from Widener University.

However, as a high school student, Stranix was unsure of what career to enter.

“[I was a] typical high school kid, good grades but didn’t have a plan,” Stranix said.

But when Stranix began taking classes at DCCC, her interest shifted toward business, especially after being inspired by exceptional teachers, such as accounting professor Richard Smith who amazed Stranix with his organized yet enthusiastic teaching style.

“Because of the methodical nature of accounting, if you were a rules and organization-oriented person like me, then it all made sense,” Stranix said. “Smith had a system and it worked. When I went into teaching, I knew … professors that were interested in their topics and could convey that interest in an organized method … helped students.”

Before returning to DCCC as a professor, Stranix taught at two other universities, including Widener University, where she received the prestigious Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. While at Widener, and for years after, Stranix taught marketing at Goldey Beacom College.


Stranix believes “students do better by remembering examples,” so she often relates a topic in class to events in everyday life.

“On any given day, I can pick up a USA Today or New York Times and there will be several articles I can use with my students,” Stranix said.

Recently, Stranix made her students aware of marketing and merchandising strategies surrounding the NCAA Final Four. “I truly don’t want to be a professor that students say is all theory,” she explained. “I want students to be able to apply lessons to real life situations.”

Beyond teaching, Stranix has done consulting work with companies and businesses for more than 20 years. She also applies what she has gleaned from those situations to her lessons.

Stranix cites the example of a former student who worked for a small manufacturing company that was in need of a long-term business strategy. The student remembered his former marketing professor, and recommended Stranix for the consulting position.

Stranix worked with that company and created a marketing plan, she said.

The best part of that experience, Stranix said, was that she could “get the insider perspective on how companies use theories and concepts taught in the classroom. I get to see what works and doesn’t work in the professional world and bring that back to the classroom.”

Besides teaching and consulting work, Stranix is an advisor to students in the Business Society at DCCC, an organization that is committed to helping students gain insight into the business world. The society provides several services on campus, such as tax preparation for students, and organizes events, including a recent fashion show which instructed students on how to dress for success.

“As an advisor and teacher, it is fantastic to have such a dynamic group of students running the society,” Stranix said. “It’s a really nice environment.”

Stranix believes she has found her calling, and enjoys nothing more than teaching, she added.

“I found what I like to do, and someone pays me for it,” she said.

Contact Ronelle Bradley and Nicholas Boerlin at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Susan Stranix, an assistant professor of business, with her office mate professor Michael Johnson.

Invasion of the tape-mold people

Tape-mold people have appeared on campus. They are the work of the 3D Design class, taught by professor of graphic design Jaime Treadwell. He said he generally assigns the project each spring, and that students are given two weeks in class to work individually or collaboratively. He said the statues, molded from saran wrap and packing tape, were made to utilize the elements of their surroundings with wit, humor and intelligence.

The work is inspired by the street installations of artist Mark Jenkins. The project is a prelude to the Graphic Design Student Exhibition, which closes June 1.

(Photos by Walbert Young)
certain situations such as first job interviews and everyday career wear.

The clothing worn by the models were provided by Target, and the featured jewelry were provided by Lady Raine Designs, which is owned and run by Lorraine Blalock Chaves, a DCCC student.

“All of the models were excited to be able to work with Target,” said Yana Loboda, 21, a business major.

After the show had ended and the runway cleared, guests were asked to join the second part of the show, which was a cocktail party.

At the party, guests were offered hors d’oeuvres made by Professor Steven Campbell’s catering class, and tips on how to act in a professional environment outside of the workplace by special guest Frank Agovino, director of the small business center at DCCC. Agovino offered tips that ranged from never talking with your mouth full to what not to talk about with co-workers, such as politics and religion.

The fashion show is only one of many events organized by the Business Society, which was established nine years ago by associate professor of business and computer information, Linda Durkin. The club is currently under the advisement of assistant professor of business Susan Stranix and associate professor of business Michael Johnson. In order to be a part of the Business Society you do not have to be a business major, however, students must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

“It was very inspiring to be featured in this show,” said Dawn Ananda Hulton, 31, a business major who took part in the show. “It was amazing to watch all the students pull this together so well.”

Contact Michael Brisgone at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Conrad Thomas

Communitarian wins award

Beverly Hendry [right], of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association, presents Lia Marie Andrews with her first prize award for a personality profile submitted to the 2009 Keystone Press Awards contest. The article was titled “What really happens in Iraq: an American soldier’s story” and profiles a DCCC student who returned to college after serving two tours in Iraq.

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It’s the most supportive program I could find for non-traditional students.

Sue Gernert ’08, Major: Crime & Justice

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there anyone out there for me?”

In his public artworks, Rubin combines elements that are unique to the hosting location, exposing the often hidden digital world to the outer living environment and creating intimate dialogues with the public through mass media tools.

An example is “Four Stories,” a light installation built into the back of two of Minneapolis Public Library glass elevators, which reveals the most recent checked-out book titles as the elevators go up and down.

Another example is “San Jose Semaphore” on the top of the Adobe building in San Jose, inspired by the San Jose’s legendary “Light Tower,” a 237-feet high construction built in 1881 as a part of a failed plan to replace the numerous gas street lamps with a few electric light sources.

Rubin’s “Semaphore,” features four illuminated pairs of half discs that spin synchronically accompanied by an audio of a word and a number broadcasted on AM frequency in the artwork’s vicinity. The public was invited to decipher the message behind the digital code, which turned out to be a chapter of a book.

“Ben Rubin showed that there are various types of art that we don’t think about, things that are not just pictures on the wall,” said Karen Braybar, 28, a communication student at DCCC. “He comes up with ways to use the mass media and use it as a form of art.”

Collaborating once again in 2007, Rubin and Hansen engineered “Movable Type,” a permanent artwork designed for The New York Times Building in New York City. Expanding the concept of “Listening Pole,” this artwork pulls text from the newspaper’s archive and current text, “crunching the text,” Rubin said, and displaying corresponding sentences in various patterns on 560 electronic screens.

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At the end of Rubin’s lecture, guests were invited to and to walk through the gallery and refresh themselves with light fare and soft drinks accommodated by the college’s culinary department.

Inspired by the intensity of exposure that emanated from personal ads on Craigslist (an online classified ads board), Aaronson invited individuals like “Grandmother” to record the content of their message in their own voice. Viewers were able to stand in front of unique enlarged portraits and listen to the corresponding recordings on music players that the artist provided.

 “[Aaronson] was able to get such polar opposite people,” said Helen Rankin, 21, a marketing student at DCCC, “and you were able to hear how they’re all looking for the same thing, they’re all looking for love.”

Among the exhibits was also a series of photos titled “Concrete Intervention” by Kathryn Williamson, capturing herself tumbling on a croswalk. The purpose of the captions, she explained in the exhibition booklet, is to paint a social portrait by capturing and examining the behavior of her unsuspecting audience.

Displayed on a computer screen was Aaron Oldenburg’s “The Mischief of Created Things,” an interactive Flash environment based on real characters and scenery from Mali, where the artist spent two years as a development worker. With the movement of the mouse, the user could stroll around the village, and learn a thing or two about the life of Mali through the call-outs that appeared when clicking on characters and structures.

All of the artworks presented in the exhibition depict intimate moments and personal experiences through digital media.

Breaking the cold and distant stereotype usually associated with the computerized medium, the artists granted the viewers a sneak peek into private lives from far away countries or perhaps even from around the corner.

Contact Lilach Assayag at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Visitors to the gallery were intrigued by Jeffrey Aaronson’s artwork.

However, as is often the case, she was asked to read it several different ways, giving her a chance to redeem herself, Lawler said, and land the part.

“I was really happy when I got the part,” Lawler said. Although overjoyed with getting the part, Lawler now faced memorizing hundreds of lines and developing the characters of Shen Te and Shui Ta in just a little more than four weeks before opening night.

Lawler spent one to two hours a night memorizing lines. Her memorization method included reading through the play several times, followed by running lines with someone, usually her mother or sister.

On set, the props presented something of a challenge because they were carefully positioned on the stage, and the actors had to remember where each one was.

The actors also had to wear masks. For Lawler, this was both a help and a hindrance, she said, because she had to use different masks for when she appeared as Shen Te or Shui Ta. While the Shen Te mask was comfortable and impeded her voice minimally, the Shui Ta mask was a different story.

The Shui Ta mask clamped down on her face, muffling her voice. However, with a simple adjustment to the nose of the mask, the muffled sound actually worked in Lawler’s favor by creating a more distinct voice for the character.

But the mask presented another challenge. “Because you [wear] a mask and people can’t see your facial expressions, you have to use your body and voice more,” Lawler said. Despite feeling nervous in the days and moments leading up to the week of performances, Lawler said she felt right at home and nothing but excitement once the curtain was drawn.

Although she felt very relieved and relaxed once the show was over, nothing seemed to beat the feeling of performing. “You feed off of people’s energy,” Lawler said. Now with “The Good Woman of Setzuan” behind her, Lawler has turned her attention to the future.

While her ultimate goals include auditioning for TV and theater, she’s taking the whole process one step at a time. “I really enjoy acting,” said Lawler. “My focus right now is just improving my skill.”

Contact Tim Brennan at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

COURTESY OF STEPHAN SMITH

Sandy Lawler (right) as Shen Te in “The Good Woman of Setzuan,” alongside fellow cast members Geoff Quinn and Mario Canavarro.  

“CALMUS

April 29, 2009 Page 7
No taxation upon my fixation

By Walbert Young
Staff writer

I once had a girlfriend who said the only piece of drug advice her father offered her was to never start smoking. My name is Walbert and I'm a smoker, and I will stay one even after I quit. I started the day after we broke up. Targeting smokers with taxes is nothing new and justifying it with something we’d be hard-pressed to argue — like funding health insurance — will not be any less painful. I won’t say that cigarettes aren’t bad for my health, though I might argue that most of the good things in life are. I suppose anything under this brutal threshold is fair game then.

I understand that nonsmokers find my smoking habit offensive and I think they are right. I find the sight of morbidly obese people offensive and I think they are right. I once had a girlfriend who said the only piece of drug advice her father offered her was to never start smoking. My name is Walbert and I'm a smoker, and I will stay one even after I quit. I started the day after we broke up.

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techniques used in his work. “What is great about this project is that I get to tell my students to break the rules on everything I’ve taught them so far,” Gutman said.

Gutman’s students spent two weeks interpreting Cézanne’s ideas and work in addition to studying his life and its impact on modern art.

Born in 1878, Paul Cézanne was raised in Aix-en-Provence, a small town in southern France. The mountains and countryside surrounding his hometown often served as a subject for his paintings. In fact, Cézanne spent most of his life painting in Aix-en-Provence, making it the official capital for his work. However, in Provence, making it a great portion of his work. However, in his paintings.

According to the Museum of Art, as of April 1, an estimated 134,000 tickets have been issued to visitors from 39 states and more than a dozen countries. Beyond the exhibit, the museum is offering several programs to the public, including concerts, art classes, and fine dining inspired by Cézanne’s art. A lecture series will also run through April, featuring speakers from several universities and the museum staff, which includs Joseph Rishel the exhibition organizer and Curator of European Painting.

“Our purpose is first to display the continuing vitality of Cézanne as an artistic resource five generations on,” said Rishel in a press release. “Of equal importance in our endeavor is to illustrate the unfolding reality that a different Cézanne has evolved for each generation, defined by what artists have made of him and passed along to those who came after. It is a continuing story.”

A fellow appreciative of Cézanne’s work, Gutman emphasizes his impact on the art world to her students. “Cézanne is nick-named ‘the grandfather of modern art, and I believe rightly so,” she said. “Without Cézanne, we would not have Cubism and all of the 20th Century modern art.” Many of Gutman’s students approached the project hesitantly, she said, but still made great progress. “It is different to be more free with the brush and take risks, which is not what I do,” said Stephanie Russel, 22, a liberal arts major. “It is different and all new.” Melissa Arnold, 19, also a liberal arts major, agreed with Russel that the paintings are an interesting challenge. “We are changing the rules, but to me this is finding something out about yourself, using his techniques but incorporating yourself,” said Arnold. “Just letting it happen, the brushstrokes doing the work, is a lot more fun.”

Contact Nicholas Boerlin
at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

A night at The Note
By Joseph Giordano
Staff writer

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The Card Players.
Top, Melissa Arnold, 19, paints a still life in the style of Cézanne.
To the left, Paul Cezanne's The Card Players.

Top, Melissa Arnold, 19, paints a still life in the style of Cézanne.

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Many people are becoming alarmed at the impact hockey fighting could have on children.

By Donald Wood Jr.  
Staff writer

Fighting is frowned upon in every major sport in North America, except one. Hockey is one of the most physical, violent, and intense sports that often gets a lot of attention because of its stance on fighting.

Fears of serious head injuries or even death have risen following the death of a young hockey player, Don Sanderson, who died at 21. He fell during a fight and died from the head injuries he sustained.

Some will argue that fighting gives the league a bad reputation and promotes violence and fighting to a younger crowd that could get the wrong impression.

Fighting in hockey is as old as the sport itself. Fighting was the result of physical play and fierce determination meeting hot heads and bad tempers.

Players from generations past defended themselves when they felt threatened or cheated. Gordie Howe, former Detroit Red Wing great, said, “Players from our generation were more self reliant, but as the years have gone on players have been more pampered.” Those who fought also had enough talent to score and set up plays or play defense.

As hockey developed, so did the physical contact.

“Cheap shots” such as elbows to the head, open ice hits from behind and checks, targeted star players, intestinally, to get them out of the game.

This method isn’t legal and the expectation of repercussions for illegal hits is why many wouldn’t commit these acts, yet some teams take the penalties to take down the opposing team’s star player.

This has given rise to “The Goon”. A goon is a player whose main purpose is to protect and serve his team, preferably with any physical means necessary.

This presence soon spread across all teams in the NHL.

The Philadelphia Flyers were new to the NHL in the early 1970’s. Their team was full of star players like Bobby Clarke and Rick MacLeish who were targeted.

They combated the situation with Dave Schultz, a fighter who didn’t back down for anyone. His presence alone kept most of the “cheap shots” from happening.

Another flaw some see is the “Staged Fight”. A staged is when two players agree, before the face-off, that when the puck drops they fight. They fight to establish momentum for their team or show the opposing team that they won’t be bullied. This leads to more fights and potentially more injuries.

Fighting in hockey has drawn in more fans than it has turned away according to a consensus of NHL General Managers. On this logic alone they can justify fighting since more fans equal more money, even if illegal hits tend to give the league a bad name.

A reasonable solution would be to allow “heat of the moment” fights and add extra penalty minutes to those caught pre-meditating fights. That would eliminate the goons that can’t play because the teams wouldn’t waste payroll on a fighter. “You eliminate pre-meditated fights and you eliminate fighters who can’t skate,” former AHL coach Jon MacRealy said. This would make more star players protect themselves and their teammates.

Fighting is a key part of hockey because of the value in protecting your most talented players, but its intentions have been distorted over the years. With a few changes you can weed out the bad hits and keep the players safer. I think fighting has been in the sport so long that extracting it now would hurt the sport more than help it.

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