Chinese don't use bats for baseball

By Creighton Rabs

It’s 6 p.m. and the sun is beginning to set. Shadows from the buildings cover the streets filled with bystanders. The air blows dust past carrying the aroma of Italian cooking.

The extraordinary architecture and breathtaking view of the inner city guide visitors through centuries of history. The statue of David never stands alone in the Palazzo Della Signoria with its fascinating gazers and dozens of photographers.

Street corners have a nighttime glow that welcomes tourists and local residents to the city. As they make their way past each other, the revving sound of motor scooters and their fumes fill the air.

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Making the investment to provide students with such an opportunity does not happen often, especially at community colleges, according to College Discovery, an online source for college searches.

In fact, the College is one of the few community colleges in the area who participate in such a program. “Summer in Florence” also has its academic advantages.

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Epic Fail: Marcellus Shale

By Robert Tierney

Your control has been sold. Resistance is really, really difficult.

Local zoning authority has been handed over to the Pennsylvania state attorney general and the only tradoff, a short term dip into the ol’ wallet for drillers, has not even been approved by the state senate yet, if it even will.

Under the new bill, energy companies that drill for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale rock formation will face a fine that, experts say, will amount to only about 1 percent of the profits made from each well. That’s not much of a deterrent.

An amendment proposed by Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson), proposes $50,000 in fees per gas well in the first year and then drops to the fees to $10,000 starting in the 11th year through the 20th.

The language of existing laws leaves a bit to be desired on how far away from water sources drillers can mine, as unidentified water sources are not as heavily regulated as identified ones.

The 55 percent of revenue going into local municipalities and job opportunities is also an arguable benefit.

There are no guarantees, including the habits drillers will exhibit once they set up shop.

The language of existing laws leaves a bit to be desired on how far away from water sources drillers can mine, as unidentified water sources are not as heavily regulated as identified ones.

If an unidentified water source flows into a municipal waterway, guess who gets poisoned?

As with all industrial operations, especially those involving energy, there’s a high level of risk for citizens and wildlife.

Pennsylvanians don’t need to be reminded of the Three Mile Island incident of 1979.

And if there’s a history lesson that’s applicable here, it’s that, when presented with loopholes, like the banks that headlined the housing bubble, big businesses will make quick work of them, to the disadvantage of everyone else.

Despite the business as usual, and resistance being really, really, difficult, I recommend nothing less than speaking out and taking back control to prevent potential abuse of the system.

Even if it is as simple as “Occupy Gas Wells.”

Contact Robert Tierney at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

The article that was printed in the last edition of The Communitarian about the soccer team seemed biased as if it were coming from the view point of the opposing team Community College of Philadelphia.

There were quotes from their coach that put our team in a negative light and made it seem as if we may not have deserved to win the game.

Community College of Philadelphia is our rival, and this game is always intense, but the article made our team seem dirty and unsportsmanlike which is not our style of play.

I wish the article would have highlighted the high level of skill displayed by our team as we battled through the first half with a tied score, and exploded in the second half to win the game 4-2.

That win positioned us to participate in the conference playoffs in which we advanced to the final game before losing to Harrisburg Area Community College.

Sincerely,

Andrew Johnson, Director of Recreation

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Contact Robert Tierney at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu
Occupy Philadelphia protesters wear out their welcome

By Creighton Rabs

Tents pitched in organized rows amid pockets of trash and defaced public property, people from all walks of life camping out while advocating for various causes, and a city government seemingly helpless or indifferent to control the chaos.

This is what I observed Nov. 6 when I visited the encampment of activists, protesters and others at Dilworth Plaza in front of Philadelphia’s City Hall.

Occupy Philadelphia is being glamorized by some media outlets, most notably the Philadelphia Daily News, as a protest movement harkening back to the 1960s anti-war protests against America’s military conflict in Vietnam.

But Occupy Philadelphia isn’t so much a movement as a collection of activists for causes ranging from taxing the rich to opposing natural gas extraction in Central Pennsylvania.

Other causes are well outside the mainstream: one person was advocating for Mexico to reclaim portions of the Southwestern United States; a sign at the site even called for a protest march on a Center City church.

After Philadelphia police arrested 15 protesters Oct. 23 outside the Police Administration Building for obstructing the highway during a march against alleged police abuses, officers arrested 10 protesters at a Nov. 2 sit-in inside the lobby of Comcast’s headquarters in Center City.

With their “occupation” of a privately-owned corporate headquarters, organizers have now taken to disrupting the normal course of business for one of Philadelphia’s flagship corporations. At some point, rational Philadelphians should grow wary of a group which engages in bullying tactics in order to spread their message, which could ultimately prove counter-productive to their goals.

Needless to say, it’s time for the “occupiers” to leave.

The activists may argue that they are simply sticking up for the “99 percent” and bringing attention to their cause through acts of civil disobedience. They also argue that the “one percent,” or the millionaires and CEOs, should pay their fair share of taxes.

But when these same activists not only inconvenience commuters – including those who are part of this “99 percent” supposedly represented by the protest – but also refuse to reimburse the city for the cost of babysitting a camp of freeloaders, that’s when the line gets crossed.

There has not been, to my knowledge, any offer by organizers to reimburse the city for costs associated with the encampment, which the Philadelphia Managing Director’s office places at $32,000 per day. Organizers also threaten to disrupt the city’s plans to begin Dilworth Plaza renovations, slated to begin this month, by refusing to vacate when asked by the city.

Business owners and residents of Philadelphia, already saddled with high property, business privilege and wage taxes, are, in effect, subsidizing an encampment of misguided wannabe hippies whose ultimate goal seems to be disrupting lives of those who live in reality, such as the average working American.

In other words, what started as a protest for worthy causes is starting to become a nuisance not only to Philadelphia taxpayers, but also to businesses that have contributed far more to the city in payroll and other taxes than some of these protesters presumably have.

So here’s some advice for the Occupy crowd: Go home.

Quit disrupting other people’s lives and start becoming productive members of society instead of bleeding a financially strapped city dry.

Contact Creighton Rabs at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu
and Communications 100 (COMM 100). These courses provide a foundation for the curriculum taught in Florence. Interested students must attend a series of informational meetings which provide details they will need to know before heading to Florence. Tentatively, students will board a flight to Frankfurt, Germany, and then on to Florence, Italy, Formichella explained. Once students arrive, they will be living in their own fully furnished apartments for their entire stay.

CAPA International Education program provides academic and cultural support to students studying abroad, according to the “Summer in Florence” brochure. They accommodate students with Internet-equipped classrooms and encourage them to embody the cultural experience.

Payments for the program can vary. Those who qualify for financial aid may be able to apply it towards a portion of the cost, Danford said.

“The college is committed to coming up with ways for students to be able to take advantage of the resources provided for them,” Danford said. “It’s our goal to get students to be able to afford and attend these trips, and we are committed to it.”

The cost of the trip is $2,549, not including airfare and tuition. The airfare price will be determined later in the semester, and the tuition fee is $434 per class. The trip fee includes ground transportation from the airport, fully furnished student apartments, medical and travel insurance, walking tours of Florence and much more, according to the brochure.

During the trip, students will not spend their entire stay in a classroom learning material, Formichella explained. Only one to two hours a day are spent in a classroom. The rest of the day is spent touring numerous museums, observing art, and walking the streets to learn about the society, culture, and surroundings.

“Class ran for an hour and then we would all meet up as a group and head out for the day,” said Erica Reeves, a May 2011 graduate from the College with a degree in business administration. “It was a very hands on experience, quite literally. I’ve heard of [“Summer in Florence”] and going overseas, but I didn’t know I could do that [at DCCC],” said Vivian Cremer, 25, an education major. “I had planned on waiting until I transferred or got the opportunity.”

“I wanted to have an experience away from my family and really I wanted to test myself to see if I could live with roommates and I could survive on my own,” said Stacey Cong, 20, a student who attended “Summer in Florence” in 2011.

Other students said they were unfamiliar with CAPA International Education program until they had read about it in their DelaGATE profile, Formichella explained. They have posted screen savers on College computers and placed posters on the walls around campus. There is also a link guiding students to information, available through their DelaGATE profile, Formichella said.

The encouragement given by professors to students who are contemplating about going abroad helps the students understand the benefits of the trip.

Formichella and Danford are not surprised when students’ responses to their experiences are as positive: “Students gain a full learning experience that should be embraced and taken with them for the rest of their lives,” Formichella said.

Danford and Formichella both believe that attending classes abroad is a great investment in their students’ future and looks impeccable on their resume. Formichella added that these trips are something students will cherish for a lifetime.

“I was one of the best experiences of my life,” one student in last summer’s program wrote in an email to Formichella. “I learned and experienced history and what it means to be a passionate historian. Italy taught me more than I have ever learned in my entire life of classroom instruction.”

The most important thing that students should understand, Formichella said, is that there are opportunities for them to get a higher education and study abroad in a program that has been around and succeeding for a while.

“I’ve been doing these trips for the past five years, and the students tell me they love every minute of it,” Formichella said. “From the culture to the scenery, it’s the best time of their lives.”

Contact Courtney Bragton at communitarian@ mail.dccc.edu

For more information on “Summer in Florence” 2012, students should attend an information session Dec. 5th at 5 p.m. in Room 2243.

Contact Professor Dolores Formichella in Room 4313, email dfornich@dccc.edu or call 610 - 359 - 5360

Students from “Summer in Florence” 2011 outside a local restaurant in Florence, Italy.

Photo courtesy of “Summer in Florence”
Professor Linda Durkin’s BUS 246 class has proposed to relocate the current book exchange message board that operates in the cafeteria to an online version.

The site could be hosted as a link in the “student services” section on the Delaware County Community College website; delaGATE maintained and sponsored by Campus Life.

According to a recent article published in the NEA Higher Education Advocate November 2011, Author Clanton writes, “textbook prices has risen at twice the annual inflation rate for more than 20 years”. He goes on to state “textbooks cost for full-time students at 500 dollars per semester”. There have been issues with the current posting process; these issues have limited the individual student’s ability to fairly market their books to their fellow students.

We feel that moving the process online would allow not only for an equitable and fair market transaction, but it may have the ability to exponentially increase student to student book swaps/sales.

In our polling conducted during the Multicultural Festival and various times on campus, we have found that the overwhelming majority nearing 100 percent of respondents said they would use the site if it were available today.

The Class presents their research findings and prototype to the delaGATE committee December 6, 2011. At that time we hope for the approval and the DCCC student book exchange set up and running by spring semester 2012.

We would like to thank Amy Williams, Director of Campus Life, Eric Wellington, Dean of Business and CIS division, Glenys Gustin, Associate Professor and web development specialists. Without their support or help, we could not have embarked on this project.

Would you like to see an Online $tudent Book Exchange?

Delaware County Community College

surgical technology students believe in 'gLOVE'

The Surgical Technology students at Delaware County Community College are once again joining the Association of Surgical Technologists across the country in an effort to “gLOVE” the world one heart at a time.

Surgical technologists, generally found in operating rooms helping surgeons into sterile gloves, want to extend their caring hands to help warm residents in need.

Collection boxes are being distributed throughout the College’s Marple Campus to collect gloves, hats, scarves and outerwear for local shelter residents. The campaign will run through December 10.

For more information on the “gLOVE” campaign, please call Anne Marie O’Shea, instructor, Allied Health, Emergency Services and Nursing, at 610-517-6928.

The surgical technology students at Delaware County Community College with the boxes they have decorated for the donations of hats and gloves.

Photo courtesy of Anne Marie O’Shea
A 20-year-old Egyptian feminist and political activist has startled the nation by posting a nude self-portrait on her blog, calling her action a scream “against a society of violence, racism, sexism, sexual harassment and hypocrisy.”

The protest by Aliaa Mahdy was viewed as a provocative move against the ruling military council and the rising influence of Islamist parties that are expected to win a major share of seats in upcoming Egyptian parliamentary elections. The images test the bounds of expression in Muslim-dominated nation that considers itself moderate but prides itself on piety.

The blog of photographs, including one showing Mahdy facing the camera wearing only thigh-high stockings, red shoes and a red bow in her hair, reportedly has had more than 1.5 million hits since it was posted earlier this week. While winning praise in some quarters, it has also been condemned elsewhere and has raised concerns that it needlessly incites Islamists against secularism at a time of intense political turmoil.

“I bow my head in respect,” wrote Sami on Mahdy’s site. “There is a little to no point in you arguing with fellow Egyptians, brainwashed since birth by a vile religion and a deep rooted hypocrisy engrained in them. Just please be extra cautious ... we don’t want to see you stabbed by a pathetic ‘jihadi’ or hear that you had to flee Egypt to asylum. Best of luck.”

Others criticized Mahdy for jeopardizing the civil freedoms young activists called for during the uprising that toppled former President Hosni Mubarak this year. The post was unprecedented in a country where about 90 percent of the population is Muslim and most women wear headscarves.

Mahdy wrote on the blog, titled “memories of a revolutionary: nude art,” that she was practicing her right of freedom of expression. Mahdy’s protest was the latest sign of frustration among secular activists increasingly convinced that the Egyptian revolution has stalled and left the nation far from democracy.

Weeks ago, activists posted their wills on Twitter after thugs and military police killed more than 20 demonstrators. Their concerns have been heightened by the widening political voices of ultraconservative Islamists who want to expand the role of Sharia law in the country’s constitution.

Egypt practiced a relative liberalism during the early decades of the past century until the early 1970s, when millions turned to conservative Wahabi and Salafi Islamic beliefs in the face of political, social and economic setbacks. Nowadays it’s unacceptable for many Egyptians to see a girl “dressed inappropriately” in the streets of the capital, much less posting nude self-portraits.

Mahdy, an atheist, was defiant, telling her detractors: “Get rid of your sexual complexes for good before directing your ... abuses towards me or deny me the right of freedom of expression.”

Shanren Sports, sells about 6,000 metal and wood baseball bats a month. Many of them are for the domestic market where demand for bats is driven by self-defense, not an interest in baseball. (David Pierson/Los Angeles Times/MCT)
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Crossword puzzle

Submit to the 'Voices and Eyes' contest

Do you find your attention drawn towards sights of the truly intriguing? Is your mind overflowing with thoughts you believe must be told? Then you can be the Eyes and/or Voice of DCCC! In each issue, The Communitarian runs a photo and editorial contest open to the whole student body.

Based upon the prompts below, submit your best photos or written work for a chance to be published in the paper. Published work may also look good on a resume and college application. For photos there will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place that will be featured in print. Only one essay will be chosen from submissions to feature in print.

Photo submissions will be judged for their creativity, style and generally being “worth a thousand words.” Editorial submissions will be judged in terms of depth of content, point of view and meaningfulness.

Guidelines: Written work must be 250 – 500 words. Photos must be a minimum resolution of 2000 x 2000 pixels. All work must be submitted by 1 p.m. on Dec. 1. No exceptions. You can submit for both contests but you cannot, unless there are unusual circumstances, win both.

Essay Prompt: Have you ever written a letter to Santa and received no reply from the North Pole? Write, from Santa’s point of view, what you imagine he would say to a request you have today. Make it funny or serious, but use appropriate language.

Submit your essay to The Communitarian at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu by 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1.

Photo Prompt: In memory of Ryan Dunn, photograph a "jackass" on any of the College’s five campuses.

Photos should be taken with a digital camera, and candid photos are preferred.

Submit photos with captions and credit lines (photographer’s name) to The Communitarian at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu by 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1.

Harvest year of my life

By Nick Dallas

Special to The Communitarian

January 2011, snow still blanketed the fields resembling fresh blank artist’s canvas. My year had begun this way. Fresh seasons and time lay ahead of me to create a year that could propel my aspirations towards reality and give space to my parents, whom I had neglected in around December 2010. I did so to get away from familiar places and my so-called friends, who never once to this day asked every morning how I was feeling and told me they loved me despite my mistakes every night. They got me the best lawyer they could, and I turned myself in, clean and sober still. I got my DUI and went clean shortly after this transaction. They couldn’t reach me to repeat the process, catch me with more. Although, they sure tried. 

My ‘friend’ called me when I first turned my cell phone on in months, and I acted with my agent and uncle in around December 2010. I did so to get away from familiar places and my so-called friends, who never once to this day asked every morning how I was feeling and told me they loved me despite my mistakes every night. They got me the best lawyer they could, and I turned myself in, clean and sober still. That time I spent repenting to my higher power asking for the strength. I reaped what I had sown in that selfish time of my life. I had hurt those closest to me whom I only wanted to make proud, laugh, and be happy. I neglected the harvest within—mind, body and soul—which I now nurture with diligence.

This harvest of my life experienced a drought that killed some fields forever. However, through the combined strength of my family and my own perseverance, I made it through and am now here at Delaware County Community College. Finishing my degree, with more than just the leaves changing, I’m on my way to a different life.

Nick Dallas’ essay was submitted to The Communitarian’s “Voice of DCCC Contest.” The staff thanks him for his submission and congratulates him on his publication.


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”Men in Black” baddies, briefly

70 Roundish shape

51 Price (into)

50 “Help Me, __”: Beach Boys hit

49 Suffix with lemon

47 Compelled via force

44 Constricting snakes

43 Go ape

42 Go bad

41 Tony of 60-Down

40 __ de plume

39 Boo-boo protector

37 _ Linda, California

36 Cacophony

35 Jamie of “M*A*S*H”

34 More or less

33 36-inch units

32 Game show host

31 Make booties, e.g.

30 Build up, as a collection

29 61 Not attend

28 Site of many a shady transaction

24 Fishing pole

23 Envelope abbr.

22 Disco

21 Vaudenbour or Edwards: Abbr.

20 Teddy Williams had a .344 lifetime one

19 Hereditary code carrier

18 Steak option

17 Ice cream-and-cookies brand

16 Asian menu appetizer

15 Man from Oman, often

14 “The Thinker” sculptor

13 Baby bovine

12 “Way out”

11 Ice cream-and-cookies brand

10 With 67-Across, innovative or experimental

9 Asian menu appetizer

8 Fey of “30 Rock”

7 Work like__

6 Wheelchair guy on “Glee”

5 Ringo’s sidekick

4 Dance that precedes “golf” in the NATO phonetic alphabet

3 Actress Olin

2 Fishing pole

1 Baby bovine

Across

63 Not attend

62 Site of many a shady transaction

61 Not attend

60 Sitcom set in a garage

59 Not attend

58 Roundish shape

57 Fall behind

56 “The Thin Man” canine

55 Skewed view

54 “... happily ever ___”

53 Go bad

52 P&L column

51 Pries (into)

50 “Help Me, __”: Beach Boys hit

49 Suffix with lemon

47 Compelled via force

44 Constricting snakes

43 Go ape

42 Go bad

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