

THE

FEB 2018

SIREN

MAJOR STEREOTYPES



(WHAT'S YOURS?)

ALSO: The Great Coffee Controversy! * New Photo Studio? * Morbid Mandy's Valentines

Controversial Coffee Caper

BELLA JOHNSON and LUKE ALOI report on the coffee controversy brewing at Lincoln Park

You are forced awake by your alarm at 5 a.m. You got back from rehearsal at 10 the night before and then did your homework for an hour. After drowsily getting ready and boarding the bus, you take an unsatisfying nap. You then arrive at Alumni Hall and eagerly seek the invigorating concoction that has gotten you through so many days: coffee. But then you see the sign at right:

Lincoln Park food services will no longer be providing coffee and tea due to a “lack of cleanliness.”

The cafeteria workers found messes of spilled sugar and coffee, empty creamer cups, and half-used sugar packets strewn about the Hot Beverage table in the cafeteria.

“Basically, we took coffee away because people couldn’t make it to the garbage can,” said Phil Balestrieri, the head of Lincoln Park food services. “It probably wasn’t everybody doing it, and it sucks to punish everybody, but I’d have to sit there and watch for the people who did. I don’t have the time for that. Now, the masses have to suffer for the faults of a few.”

Some students think it is unfair to take coffee and tea away from everyone when only a few people made the messes. “Just because one person made the mess at the coffee station doesn’t mean that the whole school should suffer,” said Jes Craven, a senior Music major from West Sunbury.

However, there are a few students who believe that the coffee revocation was not completely unwarranted.

“I was slightly heartbroken when the coffee table was taken away,” said Sophia Englesburgh, a junior Theater major from McMurray, “but I completely understand why the lunch management decided to do so. I think that if we’re being allowed to have something nice like coffee, which most schools don’t give their students, we should respect that enough to clean up after ourselves.”

Even teachers are weighing in. “I bring coffee from home, but I don’t think it’s fair to take coffee from everyone,” said Ed Wesolowski, a Lincoln Park English teacher. “Don’t punish everyone for something a few people did, especially since the school gets a profit from selling coffee.”

DUE TO A LACK OF CLEANLINESS AND RESPECT, COFFEE AND TEA WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS.



Coffee Caper, Continued on Page 12



HOW TO SWIPE RIGHT

Striking Up or Striking Out: Teen Tinder Pros & Nos

SAM McDANEL and ALISSA HADDOX tell you how to apply common sense to common dating apps

Love is in the air for Valentine's Day, and with love comes dating apps. Tinder, which was initially released in late 2012, has been growing in popularity for younger adults, especially with the introduction of Tinder for Teens in 2016. However, starting an account on a dating app can be quite daunting.

"Be you, and be weird," said Carter Logan, a junior Literary Arts major from New Castle. "People dig weird." Logan was on Tinder for three months, but is no longer active on the app.

Many people are still worried about being catfished (lured into a relationship with a fictional person) on the app, but Brett Dutson, a senior Media major from Moon, says the chance of that is very low.

"Don't be gullible with the people you meet, because there is obviously a 2 percent chance that you could get kidnapped," Dutson said. "Be wary of how much you put on there, like your social media." She explained that this was because many people would not match someone on Tinder, but endure stalking from people on Instagram and Snapchat.

Many people make the mistake of being too nervous over the app, which can lead to a low amount of matches. Alternatively, they may put all of their eggs in one basket, and then be disappointed when they don't hear back.

"Don't jump into everything, and don't expect everything to work," said Cam Miller, a senior Media major from Hopewell. "You're setting yourself up for failure if you do it that way, expect that you're going to have some hits and misses."

For those of you joining the dating app world this Valentine's Day, just be yourself, and don't expect to fall in love with everyone you could match with. You might just end up making a friend in the end.



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**Check out past editions of The SIREN + our February web
exclusive: "How LPPACS Teachers Celebrate Valentine's Day"
at lppacs.org/siren**

GEAR OF THE YEAR

Ten Fashion Must-Haves for Lincoln Park Students

Lincoln Park is fashion central - a school of artistic students showcasing their talent in a variety of ways, including how they dress. But what are the essentials? Fashion correspondent GREER LeROY breaks it down.

1. An old sweater. Whether it's from Goodwill or your Grandpa's closet, every true LP student has something like this to keep them warm in the winter. There's probably a hole in it somewhere, or at the very least, it smells like mothballs. But if it isn't slightly grotesque, what's the point?

2. A shirt from a show you've been in. Most likely it's from your local community theatre, where you made your debut as Yertle the Turtle in *Seussical*. It's the best way to show your peers that you can seriously discuss what your typecast is.

3. Dog collar. Sure, it's against dress code regulation, but who ever follows that? Plus, it's the only way you can portray your alternative-animal-loving personality without freaking people out. Too much, anyway.



4. Cuffed jeans. The skinnier the better. Nothing says, "I will talk to you for a full hour about the artistic value of a picture of a trash can" more eloquently than the cuff. Give 'em the old razzle dazzle by triple-cuffing your jeans - that classic George Washington style.

5. A turtleneck. What else would you wear to a coffeehouse before a Lincoln Park show, where you'll take an unwarranted amount of pictures with everyone who performed?

6. Anything embroidered. Shirt, pants, shoes, underwear - you name it. Maybe you bought it like that; maybe you did it yourself. Either way, a good old embroidered shirt that says something remotely political and even more remotely self-congratulatory is essential. Even though no one will care to read it.

7. An unreasonable pair of heels. Because even though everyone will be looking at you struggling up three flights of stairs, wondering what would ever compel you to wear those, especially in three inches of snow - you *know* you look good in them.



8. Fake glasses. You can't wait for all your friends to realize that you look great with and without glasses. But instead they just say, "What's your prescription?" and you're forced to explain why you would wear glasses when you don't actually need them.

9. A fluffy jacket. Ideally in a pink or cream color. This piece is quite the eyecatcher - until you get caught in the rain once and you look like a wet dog for the rest of winter.

10. A random piece of Lincoln Park gear. Odds are you forget how you obtained this piece of clothing, but it comes in handy whenever you're required to show some school spirit. Or when you need something to sleep in.

JUST DANCE

How can YOU get a part in a Lincoln Park dance show? NIKI KOSCINSKI and SARA HAMILTON explain.

Some viewers may see dancing as a form of art - with its graceful movements and poised techniques. Others may view it as the jerky bodily movements often seen out on the dance floor.

Jennifer Verba, the head of the Dance Department, encourages anyone who has a passion for dance to try out for any of the school's dance performances - such as *The Nutcracker*.

"*The Nutcracker*, since it's pretty much set and done, is a pretty easy audition," says Mrs. Verba.

Typically the way dance auditions work is that once the student has signed up and appears at the audition, they will be taught about three combinations, then perform these combos in small groups in front of the dance teachers. Mrs. Verba says that she mainly wants students to show their capability.



Kieran Modro, a senior Dance major from Beaver Falls, explains the process for getting into *The Nutcracker*.

"The audition process for dance shows at Lincoln Park very much resembles the structure of master classes. Combinations are taught and done in groups," says Modro.

"It's a lot more relaxed, in my opinion, than your typical audition."

A majority of the students who do audition for these shows are Dance majors. But all are welcome to audition whether they are out of the department, or do not go to Lincoln Park.

Dancing, for many of these students, is an expression for how they are currently feeling, or have felt in a certain situation. "I get the most nervous about sharing my art. Dancing can be a very personal and vulnerable experience," says Alexandra Trimber, a senior Dance major from Hopewell.

Regardless of what type of dance a student prefers, anyone who loves to move their feet to the rhythm of a favorite song is encouraged to audition for a show.

"Go audition!" says Mrs. Verba.

PHOTOFINISH?

By LUKE ALOI,
GREER LeROY and
MARENA McCOLLOUGH

Now that the Lincoln Park Media Department will no longer be holding photography classes off campus, questions have been raised about the fate of the photography program, as there are currently no darkrooms in which to develop film.

“The only place we go now is the Design Lab, but we can’t develop film there,” said Addy Diamond, a senior Media major from Beaver Falls. “We have a TV studio, but that’s not for photography. A lot of colleges look for knowing how to do photography, but now we don’t have cameras or a dark room.”

However, a darkness shines through the photo-ruining light: a dark room will be built in the Main Building. “The dark room we’re actually going to build on campus,” said Dr. Rodgers, Lincoln Park’s principal. “We are looking at a couple of options in our Main Building right now, but the exact location has not been decided.”

A specialized door that prevents light from entering the dark room has already been purchased, but major construction to bring a water supply to the room for the photo-development process has yet to be done.

“We’ve discussed things with our friends at the Center about possible areas,” continued Dr. Rodgers. “We’re gonna look to formalize those plans in the coming weeks. The idea is already there, but once the process gets rolling, we’re very confident that it’s going to be done for the next school year.”

BLASTBACK

SIREN readers speak!
Send your comments to:
thesirenblastback@gmail.com

Dear Siren Staff:

(Please read aloud to whole staff)

Yo what’s good. Y’all wrote a tasty article in the January issue about short films coming up this year, my dogs. Turns out you left out your own skin and blood, that being me, Tony Nicholas Vincenzo Hulick. I’m not disappointed, I’m just mad. I want some recognition dawg nizzle. I blame Bella Johnson 100%. Could’ve asked her bf Zack Mitrecic, but NOOOOOO. You just brushed it under the rug. Didn’t even say there was five films and a doc this year, ya just said there was four. I’m ashamed, heartbroken, flabbergasted, and sad. I demand reassurance in the form of large jewels and copious amounts of Chinese food.

P.S. My film’s called @P, it’s about two awkward office workers who wake up trapped in a room, realizing the apocalypse has happened. It’s a dark comedy.

P.P.S. I’m sad.

P.S.S. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Pissed in Pennsylvania (Tony Nicholas Vincenzo Hulick)

MORBID MANDY



Roses, hearts, and Cupid shooting arrows, making the world swoon. These are what we expect from Valentine's Day, but what if this magical holiday filled with love and devotion were something else? Something more gory and gruesome? Then let me, new SIREN columnist Morbid Mandy, retell a Valentine's Day horror story from Reddit User cukatie2983!



A Cupid's Work is Never Done

Eros looked down on New York City from his lofty space in the heavens. So many souls wandering around, he pondered, wishing for love and in need of help. Well, help was exactly what was on today's menu. He fluffed the feathers in his wings and strapped his satchel of magical arrows across his chest. There was no time to waste, what with Valentine's Day fast approaching. This time of year was like tax season for a Cupid.

Starting out, he came upon a middle-aged couple walking through Washington Square Park. The first mark of the day! Eros drew his arrow back and watched it arc through the air, striking the man in the chest. The effects were immediate, as the man's arms wrapped around the woman and the two swooned together in the lane.

At his next stop, a pair of young students were arguing outside of a campus bookstore. Ah young love! thought Eros. As soon as the arrow pierced her icy heart, Eros could see the anger melt from the girl's face. She gently touched her boyfriend's cheek and the two embraced.

Finally, two men were waiting in line at a coffee stand and Eros just couldn't pass up the opportunity for love at first sight. He aligned the angle perfectly, making sure the enchanted arrow would strike them at the same time, and let it fly. The men turned to each with wide eyes, a subtle look of surprise and understanding growing between them.

His work finally over, Eros headed home. He was tired, but happy as he thought of all the love and joy he had created. Tomorrow would be another busy day, but, he thought with a sly smile, a Cupid's work was never done.

6 p.m. News Briefing by ABC7 – Your Source for New York's Breaking News

"The NYPD finally received a break in the case of a sniper killing unsuspecting victims around Manhattan. Jack Eroskovich was detained at the Blue Heaven Lofts in Greenwich Village early this morning, when investigators received a tip from a concerned neighbor. A bow and at least 20 homemade arrows matching the ones used in the murderous spree were found in the apartment, along with a set of homemade wings, apparently made of pigeon feathers. Pigeon feathers had been found at the site of the Manhattan Community College attack. Eroskovich was taken forcefully from his apartment while screaming that his work wasn't finished. No clear motive was apparent for the homicides."

**SEE MORE MORBID VALENTINES LIKE THE ONES ABOVE AT
LPPAGS.ORG/SIREN**

MAJOR STEREOTYPES

Every major at Lincoln Park has its stereotypes. But is there any truth to them, or are they just departmental discrimination? And what effect do they have on our school culture? Managing Editor LUKE ALOI investigates.

Let's face it: Each arts department at Lincoln Park has its own stereotype. From jokes about "hipster" Media majors to labels like "basketball major," stereotyping practically lies at the heart of Lincoln Park's social sphere.

But are these stereotypes really harmless? Stereotyping is the cause of all division among human beings, forcing entire countries, religions, and races into over-simplified and often derogatory categories. To reinforce the point, a series of ads for this issue were pulled from the hallways last week, after students complained about the "stereotypical" remarks included.

If Lincoln Park is a haven for forward-thinking artists who abhor prejudice of any kind, how can a phenomenon like stereotyping exist? Have students been dividing themselves with these seemingly harmless jokes?

Theatre



The Theatre Department is said to be made up of extroverted, noisy actors and actresses that constantly break into song. According to the stereotype, Theatre majors are "bubbly" and "somewhat self-centered," and can passionately recite the lines to *Hamilton* more easily than saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

In reality, beneath their bubbly attitudes, Theatre majors are often multi-talented artists that balance their schoolwork with hours of rehearsals and masterclasses. Not only can they act, but they can also sing, dance, and write their own plays. When it comes to artists, Theatre majors are the jacks of all trades.

Some Theater majors believe that stereotyping has a negative effect on Lincoln Park students.

"I think stereotyping definitely contributes to the separation of majors," said Izzy Davison, a senior Theatre major from Wexford. "I have friends outside my major, but that's because I take arts classes outside of theatre. The stereotype for Theatre majors is that we're all super-loud and animated, even though that's true in most cases. It's just how we interact with each other. But major stereotyping is definitely negative."



"I think that stereotyping definitely contributes to the separation of majors."

--Theatre senior Izzy Davison

Media Arts



The Media Department is one of the largest and most diverse departments at Lincoln Park, and because of its size, there are two categories of stereotypes for Media majors.

In the first category are artists skilled at painting and drawing. These Media majors are said to be “weirdos” that are obsessed with anime and cosplay, and constantly look “depressed.”

The other category is comprised of the artists who specialize in digital media like photography and film. These Media majors are seen as “exclusive” and “indie/hipster wannabes” who think that David Fincher is the greatest director of all time.

While it may be true that some Media majors have non-mainstream interests, they are not “weirdos.” If anything, they’re unique, as they are not interested in societal fads, which adds to the diversity of subcultures at Lincoln Park.

On the other hand, the digital Media majors are not superficial pseudo-artists, for they produce award-winning short films, operate a journal of photographic art, and contribute significantly to the school’s multi-annual Ensemble Immersion. These Media majors are even responsible for the new school website, which is seen by hundreds of prospective students.

Because of this, some Media majors view stereotyping as unfair.

“Sometimes I do think stereotyping is a bit discriminatory,” said Kate Houser, a sophomore Media major from Beaver Falls. “I don’t really identify with any of the stereotypes, but some people call me a stereotypical Media major. Honestly, I’m just chillin’ in Cedar Rapids.”

“The stereotype is that Media majors are either furies, white boys who cuff their jeans, or edgy teens. Honestly, stereotypes are gross and can be hurtful to others, but most of our teenage stereotypes are pretty harmless.

“Though it’s true that the Media Department does consist of furies, white boys who cuff their jeans, and edgy teens, it isn’t what the entire department is built of. The same goes for other departments.”



“Honestly, stereotypes are gross and can be hurtful to others, but most of our teenage stereotypes are pretty harmless.

“(I)t isn’t what the department is built of. The same goes for other departments.”

--Media sophomore Kate Houser

MAJOR STEREOTYPES Continued from Page 8

Literary Arts



One anonymous student summarized the Literary Arts stereotype well: “The Lit Department is a dark, black hole.” Literary Arts students are said to be “angsty, gay teenagers” who view heterosexuality as a disease.

Yes, the overall stereotype for Literary Arts majors is that they are gay and emo. And a number of Literary Arts majors are LGBTQ and may seem to be morbid to outsiders. But are these qualities in any way bad?

Of course not, for Literary Arts students make the Lincoln Park student body more diverse and interesting. Literary Arts students staff BatCat, the only high school student-run small publishing company in the country, as well as present original literary works at LAVA. The Literary Arts Department also helps operate *Pulp*, the school literary journal, as well as the newspaper that contains this article.

Olivia Smith, a senior Literary Arts major from Beaver, doesn’t seem to mind the stereotyping at Lincoln Park. “People think that we’re the Emo and Gay Department, but no one has called me out on it. I haven’t had any trouble making friends outside my major, and no one’s come up and said, ‘Ughh, you’re an emo Lit major.’”

“As long as stereotyping doesn’t hurt anyone, it doesn’t bother me.”

Music



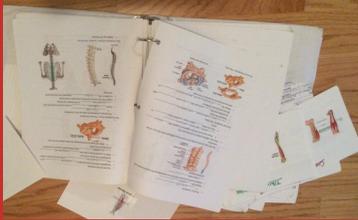
It can be argued that the Music Department is the premier major at Lincoln Park, with the talent of its musicians being renowned throughout western Pennsylvania. The Music Department is said to be the most competitive major to be accepted into, due to the number of applicants who are rejected.

Thus, Music majors are stereotypically arrogant, often being described as having an “I’m better than you” attitude. This arrogance is often associated with classical musicians and vocalists. On the other hand, another group of Music majors, mostly guitarists and “jazzier” pianists, are said to be more laid-back, and give off “New Age and psychedelic vibes.”

While these stereotypes may not seem as derogatory as those of other majors, the stereotypes for Music majors still over-simplify the department. Many Music majors are kind, level-headed people that do not fit into these categories. Meanwhile, it requires a certain level of self-confidence to be able to perform undistracted in front of a large crowd. And the more easygoing Music majors represent a group of artists that live on emotion and have discovered the full emotional potential of music.

In addition, the Music Department’s curriculum is among the most challenging at Lincoln Park, with Music majors having to take complicated music theory and composition courses in addition to being privately evaluated on their performance. But Music majors, too, believe that stereotyping has caused division among students.

"I'm new here, and when I first came, people started telling me about the stereotypes for each major," said Kat Elan, a senior Music major from Harmony. "I was told 'Health Science people are not here to learn' and 'Media kids are weird.' I think that stereotyping has caused students to stay within their majors for close friends."



"Whenever someone says Health Science majors don't learn anything, I take out my 500 pages of anatomy notes and plop it down in front of them."

--Health Sciences senior Dylan Dieterich

Health Sciences and the Arts

No department has a stigma larger than Health Sciences and the Arts. Health Science majors often receive the derogatory label "basketball major." The presence of athletics at an arts school has often sparked controversy, and the sports-heavy Health Sciences Department has been seen as the outsider of the arts departments.

According to the stereotype, Health Sciences majors are athletes who are "not here to learn" and "do not belong in an arts school." Additionally, the stereotype states that the Health Science Department is "100% straight" and that its curriculum is "laughable." All of these stereotypes are false.

Many Health Sciences majors are here at Lincoln Park because they plan on pursuing a career in health and medicine. The Health Sciences curriculum is actually quite challenging, as Health Science majors take courses in which they memorize the complexity of human anatomy, as well as learn about traumatic injuries and their care. Some Health Sciences majors have even said that their Health Science courses are more difficult than their academic ones.

Because of this, many Health Sciences majors feel that stereotyping is unfair.

"I'm always seen as one of the 'basketball majors,'" said Dylan Dieterich, a senior Health Sciences major from Blackhawk who is not a basketball player, "and that I'm someone who's not involved enough because I'm not in performing arts."

"I don't identify with any of the stereotypes. I see myself as someone who's trying to make a career out of my major. Whenever someone says Health Science majors don't learn anything, I take out my 500 pages of anatomy notes and plop it down in front of them. In my opinion, stereotyping puts a stigma around the school."

As far as athletes are concerned, they too belong at Lincoln Park, for they represent a group of people with its own unique mindset. Athletes, of course, add to the diversity of students at Lincoln Park.

MAJOR STEREOTYPES **Continued from Page 10**

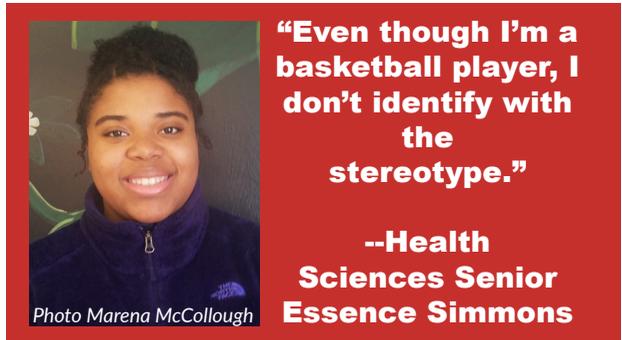
If anything, athletes are artists in their own respect. Many art forms like dance and music are based on repetition, and like dancers and musicians, athletes put in many hours of practice in order to further their abilities.

Many Lincoln Park athletes are also good students, and some are even members of the National Honor Society. Essence Simmons is among them.

“Everyone calls me a ‘basketball major,’” said Simmons, a senior Health Sciences major from Aliquippa who is on the girls’ basketball team. “They think that Health Science majors don’t do any work, like their major is better and that we’re talentless. Even though I’m a basketball player, I don’t identify with the stereotype. Truthfully, I don’t think stereotyping should even exist here.”

Dance

Dance is a kinesthetic art, and for styles like ballet, the dancer wears makeup and is trained to perform without a hint of fatigue. It is presumably because of this that Dance majors are stereotypically described as being makeup-clad and physically fit, often receiving disparaging names like “plastic” and “bunhead” because of their “perfect” appearances.



“Even though I’m a basketball player, I don’t identify with the stereotype.”

**--Health Sciences Senior
Essence Simmons**

According to the stereotype, all Dance majors look and act in the same way – “clean.” It is said that Dance majors are “beautiful airheads” due to a belief that dancers only improve their bodies and not their minds.

Like the majority of stereotypes, the stereotypes for the Dance Department are unfair and untrue. Regarding the use of makeup, people from every department wear it. And the belief that all Dance majors have the same personality demonstrates how stereotypes erroneously place entire groups into over-generalized categories.

Meanwhile, Dance majors are found taking the most challenging academic courses offered at Lincoln Park, in addition to being members of the National Honor Society and student government. In recent years, Dance majors have been at the tops of their respective graduating classes.

The Dance Department even offers an Associate Degree college program that Dance majors can pursue while still in high school, meaning that in addition to college-level dance courses, Dance majors in this program are expected to take the challenging academic college courses.

Dance major Paige Mathieson has taken many of Lincoln Park’s most challenging courses, like Calculus and Advanced Biology.

“Oh yeah, there’s definitely stereotyping here,” said Mathieson, a senior from Gibsonia. “The stereotype for Dance majors is that we all have our hair in buns and carry around giant Vera Bradley bags. A lot of people think that we’re air-headed, which isn’t true, and they probably think this because we’re late to class all the time after changing.”

“Now for stereotyping in general at LP, I don’t think it should be here because everyone is actually very similar. We all choose to come here to pursue our art.”

“In the end,” Mathieson concluded, “we’re all artists.”

Read The BLASTBACK Editorial, “A Call for Unity,” on Page 14.

Coffee Caper **Continued from Page 1**

The school is actually losing revenue by not offering coffee and tea to students, as that money is now going to convenience stores like CoGo’s or chain cafes like Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts. However, many students don’t have time to purchase coffee and tea elsewhere or bring it from home.

“Warm drinks are the only things I can stomach in the morning, so I drank coffee and tea every day when the school sold it,” said Julia Aloï, a sophomore Literary Arts major from Beaver. “I don’t have enough time to make coffee at home, so I just stopped drinking it entirely. After they took it away, I immediately started going through caffeine withdrawal, which was not fun.”

Many Lincoln Park students are involved in school productions and are oftentimes attending rehearsals late into the night. Due to an insufficient number of sleeping hours, some of these students have come to depend on coffee to stay awake during their classes. However, with the removal of coffee from the school menu, students are left to cope with daytime sleepiness without the aid of caffeine.

“I’m sleepy in school while doing shows,” said Lake Perun, a senior Theatre Major from Bridgeville, “because I’m at the school late, get home later, and then stay up to do homework.”

According to an article from the journal *The Annals of Internal Medicine*, one-half cup of strong coffee is as effective at reducing sleepiness as a 30-minute nap.

“If Lincoln Park had a nap time that would be amazing!” continued Perun.

At the heart of the Lincoln Park coffee caper is a simple ethical question. Is it right to punish an entire group for the actions of a few people? Whatever the answer, however, there is still hope for caffeine consumers.

“I’m not saying that coffee won’t ever come back,” said Balestrieri, “but for now, it’s not going to be offered.”

A FANTASTIC FILM



By **MARENA McCOLLOUGH**
SIREN Copy Editor

A FANTASTIC WOMAN (Rated R, 1 hr 44 min)

February: a time for movies to release just before the big award shows. You have your usual movies hitting theaters as well. But what about a different type of movie?

A Fantastic Woman is about a transgender singer (played by Daniela Vega, a transgender woman) named Marina trying to deal with the death of her boyfriend and being disowned from his family, following her gender identity being revealed. The movie has been praised for its use of an actual transgender actress filling the role of Marina, rather than a cisgender actress.

Stevie Geagan, a sophomore Literary arts major from Butler, was “elated to hear that Hollywood is branching out more regarding transgender roles and filling them accordingly. Transgender movies/shows like *Boys Don’t Cry*, *The Danish Girl*, *Transparent*, etc. which all star a cis actor portraying a trans character.”

“While these movies/ shows do an excellent job in some areas, it still lacks the valid representation that trans folk need to see and resonate with,” Geagan added. “Having an actual trans woman portray a trans character will not only make the movie come off more genuine, but will also harbor the representation that we, as a community, would like to see in films”

The movie was originally released last November, However, the movie is being re-released in a few selected theaters across the nation. One of those theaters just so happens to be in Pittsburgh: The Regent Square Theater. The film will be shown March 9 and tickets are for sale on Fandango. The movie currently has a 90 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes and is up for an Oscar.

Join The SIREN Meme Team!

Got a favorite meme you made or saw? Text it to 724-326-3532. Each month we’ll award a gift card to the best, funniest, or weirdest entry! And see our faves at Ippacs.org/siren !



All must serve the cycle

THE

SIREN BLASTBACK

BLASTBACK is where The SIREN offers opinions: ours, and yours. Wanna blast something you read? Wanna back us instead? Email letters to thesirenblastback@gmail.com!

SIREN Editorial: A Call for Unity

The Lincoln Park student body is a truly diverse group of people, though not in the traditional sense. While Lincoln Park has students of many races, religions, and economic backgrounds, the diversity in question is not so general. Rather, Lincoln Park is diverse in the sense that is composed of individuals, each with their own personalities and passions.

Stereotyping, which was the subject of this issue's cover story, "Major Stereotypes" (Page 7), only serves to divide people into hostile groups and fails to address the individuality of a person. Though the stereotyping at Lincoln Park is rather benign, it has caused unconscious divisions among Lincoln Park students. Even if one may not consciously think that Dance majors are airheads or that Music majors are arrogant, stereotypes like these may lead one to unconsciously view these majors in a generalized light.

Because charter school education is a particularly divisive issue on the outside, Lincoln Park does not need division from within. Many people view this school negatively, so Lincoln Park students are essentially each other's allies. Lincoln Park students should strive to end departmental stereotypes, which only cause division.

A new department – Pre-Law and the Arts – will be added next year, bringing new kinds of people into the Lincoln Park student body. One step in eradicating stereotyping is to prevent the formation of new stereotypes, so the student body must be careful not to generalize the new Pre-Law majors.

But in truth, the best way to eliminate stereotypes is to accept much larger, much more universal stereotypes. We are all human beings and therefore equal, so we should stereotype ourselves in that respect.

On the school-wide scale, Lincoln Park students are the same, as every student has chosen to come here in order to pursue their passion, whether it be photography or music or athletics. Hence, a way to rid Lincoln Park of stereotypes is to form a stereotype that views all students as the same, and yet individually different.

Senior Music major Kat Elan eloquently summarized this dichotomy at the end of her interview.

"I think that everyone at Lincoln Park is artistic in their own way," said Elan. "And though we choose to study different things, we're all the same."

The SIREN Staff

RED PANDA RECIPES

By Hannah Michalowski
SIREN Staff



SNICKERDOODLE BLONDIE BARS

INGREDIENTS:

* 2 eggs * 2 1/2 cups of flour * 1 tsp of baking powder * 1 cup of light brown sugar * 3 tsp cinnamon
* 1 1/4 cups of granulated sugar * 1/2 tsp of salt * 1 1/2 tsp of vanilla extract * 1 cup of unsalted butter

These easy-to-make cookie bars are perfect for Valentine's Day -- or any other day!

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1 - Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Step 2 - Line a 9x13 inch baking pan with parchment paper, then lightly grease with Pam or Crisco.

Step 3 - In a large bowl or stand mixer, cream together butter and sugars.

Step 4 - Mix in eggs and vanilla, followed by the dry ingredients. Mix until smooth and no streaks remain.

Step 4 - Lightly grease hands. Press mixture into an even layer in prepared baking pan.

Step 5 - Sprinkle with cinnamon-sugar topping mixture. (Just mix some sugar and cinnamon together to make the mixture)

Step 6 - Bake for 25-30 minutes.

Step 7 - Allow the bars to cool before slicing. Store in an airtight container for up to several days.

Step 8 - ENJOY!



Art Credit for the Red Panda: Ailin Chu on dribbble.com