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Battle of the Sexes Cook-Out-Off...In BY SAMANTHA MOORE

MCPC held its first competitive cook-off between the ladies and gents on campus this Sunday. The challenge? Produce the most fantastic display of chow and beat (as in outdo or defeat) the other sex.

The cooking began at noon and lunch was scheduled for 2 p.m. Each team met in their designated kitchens at 12 p.m.—the girls in 2026 upstairs lounge, the boys, 2016—and commenced their culinary lines of attack. While there was no prize or real judging involved, those who came out were devoted, diligent, and eager to share their savory works.

A few minutes past 2

p.m., the girls started setting up their creations in the backyard, only to be driven away by a troupe of bees more than willing to taste-test. So, that's when the girls made an executive decision to move the Cook-Out-Off in.

Both teams found their way to the 2026 lounge outside Kate Nicely's office and presented impressive meals by 2:30. On the girls' table, there was honey barbeque chicken, a vat of homemade macaroni and cheese, white rice, coconut soup, a vegetable "cake," tomato and mozzarella salad, pineapple slices, a Vietnamese dish of meat, veggies, egg, and garlic and for dessert, chocolate chip

cookies. On the guys' table was a large bowl of steak for fajitas, toasted pitas, homemade pico de gayo, queso dip, tortilla chips, and mojito drink served from a plastic pumpkin.

When all the food was in place, the air of competition seemed to dissipate; everyone just wanted to eat. So, we did. Most people got up for seconds, even thirds, and occasionally offered flattering remarks in between bites. As we ate, conversation was brief; each gave attention first and foremost to his or her food-piled plates. After most people finished, we sat for awhile digesting, mingled a bit, and even composed a few STOMP

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FINDING A CHURCH HOME BY ELIZABETH COONE

Perhaps one of the most stressful things about college is finding a church home. A church is meant to be a family and a support system as one continues along in life. It can be overwhelming finding a place like that in a huge city like Philadelphia. However, I

had the good fortune of finding such a place on my first Sunday in the city.

Walking into Liberty Church, located in the Menonite High School on 24th Street I felt welcomed and at home—despite the fact that the service was already halfway over! The congrega-

tion was extremely diverse, with every age group and several ethnicities represented. The atmosphere of the gathering was clearly focused on refreshing those present to continue serving Jesus and others they came into contact with throughout the week.

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THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN OF PHILADELPHIA:

1. GENO'S STEAKS (1219 S. NINTH ST.)
2. CENTER CITY PRETZEL CO. (816 WASHINGTON AVE.)
3. PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART (ART MUSEUM DR.)
4. MUTTER MUSEUM (19TH S. 22ND ST.) -SHOWCASES MEDICAL ODDITIES!
5. ROSENBACH MUSEUM AND LIBRARY (2008 DELANCY PL.)
6. PENN'S LANDING (SPRING GARDEN AND COLUMBUS BOULEVARD) -OPEN AIR VENUE, CHECK FOR EVENTS!
7. THE BETSY ROSS HOUSE (239 ARCH ST.)-\$3 TOUR.
8. READING TERMINAL MARKET (12TH ST. AND ARCH ST.)
9. ELFRETH'S ALLEY MUSEUM (126 ELFRETHS ALLEY)-OLD CITY
10. LIBERTY BELL CENTER (501 MARKET ST.)



Students enjoy their home-cooked meal!
(Image courtesy Sam Moore)

COOK-OFF...IN

inspired beats, flicking plastic cups, pounding couch armrests, crunching aluminum foil, and so on.

But, the air that once oozed of competition, then hunger, now reeked of exhaustion. The dreaded clean-up lay before us. "I don't know where to start or what to do," was the shared assessment.

Luckily, both teams came through, and the lounge cleared within minutes. Foil-

covered pots and dishes made their way to the "caf" for late night snacks, and everyone seemed satisfied with the day. The air after the cleanup was that of good spirits, and of course, aspirations of looming naptimes.

Those who weren't able to come hopefully got to experience the leftovers. (I know there's still an onion in 2026 upstairs lounge if anyone's interested in sautéing it or

something.) As for those who did come, thanks for your chutzpah and many talents. BOTSCOO 2008 (Battle of the Sexes Cook Out Off 2008) will no doubt go down in MCPC's history as the legendary first of many BOTSCOOs to come.

OUT IN LEFT FIELD W/ ELIZABETH THOMPSON FACEBOOK: UNIFIER OF ALL UNIFIERS?

Facebook has created an epic culture of social networking in less than six years. What was once open for students and faculty at colleges and universities has expanded to include anyone with uncensored internet connections around the globe. In the age of globalization and the technological revolution, users have the ability to organize their relationships, preferences, plans, photos, videos, conversations, education, and beliefs. Facebook has effectively allowed its users to compartmentalize their existence for the entire world to see.

A new study released in *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin's* October issue suggests that Facebook profiles can be used to determine whether or not a user is narcissistic. By correlating the amount of wall-posts and number of friends one has, the University of Georgia study was able to determine whether the site owners were using the networking site for self-promotion and selfish gains. Upon the opening of the new social-networking site

in 2002, Facebook has grown to house over 100 million people around the world, including many whom, we can now say, are narcissists. This is not simply a message to be wary of the charming sycophants that lie behind that latest status update, but an inquisition into what other characteristics of ourselves are being revealed through Facebook, the unifier of all unifiers.

Though the idea of narcissists continuing to reveal overdeveloped egos in their profiles seems a bit obvious, Northwestern University released a study in the *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* which found a correlation between race, ethnicity, and parents' education in determining which social networking site students use. However, the main tenet of the study was to explain the amount of online social networking in respect to person-to-person communication on campus. The study found that there is a congruent relationship in an individual's socializing both on and offline.

The newest update on Facebook has sent some users to the picket lines. With the war in Iraq still raging, an economic breakdown on Wall Street, destruction still

evident in hurricane impacted areas, and the 2008 presidential election, 1.5 million Facebook users have decided that the changes made on the site are utterly disastrous, creating a petition to revert the site back to its past format. One user explained her discontentment on CNN's iReport, "Facebook was once the classy alternative to MySpace. Now it's the classy girlfriend you once loved, but you begin to feel distant from because she wants to move into your house and tell you what colors to paint your walls and how to arrange your furniture. You're given an ultimatum—marry me or it's over. I wonder how many of us will give into the demands? Sadly, this is not a joke. Apparent from the University studies, Facebook has surely come to be *the* certain way of expressing an individual's social dynamic. Also, it is clear that the site is embedded with class hierarchy. In choosing friends and networks, Facebook has also provided the opportunity of exclusion to certain groups and persons.

What are the social repercussions of taking class and individualism to the digital level? Narcissists, kissy-faced metrosexuals, box-tanned girls, and brutish, red cup

holders are stereotyped and defined by the number of friends, wall-posts, gifts, hatching eggs, mixed drinks, and graffiti works they have accrued. If a Facebook revamp managed to rattle the identities of 1.5 million people, what sort of social and personal investment are users placing in a space that did not exist seven years ago?

Perhaps my pointing out the commoditization and alienation of individuals, caused by Facebook is as obvious as the University of Georgia's study stating that narcissists end up being narcissistic in their profiles. If it is obvious or not, is this behavior our culture is comfortable maintaining? Delivering our interactions and insights over to digital media is assuredly eliminating local community and communication.

Facebook obviously is not the great, unbiased social network template site that it appears to be and is further plunging into inequality and prejudice. But it may be too late for these observations. Maybe we have already taken that ultimatum; maybe we've married it, and it's over. Now we are merely waiting for the color of the walls.

FALL JAMS 2008 BY: PETER CORNING



Summer jams are easy to define: imagine driving in your car with the window down and music loud—any song that fits this scene is the perfect summer song. This summer saw tunes come and go in spades; Lil' Wayne spoiled our ears with not one or two, but *three* hot singles. Meanwhile, the Pussycat Dolls and Katy Perry were putting their own spin on the classic jam. And let's not forget Miley Cyrus, finally breaking hearts with the super relatable lyrics and dance beat of "See You Again." Say what you will about the artistic merit of these musicians, but you and I both know that whenever these songs grace the radio a grin would spread across your face and the beat quickly work its way through your body. In fact, it is im-

possible to hate summer jams.

All of this to say how hard it is for me to define a fall jam. Summer jams represent the effervescent state that one floats about all vacation; the feeling that the present feels no more definitive than the past or future. Fall is a much harder entity to define. I seem to prefer much more complex soundscapes; layers of lush textures and rich vocals as opposed to the straightforward production of the summer jam. On that note, here are a few of my favorite songs, artists, and albums in light of this beautiful fall: **Brooke Waggoner** — "Young Friend" from *Heal for the Honey* Brooke garnered national attention after the release of her EP *Fresh Pair of Eyes* for her beautiful string arrangements. This song from her brand new LP accentuates that same skill, throwing epic string sections aloft as the happiest piano bangs away. With lyrics such as, "I got along just fine 'til I knew ya" and "you gave me the frowns" Brooke accentuates fall's perfect severance mood.

SEX BY: CODY WANNER

What is your opinion on sex? Kind of an open ended question, right? Are you a person who easily upholds the belief that sex is *something* to save for marriage? Or maybe you follow the other extreme of having sex with whomever you want. Perhaps you are somewhere in between.

You might have laughed, scoffed or felt embarrassed at the previous paragraph. I would argue that sex is something completely valid to

write about in a Christian school's newspaper. Let me give you my reason why: I remember my first visit to the University of Pittsburg. I was visiting a friend named Mike and I happened to come across a school newspaper blowing along the street. I picked it up. There was an article that had to do with oral sex. It wasn't trying to hide anything either: in bold text at the top of the page were those exact words. I laughed, and thought how weird it was to publish some-

Miles Benjamin Anthony Robinson — "Buriedfed" from *Miles Benjamin Anthony Robinson*. This guy has four names, but don't hold it against him. His lyrics and delivery are reminiscent of a young, fiery Tom Waits grating like gravel against your fingernails, yet hauntingly beautiful. Lines like "Oh, he didn't like people much at all/ Tasted better with alcohol/ You know how that one goes" stick with you long after the song is over, which is probably the reason that Kyp Malone of *TV on the Radio* (no slouch himself) refers to Miles as his favorite songwriter of the moment. (See her live in Grantham at the Union, 10pm on Wednesday October 1!)

Fleet Foxes — "Ragged Wood" from *Ragged Wood*. When this album released this summer, and was subsequently snatched up by all the cool boys and girls, I knew I liked it. However, something didn't feel quite right. Now that fall is upon us, I realize what the problem was: I couldn't handle music like this stacked against other summer jams that dominated my hearing range. This is fall music. The song starts off with a happy little number, much harmonization

and bequests for a love to come back home. Two-thirds of the way through is when it hits me; the guitar becomes a touch more somber, and the lyrics "Lie to me if you will...Tell me anything you want, any old lie will do" are repeated; my soul weeps in the crisp fall air.

TV on the Radio — "Dancing Choose" from *Dear Science*. This album dropped last week, and the few listens I've had (it is streaming on the band's Myspace page) are already exciting me. *Return to Cookie Mountain* was many critics' favorite album of 2006, and the band returns here with what may be their most accessible, pop friendly record to date. This jam is the most danceable of my selected, bordering on summer jam even with hand-claps and funky guitar riffs. But vocalist Adebimpe spits hard over the beat ("He's a WHAT! He's a WHAT! He's a newspaper man!"), jerking the track all over the chart until the band reunites at the hook with a big brass piece and layers of distortion and fuzz. It resembles autumn leaves changing color in a time-lapsed hyper fast motion.

thing like that at a college. I mentioned the article later to Mike, mocking it, and he replied, "Oh yeah, that. It's a whole column they devote to something new about a sexual topic each week. People love it. It's a big hit." I was surprised. About a year later, I began my years at Messiah. I will tell you, the first time I picked up the "Swinging Bridge", I was not surprised to see no sex column. I was, however, disappointed. I had realized after the Pitt experience how cool it would be if

someone in a Christian realm would give their stance on sex, and make it an open discussion for people attending the school. To create a forum on sex and what *our* view of it consisted of.

So, where am I going with all this? What I want from you is emails. I just want you to email me with topics that you would like me to research, discuss, and bring into the conversation. I want us at this Christian cam-

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SEX

pus to feel free to talk about sex in an open forum-

very real, but safe. Not safe subjects (no way, I want to talk about *everything*), safe like you don't have to feel weird talking, emailing, or reading about it. Like, turning the topic of sex into something real and alive, not just for the secular world, but for whatever world we are in too. So please, email me and tell me something that seems relevant to you. Feel free not to sign the email, or to write it from your non messiah account. No question is a stupid question. No topic is too much, and anything goes.

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CANVAS CLASH

BY CHARLEY WILKINSON



Artists prepare a canvas at Philadelphia's Canvas Clash (Image courtesy Charley Wilkinson)

Hands-on. Live. User-friendly. Terms that have come to signify much of what internet and cultural content we digest is all about--and one company that understands what art, and web design are up to is extending

their meaning. Freshout Media, an operation based out of Northern Liberties, Philadelphia runs a successful and informative website that focuses on art, culture and music all over the country. The website's articles are conceived and submitted by ordinary users that want to involve themselves in various art or music scenes by promoting bands, artists or other interesting folks that they meet along the way. This laid-back approach to supplying web content follows the vibe of all Freshout events and services—interactive, user-friendly concepts created to “humanize the web” and all they touch.

And what Freshout touches

is not just on the web. The company supports community-based arts festivals and music events, endorsing the scene they work so hard to define and promote. One such festival, Canvas Clash, has become a staple arts festival for Philadelphians. In the past, these “Clashes” have brought artists, vendors, and residents together to enjoy creativity through painting, music, and dance. Freshout director Chris Anderson describes the vibe these events have as “very free and open and inclusive of anyone who wants to come out and enjoy themselves”.

And enjoy themselves they will. On Saturday, September 27 in Center City alongside the Campus Philly College Day, Canvas Clash will strike again with music, dance, and of course live artistry. The theme of this Clash is change—encouraging artists to choose subjects and media that will represent the progressive strides they wish to see Philadelphia and its residents take. Artists have been invited to paint, explode, and create as they wish from 2-9 pm in Love Park, putting together pieces that will excite and inspire the art community. So come out and experience Freshout-sponsored Canvas Clash: Hands-on, live and user-friendly.

**We Know YOU Have Things to Say!
Make it So!
Contact Sarah Bowman @
sb1338@messiah.edu**

CHURCH

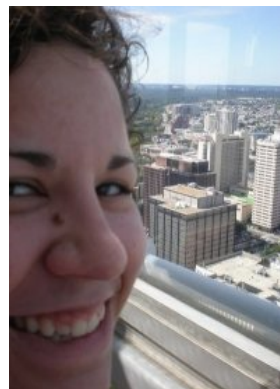
There were approximately eighty people at the service, but that does not reflect the true size of Liberti. There are two other congregations under the name Liberti Church, one in Roxborough, and another in Fishtown. Liberti is a cell church, meaning they intentionally split the congregation when there are enough to plant a church in another area of the city.

“The church is continually renewed and created by God in history and is called to be a worshiping, nurturing, and serving community,” according to their website, www.liberti.org. We are

seeking to live out these high ideals humbly and with great dependence on the God who is real and active today. As we pray, worship, and live together, we are seeking to be followers of Jesus Christ in fresh ways in this time and place”.

This unique structure of the church was something I thought happened only in places where large gatherings of Christians attract unwanted attention. However, there are incredible advantages. By refusing to remain comfortable in their developed community, cell churches constantly reach out and extend their mission, impacting numerous people in the city of Philadelphia.

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” (Matt. 28:18-20)



Author enjoys the Philly sites. Photo courtesy Elizabeth Coone.