

The Broad Street Journal

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Tea Country: A Convenient Escape from Routine

By Melissa Paolangeli

It is getting to that point in the semester when two things are of the utmost importance: caffeine and a quiet place to study. Fortunately, both are only a short walk from MCPC. Located just past the Barnes and Noble on Broad, recently built Tea Country is a peaceful retreat from the sounds of partying frat boys and stressed-out roommates. The serene little tea shop is part of the building complex of the Edge at Avenue North.

Little is no overstatement- this is not a place to bring a large study group. The café only holds about eight small two person tables, ideal for small group or solo studying. Each table is set with a tiny teacup and saucer set, inviting you to stay awhile and enjoy your own personal pot of tea.

The selection of teas is broad, featuring a wide range from soothing Chamomile to rich and fruity Lichee Red Tea. A particularly nice blend is the Masala Chai, which is both spicy and sweet and goes well with honey. Overwhelmed by the selection and not sure where to start? Upon entering the shop, to the left are several shelves of jars of tea, ready for smelling.

Tea Country uses all loose leaf teas- there are no Lipton tea bags here. Loose tea is placed into a strainer and hot water is poured into the cup to produce a full-flavored beverage. The person preparing your tea at the counter will set a timer for you so that your tea can steep for the appropriate time and so you know when to remove the strainer.

To accompany the tea, the café offers a variety of treats, including scones, muf-

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The Winning Photograph by Lacey Ward

Winner of the Fall 2007 Photo Contest Unveiled

By Douglas Yeisley

Ryan Wilson and the PSGA have announced that there is an official winner for the hotly contested Messiah College Philadelphia Campus biannual photography competition. Out of photo entries, Messiah junior Lacey Ward won with her piece pictured above. Sponsored by PSGA, this photographic event called for resident photographers to submit their best work with the theme of "Life in Philadelphia."

"I enjoyed judging the photo entries because several students expressed the theme in diverse ways," Kate Nicely, one of the judges, said. "Lacey's photo captures a moment that is so familiar to me, but I rarely pay attention to when I'm walking around the city. I'm interested to hear the story behind the picture. Are they breakdancing? Skateboarding? Or did that one guy just fall? I also like the noticeable 15th St. sign in the background with the trees, interesting light post and building."

The winning photograph has been enlarged into a framed 8 x 10 portrait that will be hung on campus. This portrait will then be unveiled to much enthusiasm Monday night after the Temple-sponsored dinner.

"I'm really excited to promote good art and celebrate the talent that comes through our doors each semester," art critic and connoisseur Ryan Wilson said.

Although Lacey does not win a monetary prize, her photograph will be enshrined as long as MCPC exists or when holographic images replace photographs. Whichever comes first.

Attention Photography Contest Participants

Congratulations, Lacey, for your win. However, if you submitted a photo but did not win, fear not. Send it to me, and I will publish it in a special photography section. Also, submit any story behind the picture for possible publication as well.

Community

Make A Difference

By Lauren Wise

Living in Philadelphia has given us a chance to experience something refreshingly new. Whether we have lived in the city all of our lives or came from somewhere out in the country, it is still an experience that cannot be forgotten. As the semester draws to a close and the holidays – Thanksgiving and Christmas – loom ahead, we at last have enough time to reflect on our adventures here.

Although we came into the city to enjoy ourselves, there are more important matters at hand. Many of the city's citizens do not have the same opportunities as us. Crime, pollution, and poverty still run rampant. However, as Christians in a fallen world, we are called to make a difference. None of us should try to claim ignorance or helplessness, for we are all capable of helping accomplishing something for the betterment of the city.

The obvious answer is volunteering, but it might not be right for you. That is fine; there is more than one way to change the world. Write a letter and tell an official what we want to see; they might even like your ideas. Take the beggar outside your apartment for a bite to

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Beggars on Broad Street

By Amanda Arbour

This week I was disturbed by a discussion in one of my Temple classes. Students were talking about homeless people, and everyone seemed to have a story about someone who pretended to be blind or lame or something just to get money. It was upsetting to me because there was no compassion – the attitude was that beggars are just trying to cheat people to get some fast cash, presumably to finance whatever addiction they have.

Sadly, this attitude is also present in Christian circles – even at Messiah. Here at MCPC we are confronted with homeless people everyday on Broad Street. Even though I have grown up in the city, I admit that sometimes homeless people scare me. At the very least, they make me uncomfortable. I know that they are going to ask for money, and I do not know how to respond. I do not think giving money is the answer – if they are an addict they will just blow



Image Courtesy of Google Images

it on drugs or alcohol, and I would be enabling their destructive habit. But is it my place to judge their motivations and make assumptions about their lifestyle? What if they have just caught a tough break and need money for food?

I like the idea of offering to buy a homeless person something to eat. If they are sincere they will appreciate the food, and it is a practical way to help them without giving money. But it does require taking time out of your busy schedule and involving yourself in their life.

Yet I admit that most of the time I take the easy way – I just keep walking. But every time I do it hurts me inside. These are people loved by God and created in His image. In Matthew 25:44-45, the people Jesus was condemning asked: “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?” And Jesus answered: “I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.” According to this, each time I reject a beggar I am rejecting Jesus.

Recently I have challenged myself to at least look at the homeless people and say “I’m sorry” instead of averting my eyes. It’s a small step, but it makes me recognize them as human beings. Perhaps if I truly see their humanity it will be impossible for me to pass them by.

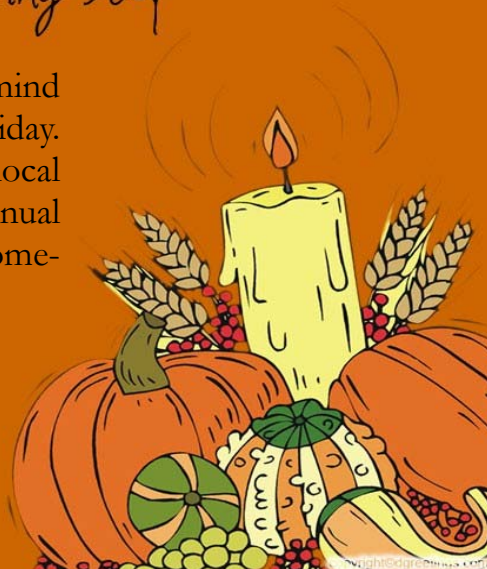
I do not have the answers – after all, I am still struggling with this. But one

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Happy Thanksgiving Day

Keep others in your mind while enjoying this holiday. Maybe volunteer at a local soup kitchen for the annual turkey dinner for the homeless program.

Cheers,
Your Editor



Culture

Concert Review: Motion City Sound- track and Mae Play for MTVU

By Dave Stevenson

Two rock bands noted for their excellent live performances lived up to all of the hype on November 14, 2007. The MTVU sponsored show, which also featured lesser known bands Metro Station and Anberlin, proved to be extremely enjoyable and showed why alternative rock is still extremely popular.

However, the show started off with a mediocre performance by the opening band Metro Station, who hailed from Hollywood. While their music was ordinary at best, they really looked like they were having fun up there, and I always respect that. Metro Station graced the crowd with songs from their recently released self-titled album. Their best song was "Kelsey," which might have what it takes to be a minor hit.



Image Courtesy of Google Images

Anberlin was the next band to play. I was told that they were a great band by a friend, but sadly, Anberlin did not quite live up to this recommendation. While they did bring a lot of enthusiasm and the crowd certainly seemed to enjoy them, it did not make up for a pedestrian performance by lead singer Stephen Christian. It seemed like he was having an off-night because his voice lacked the presence and intensity that he is known for, but he probably did the best that he could. Overall, Anberlin was good, but not as great as I expected.

The third band to play was the highly-acclaimed Mae. Mae lived up to their billing, even without recently departed band members Rob Sweitzer and Mark Padgett. Mae only got the opportunity to play nine songs, but they made sure those nine songs would be unforgettable. They showed off works such as "Brink of Disaster" and "Sometimes I Can't Make It Alone" from their new album *Singularity*, while pleasing the fans of their older albums with classic hits like "Suspension," "Anything," "Embers and Envelopes," and "Someone Else's Arms." The replacements for Sweitzer and Padgett did a phenomenal job, and Mae proved once again that they always play an excellent show, regardless of outside circumstances.

Motion City Soundtrack was the featured band and they certainly justified that honor. Everyone in the crowd was jumping around to MCS's high energy beats and sharp lyrics. Like Mae, they managed to reach both newer fans and longer tenured fans with hits from their new album and songs from their previous albums.

Overall, it was a great concert that featured four bands who knew how to put on a good performance. The only regrettable aspect of the show was that Mae did not get to play more songs.



A delicious cup of tea. *Photograph by Emily Yoder*

Tea Country

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fins and petit fours (tiny iced cakes with alternate layers of sponge cake and icing). During the fall months, petit fours come in pumpkin, apple, ginger and carrot, and are four for \$1.50. A twelve ounce up of tea is served for \$1.75, so you can combine both for a snack of just a little over \$3.

The next time you are craving caffeine and a tranquil retreat, gather all your books and walk past the Starbucks to Tea Country.

Other Great Places to Grab Some Tea

By Douglas Yeisley

Tea Country is conveniently close, but do not pass up the opportunity to get tea at some other fine Philadelphia establishments. As the days start getting colder, we will be drinking tea by the bucketful, so keeping things fresh is key.

Two other tea places in center city offer some excellent fare. Remedy, located at 1628 Sansom Street, and tbar, located at 117 South 12th Street, both have incredible tea and dessert menus, not to mention competitive prices.

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Urban Living

Difference

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eat and talk to them; they might teach you something. Donate to a charity that you see working hard to be a light in the darkness. You could even help start up a monthly "Really Really Free Market" somewhere (Learn more: www.crimethinc.com). Most of all, remember that you are not alone. Get together with some like-minded people, and you can go far.

Beggar

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thing I do know is that if Jesus were walking down Broad Street, He would be drawn to these people. He always sought out those who had been marginalized by society, and as the Church we are the incarnate Body of Christ – we are supposed to embody Jesus' ministry on earth today. I think it is important for each of us to do some soul-searching and ask ourselves how we should respond to the beggars who cross our path.

Other Tea Shops

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Though they are strikingly similar, each place has its own idiosyncrasies. MCPC junior Diana Ecker perhaps describes them best by calling tbar the "Starbucks of tea" and Remedy the "Urban Outfitters of tea." At each place, I would recommend splitting a pot of tea with a friend. Not only is this economical, it is also aesthetically pleasing to the extreme. Sometimes you even get two free tea cookies with your order, making for perhaps the perfect date. My favorite type of tea lately has been anything with pear in it. Just thinking about it makes me want to bike downtown and get some immediately.

However, do not be confined by the specialty shops for your tea needs. Restaurants, such as any Asian or Mediterranean place, will offer a delicious and unique tea. Enjoy.

The Perils of Inner City Bicycling

And How Most Dangers Can Be Avoided

By Douglas Yeisley

After suffering four bicycling accidents of various magnitudes, I have become an expert of sorts on bicycle safety this semester. Basically, I know exactly what one should not do, and my body has paid the price for the acquisition of this knowledge. My first accident occurred a couple weeks into the school year, and it was perhaps the most spectacular of all my spills. I was rounding a corner, and narrowly avoided missing a crowd of pedestrians who were taking up the whole road only to hit the curb with such force that I flew headfirst over my handlebars. After my face met the concrete, I got back on my bike and peddled the rest of the way back with blood pouring down face. One gentleman asked me if I was alright in an intersection, to which I replied, "Of course I am!"

What does this story teach us? Pedestrians, not drivers, are our worst enemies. They pop out between cars without a care in the world. They swing open doors, walk erratically, and sometimes even jeer. Drivers, on the other hand, seem to be accustomed to the fact that bikers will inevitably be on the road. They stay on a straight path, and usually give us enough space. It is important, then, not to just look out for oncoming cars, but also the ignorant pedestrian.

My most recent accident revolved around a set of trolley tracks and the bike's tire. I was riding along joyfully, and wham, I got tangled up in the tracks and ate pavement yet again. This lesson is, of course, trolley tracks are deathtraps. Always hit them completely perpendicular. Otherwise, the wheel will wedge into the track and kill you mercilessly.

My other two accidents were not really accidents since they involved



The author and Diana Ecker embark on an epic bicycle trip. *Photograph Courtesy of Diana Ecker.*

biking down stairs and a ramp. However, I have learned a couple more tidbits that are useful. First, do not be ashamed to swing up onto the sidewalk now and again. Sure it is not cool, but it beats dying. Also, do not try to squeeze between a parked van and a truck in an intersection. Just wait, and you will be rewarded with the light's quick return to green. Finally, wear a helmet. I do this wrong every single time, but I know I should stick one on my head. I should value my cranium more.

Despite these perils, bicycling is still the best way to get around a city. Not only is it environmentally friendly, but it is also efficient. Traffic jams and late subway trains do not apply to a biker. Besides, biking is a rather enjoyable way to get some good exercise.

Want to Write for the
Broad Street Journal?

Feel free to contact
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comments or suggestions.