

The Broad Street Journal

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Statue outside Pearson Hall.
Photograph by Bradisha Fraser

Adjusting to Life in Philadelphia

By Douglas Yeisley

Although I have spent significant time in New York, Los Angeles, and even Philadelphia, my last two years spent solely at Grantham had lulled me to sleep. All of those valuable urban skills slowly oozed out of my brain until I finally realized how much I needed to be back in a city. And here I am. The adjustment back to urban living of course has been exciting, silly, somehow both hard and easy, and even a bit sad.

The wonderful, exciting part of living in Philadelphia is to me very evident. All around me, I sense movement and vibrancy. I can get on the subway and go to the art museum, the market, or any store for that matter. I can meet fifty new people every day. This sense of freedom amidst millions of vastly different people is just such an amazing experience.

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Naked Chocolate Café:

By Melissa Paolangeli

At the Naked Chocolate Café on Walnut Street, it is impossible to enter without indulging in the rich, beckoning scent of chocolate. Half of the enjoyment of a night out at the café is observing the looks on the faces of customers as they enter and hearing their “oohs” and “ahhs” when the buttery smell overwhelms them.

Only a ten minute subway ride away from the Temple campus, Naked Chocolate is the perfect escape from a world of demanding professors and dreaded research papers. There are no dull, dried out cafeteria desserts here. Upon entering the café, glass cases well-stocked with temptations entice even the strictest dieter.

Try the Naked Chocolate Café for yourself:

1317 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-735-7310

Hours: Mon-Thurs 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.,
Fri-Sat 10 a.m. - 11:30 p.m., Sun 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Price: \$ (Average dessert \$3 - \$6)

Atmosphere: Casual

Cuisine: Desserts, Coffeehouse

Nearest SEPTA: Walnut - Locust Street on Broad Street Line



Image Courtesy of
nakedchocolatecafe.com

Perhaps the only negative comment that can be made about Naked Chocolate is the daunting menu filled with too many choices to satisfy the sweet tooth. Selecting from the hand iced cupcakes should be an effortless decision, but at this café, decisions are anything but easy. Not only do they offer classic chocolate and vanilla, but other alluring options include strawberry shortcake, key lime pie and carrot cake.

If chocolate is your fancy, dozens of hand made truffles and treats enthrall the passionate chocolate addict. Chocolates can be selected a la carte, or purchased as a platter, with the small starting at \$4.50 for five pieces. Be prepared - these works of art are not your standard candy bars. The platters feature both dark and milk chocolates along with a variety of truffles, some solid and some filled with creamy ganache. Naked Chocolate is not afraid to experiment with flavors, and does so successfully. Although chocolate, toasted sesame and anise seeds may not sound like an ideal combination, at this café they are a match made in heaven. The toasty crunch of the seeds blends perfectly with the smooth, sweet milk chocolate.

Some of the most indulgent items on the menu are the drinking chocolates. From Classic to Spicy, with Bittersweet and Aztec in between, the drinks are served hot or frozen. The Aztec is an exotic blend with hints of nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves.

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Community

Adjustment

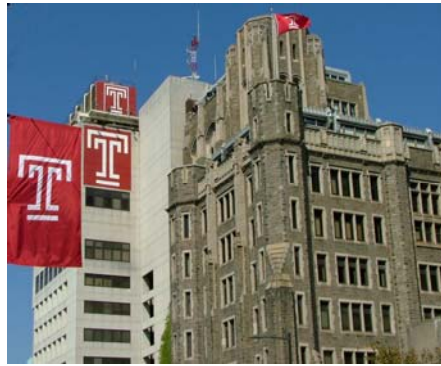
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The adjustment to Temple from Messiah has been the most ridiculous part of this whole transition. Obviously, Temple is much larger than Messiah and thankfully more diverse. My professors have been the best indicator of this. One professor came to class wearing a white tuxedo and a gold necklace while another professor specializes in witchcraft, which quite frankly does not surprise me a bit. The favorite person I met, however, was a professor who was just as lost as I was. And yes, as ashamed as I am to admit, I did indeed get lost. I had no idea what “BB” meant, looked on the map, and thought, “Oh, that must be the Bell Building.” Wrong. I ended up at the college’s radio station expecting to find my class.

The difficult and sad elements, unfortunately, are just as easy to notice. Crime is a part of urban living that cannot be ignored. We were told to stay on “bright, bright Broad Street” and given safety whistles. Although I did get my bike stolen in Grantham, this concern for safety is probably the most difficult adjustment we have to face.

I might not be a sociologist or criminologist, but the reason for such a high crime rate in this area seems obvious. The contrast between areas of Philadelphia is almost as great as the aforementioned contrast between Grantham and Philadelphia. Just to the north of us lie the so-called Badlands. As our service project briefly revealed, the area is quite aptly named. On a daily basis, the Badlands demonstrate the inequality that is present both in Philadelphia and in our country.

I hope everyone’s transition to the city was a smooth one. Just as important, I hope that everyone develops a love for the city. However, as it might be to always look south, it is important we do not forget our neighbors to the north. It is an immense opportunity for social change. I cannot give any solutions. However, that is why we are in the city: to learn.



Photograph by Bradisha Fraser

The Jumbo-Tron

A Glimpse into the Crazy World of Temple Football

By Diana Ecker

Ask a person what comes to mind when they hear the terms “Wild Cherries” and “Hooter,” and a response of “half enthused student fans” and “a school mascot” will probably not be the answer. Of course, that is assuming you are not a student at Temple University.

I had never been to a football game before I attended the season opening battle between the Temple Owls and the Navy Midshipmen. What an experience! Taking the subway to the stadium with a hundred other wild cherries was a night’s event in itself!

During the game, there were approximately five or six times when the Temple fans were inspired by the conduct of the Owls in uniform, with one of them being the single touchdown achieved by the team. I unashamedly admit that most of my attention was aimed at the enormous Jumbo-Tron screens on either side of the stadium. Not only did they improve the view of the game, but they also made the three-and-a-half hours of sitting more entertaining by featuring clips of unsuspecting fans every time the clock was stopped.

A Taste of Philly

By Jackie Dando

What can be better than a free lunch with music, friends, and beautiful weather? Add Philadelphia’s trademark cheesesteaks, soft pretzels, and Rita’s Water Ice, and you’ve got yourself a “Taste of Philly” festival. On Monday August 27th, a showcase of local restaurants and cafes, lined Liacouras Walk at Temple University to give students a sampling of the diverse area eateries.

The alluring smells and sounds enticed many students, drawing a packed crowd on the first day of classes. Popular music radiated from the speakers prompting dance moves and smiles on the sun-drenched afternoon. Many students from Messiah enjoyed the event, feeling comforted by being received by the Temple and Philadelphia community. “It was a delicious experience. People were coming together in community to taste some of Philadelphia’s native cuisine, and celebrate the commencement of the academic year,” said junior Messiah student, Victoria Brossy.

Hoping to entice students to their local eateries, each booth proudly displayed their banners and area addresses along with their signature dishes. Couch Tomato Café served hot pizza, and Termini’s Bro’s Bakery provided savory truffles. A local pub dished up hot wings and an Asian restaurant doled out spring rolls and dumplings. Famous Fourth Street Cookies became even more famous, as Temple students fell in love with their “just baked” taste. And of course, no one can forget the Citron green tea drinks being sold out of a van on Norris Street. Employing a similar marketing technique as Red Bull, the brightly colored cans later made an appearance in several room decorations. The event certainly was a medley of flavorful foods, but was more than just a free lunch. Each student was encouraged to become engaged in Philadelphia’s passion for food, all while being welcomed into the city’s community.

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Culture

Chocolate

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Although it is tempting to keep Naked Chocolate as your own personal rendezvous, the café sells plenty of goodies to take home to your friends so they can partake in the experience as well. Loose teas and chocolate pieces in edible boxes make the perfect gift for that special someone who deserves an indulgence.

The next time you are craving a sweet study break, Naked Chocolate Café is guaranteed to tease your taste buds and keep you coming back for more.



Photograph by Lacey Ward

Things to Enjoy:

Philadelphia Art Museum:

In case you haven't checked out the art museum yet, now would be a good time. Several interesting exhibits are currently being shown, including:

- ⌘ Pop Art
- ⌘ Japanese calligraphy
- ⌘ Polke, Kiefer, and Richter

Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Fringe

This eclectic festival features a variety of plays, dances, and other performances. Check out www.livearts-fringe.org for more information.

Reading Terminal Market

This renowned market offers fresh produce, Pennsylvania Dutch goods, and much more.

Film Review:

Too much for 'Two Days'

First-time director's film bites off more than it can chew

By Devin Thomas

It's a familiar scene: Boyfriend and Girlfriend visit Girlfriend's Mom and Dad. They greet, settle in, and eat dinner. After dinner, they retire to the living room, smoke cigarettes, and look over pictures from Boyfriend and Girlfriend's recent vacation. Seems pretty typical, right? Well, when Boyfriend is Jack (Adam Goldberg) and Girlfriend is Marion (Julie Delpy) and Mom and Dad are Marion's free-spirited, opened-minded, French parents (Delpy's real parents, Marie Pillet and Albert Delpy), nothing is typical. Halfway through the photo slideshow—"Here are the canals of Venice, and here's the Leaning Tower of Pisa"—Dad leaps up from his chair and says something in unintelligible French as he runs from the room. Mom starts to laugh. Marion starts to blush. And Jack starts to wonder why he agreed to this trip at all. Then, when Dad returns with a picture of Jack, naked and holding a couple of helium balloons, the scene becomes anything but familiar.

It's weird—nay, absurd and rather disgusting—that Mom and Dad have a picture of Boyfriend in the buff, right? Wrong. In the world of *2 Days in Paris*—a new film directed, co-produced, written, edited, and scored by Delpy, who also plays the female lead—parents are just as much a part of Boyfriend and Girlfriend's sex life as Boyfriend and Girlfriend themselves. Delpy—herself a native of the City of Lights—goes to great lengths to cast her home city as a place where coitus is discussed as casually as sports or the weather. It's a film that never quits, offering one bit of fast-paced dialogue or movement after another.



Image courtesy of Google Images

Two themes consume the film—sex and culture clash—and Delpy wastes no time exploring them: Marion's father is a painter, but only of pornographic subjects. The only American tourists in Paris are overweight, fanny pack-wearing Midwesterners on a *Da Vinci Code* tour. All the cab drivers are anti-Arabic and anti-Semitic. Marion can't help running into a moonstruck ex-boyfriend at every Parisian café. A French partygoer lectures Jack on the hostile nature of female genitalia. Marion's parents quiz Jack on French culture, trying to trip him up, chuckling at his tenuous grasp on the French language, while serving up braised rabbit for dinner. And Jack must decode the smutty text messages on Marion's phone with the help of his French-English pocket dictionary.

Some of this is funny, to be sure, but is it legitimate? Surely French people can come up with conversation topics that aren't about the bedroom? Surely Jack can pick up on more than five words of French after two days in the City of Lights? Maybe in the real world, but not in this movie.

To give credit where it's due, Delpy does a lot of things right in this movie. The two lead characters are fully realized and empathetic, if not likeable. Marion's parents are delightfully absurd. The dialogue crackles (for the most part) with witty one-liners.

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Show times for *Two Days in Paris*

Ritz at the Bourse
12:40, 2:50, 5:25, 7:25, 9:40

Urban Living

Film Review

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The character of the fairy—an anti-globalization activist fairy who convinces Jack to pursue Marion when their relationship is on the rocks—is certainly inspired.

But the biggest fault of this movie is that it fails to draw together all its dangling strands and say something meaningful. Given her desire to explore sexuality in the midst of cross-cultural confusion, it seems that Delpy would have something important or at least insightful to say about the nature of relationships in our ever-expanding globalized world. Alas, she keeps silent. Even at the final crucial moment of confrontation—I'm trying not to give away the ending here—when all the various threads seem to be twisting together, Delpy lets them fray, seemingly content to let them merely hang where they are. Perhaps there's just too much to say for a ninety-

Football

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Male cheerleaders shouted in their horns, but remained inaudible, while female cheerleaders shook the life out of their "wild cherry" pom-poms. The dance team performed numbers featuring leg kicks, graceful jumping, and extended arms. Hooter the owl mascot was even spotted riding an electric scooter along the outside of the field. All of these things were happening as enormous young men strategically moved the leather walnut down the field as the girls behind me yelled "Git 'em, git 'em!!"

My first live football experience was certainly not a disappointment. However, it was a reminder of the human need to congregate and watch human competition rooted in violence and strategy. This mentality has existed for thousands of years, and as long as the admission is free, it doesn't matter how bad your team is. You might even get camera time on the Jumbo-Tron.

Result: Navy 30 Temple 19. Better luck next time!



Photograph by Lacey Ward

Alternative Transportation: The Bicycle

By Erin Hayes

By now most of us have probably figured out Philadelphia's subway system, one that is quite simple compared to other large cities. The buses and trolleys are slightly more complex, but one can navigate them fairly easily given some planning time. Many destinations in the city are conveniently within walking distance. While driving or owning cars is less of a necessity in the city than in suburban or rural areas, automobile travel makes up 84% of urban travel in the United States, according to the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia. Many Philadelphia residents have discovered that they prefer to ride bicycles to reach in-Philly destinations when possible, a means of transportation that renders the satisfaction from having exercised the innate capability to work for daily needs.

Bicycling is an efficient way to travel around the city; it is much faster and less tiring than walking long distances, and often takes little more time than the bus or subway. Unlike automobiles and most means of public transportation, bicycles do not require gasoline or electricity, so they impact the environment minimally.

I would encourage all urban residents to consider investing in a bicycle. Purchasers should keep in mind that a quality bike can be pricey, and occasional maintenance costs add up. There are all kinds of bike shops throughout Philadelphia that offer bike maintenance services as well as new and used bikes for sale.

Discussion of urban bicycling often inevitably raises questions regarding safety. Several streets in Philadelphia provide bicyclists with their own lane of travel. A bike lane can assist in the safety of bicyclists who wish to share the road with automobiles. Not all drivers are amiable toward bicyclists in the city; so when riding, bicyclists must communicate with drivers, even if only via eye contact.

Bicycling in the city presents certain risks, but the experience brings competence and familiarity with the understood code among urban bicyclists and motorists. Beginner bicyclists might even enjoy an adrenaline rush from riding in close proximity with automobiles.

So take the opportunity (even if it's just for this semester) to discover the satisfaction that results from using a bike as a means to reach your everyday destinations.

**Want to write or take photographs
for the Broad Street Journal?**

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