



# the HUDSONIAN

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## FSA 2 - Student Senate 0

TAYLOR BASTOW  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Student Senate's second attempt to organize an educational spring break trip for students was denied by the Faculty Student Association at last Monday's meeting.

Liability issues, legitimacy of the educational activities proposed for the trip, and finances were among the topics under scrutiny by the board members in opposition.

"The FSA isn't representing the best interests of the students," said Severin Kameni, Student Senate Vice President, "If they did, the trip would have passed."

Katherine Duffy, Senior Class President said, "They had their minds made up before we got there."

The vote Monday for the Student Senate sponsored trip to San Francisco, California came down to a 4-4 tie. The trip would have needed 6 votes in support to pass.

"I don't think the institution should be sponsoring spring break trips," said William Fagan, a Board of Trustees Representative on the FSA Board. "Historically we've been the only college in New York State that does that."

"The FSA rarely doesn't pass student senate proposals," said Anne Carrozza, Executive Director of the FSA. There are very few colleges that do spring break trips, she added.

At Monday's meeting, Fagan argued that HVCC's spring break trip is a leftover relic of the past, and probably not a good practice in this day and age.

"Our decisions should not

be based on what others are doing at other colleges", said Laurie Kime, a Senior Senator. "Education exists beyond the walls of this college."

Another board member opposed to the trip proposal explained that when he was in college, he would have felt uncomfortable letting the money he paid into the student activities fund used to pay for someone else's plane ticket to California over spring break.

*"I don't think the institution should be sponsoring spring trips."*

- William Fagan, Board of Trustees Representative

The trip to San Francisco would have cost roughly \$600 for one student. That fee would have encompassed five days stay, an educational cruise, and whale watching among other activities that would enrich an educational experience proposed by the Senate.

Contrary to the arguments that Spring Break trips are a thing of the past, rests the fact that students of Hudson Valley have an opportunity to go to Washington D.C. this spring, subsidized by the Senate.

Although the senate supported the D.C trip, the professors who pushed for the trip knew that the political science and criminal justice students would gain the most from the experience, said Victoria Ramos, Student Senate President.

The D.C. trip, explained Kameni at Monday's meeting, was originally planned to be a

weekend trip. It was only when two professors from the History, Philosophy, Social Sciences Department asked the Senate for their help that the trip became "the spring semester educational trip" that it is now.

Accountability was another topic that raised eyebrows at the meeting last week. One Board member inquired how the trip would make students accountable for showing up to the workshops proposed in the itinerary. This question was not raised during the discussion for the D.C. trip.

Washington D.C. and the student senate proposed Puerto Rico and San Francisco trips were planned for the same dates. The cost per student was proposed to be between \$600 and \$700, after roughly \$400 subsidies from the senate. "In general I think there was less emphasis the issues that could arise in D.C. compared to San Francisco", said Ramos.

Hardly any questions asked at that meeting. The D.C trip it seemed was passed without the bat of an eyelash. No questions about residency, cost, or other factors that they hammered the senate with for Puerto Rico and San Francisco, said Ramos.

The Senate wanted a spring break trip that would appeal to a broader diversity of students. Puerto Rico was the first attempt, and the first failure. There was speculation by several students involved that the 18-year-old drinking age may have determined the outcome of the Puerto Rico trip. The Senate was determined and got back on the spring



THERE WILL BE NO STUDENT TRIP TO SAN FRANCISCO THIS YEAR.

break trip horse. San Francisco became the next prospect on their list.

Spring Break trips have been going on for nearly 25 years and have historically been recreational and a good opportunity for students to relax. Last year the FSA by-laws were changed and with those changes came a change in the definition of the spring break trip.

The old "Spring Break Trip" had been recently replaced with "A spring semester educational trip," said Dr. Alexander Popovics, President of the Faculty Student Association

and Vice President of Student Enrollment at Hudson Valley. "We took "break" out of it," he added.

Questions arose at the meeting regarding whether the new definition of a spring semester educational trip applied to one trip per semester, or all the trips throughout the semester. One of the board members at Monday's meeting was present when the spring break definition changed over the summer.

He said that the intent of the wording change was that if the college sends students on the road for a trip, they should

benefit from it. He went on to say however, that benefiting from a trip is a very open-ended phrase that can conjure up a variety of interpretations.

Regardless of the outcome, and the subsequent perceptions associated with the spring break trip dilemma, there remains no senate sponsored spring break trip besides D.C. "While this wasn't a favorable outcome for students, the Student Senate has learned from this experience and can now better provide for the students desires throughout the remained of the year," said Ramos.

## A Student's New Legacy

SAMANTHA BREWER  
STAFF WRITER

"I'm a perfectionist, everyone who wants to pursue a career in film needs to be like that," said HVCC freshman, Andrew Balog, director of the upcoming movie Bound by Borders. He explained that if you don't put your heart into the movie, then you should not be a director.

Andrew initially came up with the idea for the movie while he was still a senior in high school. He didn't start working on it though, until August. He mentioned that the idea for the movie was hovering around in his head. Andrew explained that the story line changed a few times, but has been solid since about October.

Andrew said, "The movie is about a person named Marcus Joyce. He lives in the slums of north Worthington New York, but he is happy" Andrew later went on to say "Events take place that change his future. Something happens that is unexpected and it changes everything."

Andrew Balog said, "Inspiration for the movie was actually from a friend of mine..... The film isn't based off of him; the whole film is a fictional piece."

He currently has 13 people in his cast and crew. The movie is currently in the pre-production phase. Andrew hopes to start shooting soon, with plans to have the movie in the post-production phase in May of 2011. The movie's release date is to be announced but is set to come out sometime in the winter of 2011, as mentioned on the logsleisure



website.

Andrew Balog can be found on IMDB.com. Some of his other films include Alone in the House: the Beginning and Alone in the House 2. Both of these movies are in the horror genre.

"Both movies actually took a long time to make, longer than actually this one," said Balog.

Andrew won recognition from his high school for best film of 2010 for Alone in the House: the Beginning. One of his films was recently viewed at a film festival. Andrew can do a range of jobs for film. His job experience ranges from Camera Operation, Cinematography, Writing, Editing, Directing, and Producing.

"Film is something I definitely want to pursue," said Andrew, when asked if he wanted to pursue film as a career.

He is also working on a web series called Magic from

the Realm. This is in post-production, more information on it can be found on Balogs' leisure website.

Andrew is currently looking for actors and actresses for his movie, Bound by Borders. He is also looking for more crew to join his team. For more information on what Andrew Balog is looking for, go to logsleisureentertainment.com.

On the site you can find contact information and a list of jobs available. You can also find information or contact them on the L.L.E facebook or L.L.E twitter. More information is provided on the website.

For more information on Andrew's other movies go to IMDB.com. On the site, you can find a biography on Andrew and the list of his works.

## King of Pop's Garb on Display

AMY MODESTI  
PHOTO EDITOR

Fans of the ABC network's reality show, "Dancing with the Stars", and the departed pop icon, Michael Jackson, are able to view the various costumes, shoes, jackets, set designs, and other memorabilia in their separate areas at the National Museum of Dance and Hall of Fame.

Located in Saratoga Springs, New York, the National Museum of Dance and Hall of Fame is the only museum in the nation that's dedicated entirely to dance. Since its opening in 1986, visitors are able to view its various exhibitions and collection of photographs, artifacts, videos, costumes, and archives throughout the museum. In addition to viewing the collections, students in the ballet and dance programs at the Lewis A. Swyer for the Performing Arts are able to take classes with dancers, rehearse their routines, and participate in a pre-performance conversation with the visiting professionals at the museum.

Throughout the one floor museum, visitors are able to view photographs of dancers and purchase souvenirs at the Art in the Foyer, and view information about the various dancers, critics, teachers, designers, and patrons such as Fred Astaire, Martha Graham, and the newest inductee, Michael Jackson, inside the C.V. Whitney Hall of



Several pieces of Michael Jackson memorabilia on display.  
Amy Modesti

fame. Children are able to dress up in costumes and dance for their families and watch videos with their parents inside the Children's Wing. Visitors are able to view its various exhibitions and collections such as the NYC Ballet, Michael Jackson Tribute Exhibit, A Dancing With The Stars Exhibit, Postage Paid:

Dance Around the World, In A Labyrinth: The Dance of Butoh, and The Washington Bathhouse.

Forty-six costumes and ten pairs of shoes, worn by the celebrities and professional dancers, were displayed inside a small gallery space at the "Dancing

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# News

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## Midnight Release Madness

Over one hundred gamers brave the cold to get first chance at the new World of Warcraft expansion, *Cataclysm*  
Ben Max

**BEN MAX**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Midnight releases have created a new subculture among our consumer-based population. Drove of people wait outside for the chance to be the first person to buy a new video game, read the first edition of a new book, or be the first to see a brand-new movie.

It shows here, in the midnight release, as over fifty people have lined up in the bitter cold on this December evening for a chance to be among one of the first people to get the game.

"I've been out here for six hours," said Lemuel Dyson, a local resident. "I want to be the first to enjoy Cataclysm."

Dyson was referring to World of Warcraft: Cataclysm, an expansion to the perennially popular massively-multiplayer

online game, World of Warcraft. Eleven million people worldwide are currently subscribed and playing this game, easily making it the most popular video game played online.

According to an anonymous Gamestop employee, this wasn't even close to the biggest outpouring of dedication for a video game, even in recent memory. Call of Duty: Black Ops, an online shooter, had over 300 people waiting in line — some camping outside with lawn chairs and portable grills, giving the feeling of a tailgating party before a big football game.

"I've never seen anything like it," said the anonymous employee. "There was a line wrapped around the building, and we didn't get out until one-thirty in the morning."

Customers that wait forever aren't necessarily left in

the cold, either. Dedication on that level is often rewarded, as the first dozen people waiting in tonight's line got key chains and laynairs. Other events have seen cardboard cutouts given away, even paraphernalia pertaining to the game itself, like action figures or strategy guides.

Video games are not the only medium that enjoys a blossom of sales when the clock strikes twelve. Books like the Harry Potter series and movies like Lord of the Rings have seen midnight releases, often to a frenzied success.

Even Student Senate President Victoria Ramos has gotten in on the action, having gone to the midnight release of the book Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.

"It was unlike anything I'd ever seen," said Ramos. "I was twelve at the time, and I remem-

ber thinking 'I've never seen this many people gathered in one place — just for a book!'"

Not everyone is as keen to stay out in the cold for their long awaited prize. For some, the bitter chill is just too much — especially with a video game like Cataclysm, where the game can be purchased and downloaded from one's own computer without having to brave the elements.

"It's freezing out here, I'm not waiting any longer," said Anna Bootier, a SUNY Albany junior. She had been waiting patiently for four hours, and had had enough. Fortunately for her, her boyfriend was there to finish the standing.

"I always finish what she starts," said Tim Bishop, also a SUNY Albany junior.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Have you ever waited until the last minute to do an assignment? A short essay? Heaven forbid, a research paper?

It's not a fun time. Yours truly decides to routinely wait until the last minute to do everything, including this newspaper from time to time.

This happens to everyone, for various reasons. Your social life gets in the way, you have so much other work to do, or you simply forget until you check Blackboard the night before. Some say that they do their best work at the last minute.

The greatest paper I've ever written was for a history class on World War II. It was a ten-page paper, and I, like the procrastinating fool I am, waited until two days before to being my research. Needless to say, it was my own personal hell.

I was locked in my dimly lit bedroom, listening to Pain of Salvation to keep me going. Two twelve-hour days of writing and researching later, I had come out with a paper detailing the two Battles of el Alamein, knowing more about that subject than I had ever before, or even now.

I obtained a 95 on that paper, feeling proud but somewhat cheapened by the process. I spent two days of extreme output doing this paper. I makes me wonder what the paper would have been like had I spaced it out and carefully laid my plans out.

It makes sense that it would have been a better paper, but to achieve a natural flow like the stream of consciousness this

paper I don't think is possible in multiple sittings.

Papers are one thing that suffers with procrastinating, but there are several more dire circumstances for putting off what can be done today til tomorrow.

For instance, anything that requires money, like car payments, taxes, unpaid parking tickets and tuition fees are always bad to ignore until you have a collector knocking down your door and hauling you off.

Relationships are definitely another institution that can't be procrastinated. You could find yourself homeless or without a date if you neglect your personal discourse with those you surround yourself with.

In this regard, life is a lot like the video game the Sims. You won't get punished right away for putting off your Sim's needs, like eating, sleeping, and using the bathroom.

Ignore your hapless digital doppelganger for long enough and s/he'll either go clinically sane or get a visit from death himself.

This is obviously and extreme and impossible example. but the point remains the same. Procrastinating is bad. I may be the worst of them all at it, but then again, that's why I'm writing this letter.

Being an expert at procrastinating affords me the hindsight to know it was an awful life trait to develop. Don't be like me and don't let this happen to you.

**BEN MAX,**  
MANAGING EDITOR

## Raneri's Passion Not an Act

**CHELSEA ROMAN**  
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

"One of the most exciting things you can do, as a human being is to help people realize their potential," says Rosanne Raneri, a Theatre Arts instructor at Hudson Valley Community College. Many students go to school without realizing the true person their instructor is, and how each one of us influences him or her. Why not put ourselves in their shoes and see life, and work from their perspective?

Rosanne Raneri has been one of Hudson Valley's most energetic instructors who adds that little extra excitement to the educational field. She is a woman of many talents and lots of drive. So what triggers this energy and this positive outlook on her daily life?

"I'm very lucky and grateful. How can I be down, when I am a person in this life who experiences an abundance and opportunity?" Rosanne says calmly talking about why she is as positive as she is.

Whether you are one of her students or not, she is a woman of great understanding and compassion. Miss. Raneri will care for you no less than any other student of hers. She has a very unique way of teaching. She loves for all of her students to be involved, and if not, then she encourages you to do so.

"I really enjoy the way she teach-

es," says Patrick Farley, a student in Raneri's Theatre Acting class. "Her use of the theatre space and class activities creates an environment that allows me to learn through doing," adds the 25 year old.

"She has also managed to create an environment where I feel comfortable enough around my classmates to explore different ways to express myself."

Not many professors are enthusiastic about their jobs, some aren't as understanding as others and they don't spend the time to get through to each and every one of their students. Rosanne Raneri fulfills each and every one of those traits.

She cares not only for her students, but she wishes them to go on and be successful with what they continue to do in their lives.

"I want them to get what it is like to connect with other people; to get a better understanding for themselves" she says, about what she hopes her students get out of her class. "I want them to feel like they can lighten up. The academic experience can free you, instead of bringing you down. I want my students to learn why things are valuable."

"Rosanne is a great teacher," says Alex Perry, a 22 year old Individual Studies Major, "she encourages people to try, no matter how successful or incorrect that try might be, she gives praise for that try." He adds, "She inspires confidence by being so infec-

tious; just being in the same room as her makes you want to participate."

In her Theatre Acting class, she has roughly well over twenty students in each class. Students who come in barely knowing one another and with each passing day, they get this urge to just be themselves, to loosen up and be "Crazy Rascals" as she likes to call them. By the end of the three hour class, you have learned more about acting than any other teacher has taught you about their respective subjects said Perry.

"I want them to get what it's like to connect with others, and to get a better understanding for themselves," Raneri said.

A quote she strongly admires is one by Ralph Waldo Emerson, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us. And when we bring what is within us out into the world, miracles happen."

"I believe human beings are luminous, expansive space, we have infinite potential, but the most important thing in our lives is love and compassion," she said.

Like everyone else, she has and does have times where she just needs to back away, and take everything in.

"There have been times when I wanted to run away to sort things out, but never wanted to give up," Raneri says. "I've wanted to distance myself, and get time away." She adds, "I'm stubborn and I hate giving into

fear, fear of failure, and letting others down.

In 2001 to 2003, she took a break from HVCC and New York State altogether, and moved out to Boston. "I was second guessing what I wanted to do," she says. "I needed a new start but hated being away." After two years there, she decided to move back to New York. "While I was in Boston, I learned what I really wanted. Don't need to live away to have that part of me be satisfied," she explained.

Besides teaching in the theatre department, Rosanne is also one of Hudson Valley Community College's Forum instructors. She teaches the newer students of HVCC about what's to be expected during their time here. She informs them how and where to get help around campus, how to manage their time and also how to control their amount of stress.

Rosanne is always teaching her students how to calm their brains from their process of continuous thoughts. She is always having them meditate so that they can clear their heads. She makes sure every individual has an understanding for what it is that's going on.

Within her lessons she always seems to add in a little joke. She enjoys watching the people around her laugh and not stress over the small stuff. "Laugh! Make yourself laugh, or watch a movie, talk with a

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RANERI



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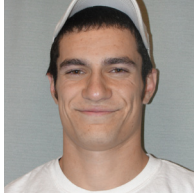
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# Features

December 16 2010

## DANCE

Contd. from front page

with the Stars" Exhibit. Out of the forty-six costumes, forty-five costumes were designed for the female professional dancers, Cheryl Burke, Julianne Hough, Karina Smirnoff, Elysa Sliwiska, Ashley Del Grosso, Charlotte Jorgensen, Kym Johnson, and Lacey Schwimmer. Celebrities such as Melissa Rycroft, Joanna Krupa, Pricilla Presley, Kelly Monaco, Cloris Leachman, Rachel Hunter, and Stacy Keibler. The only male outfit that was displayed was worn by Tom DeLay. All of the costumes were designed by Maria McGill and Randall Christensen during seasons one through nine of "Dancing with the Stars" for various dances such as the samba, freestyle, quickstep, jive, cha-cha-cha, and the foxtrot. On the right side of the room, ten pairs of

shoes, worn by celebrities such as Vivica A. Fox, Emmitt Smith, Mario Lopez, Joey Lawrence, and Jerry Springer, were displayed in a white shelf. These shoes were created by Worldtone Dance, the official shoe provider



The Great One's Silhouette

for the television show.

Surrounding the C.V. Whitney Hall of Fame is the Michael Jackson Tribute Exhibit. Visitors are able to view a timeline of Jackson's life and a portrait of himself on the wall, view artifacts such as the guitar used in one of Jackson's songs, records, jackets and pants that Jackson wore. On some of the walls, visitors are able to watch the movie, "This is It", and the music videos, "Black and White", "Thriller", and "Billie Jean" on a television

placed on the wall. For each of the music videos, a mural of a scene was painted on the wall next to the video. The wall for the music video, "Black and White", had both a mural painting and a construction of a balcony that was used in the movie. A Jackson 5 setup consisting of five microphones, a video, and a lighting stage setup can also be seen on the wall near Jackson's music video, "Thriller".

The National Museum of Dance and Hall of Fame is only open on

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The museum will be closed for the winter from December 20, 2010 to March 4, 2011. The admission fee to enter the museum is \$6.50 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors and students, \$3.00 for children ages 4-12, and free for children ages 3 and under. For more information about the National Museum of Dance and Hall of Fame and its current exhibitions, visit the website, <http://www.dancemuseum.org/index.html>.



Amy Modesti among the wall of postage paid at the Museum of Dance

Amy Modesti

## Troy Feeling Festive For Holidays

AMY MODESTI  
PHOTO EDITOR

Black Friday may have unofficially started the holiday shopping season with a bang, but it was Troy's Victorian stroll and the tree lighting ceremony at the state capital that gave residents of the Capital Region on December 5, 2010, a chance to be in the Christmas spirit and enjoy themselves during the ongoing festivities.

From 11:00am-5:00pm, thousands of visitors walked through the city of Troy, NY to view its many attractions and activities during the 28th Annual Victorian Stroll. Artists and visitors had the opportunity to view the newest exhibition shows at the Martinez Gallery, Fulton Street Gallery, and view the open studios, featuring local artists, Deborah Bayly, Robert Longley, Shawn Snow, Armando Soto, and Lori Sylvester at the Ilium Building.

Away from the cold weather, visitors had a chance to walk through the Atrium to purchase winter jackets, homemade jewelry, baked goods, pillows, photographs, wire sculptures, and even have their portraits drawn by a portrait artist. Visitors had a chance to check out booths from Reality Check and the Sage Colleges, and listen to a band and the Troy High School choirs sing songs at the center of the Atrium.

River Street was another popular destination to visit during the Victorian Stroll. Visitors had a chance to view reindeer inside a small fenced in area, get



Troy monument is festively decorated for the holiday season

Amy Modesti

something to eat at the Dinosaur BBQ vendor, listen to musicians perform at a local music store and Monument Square, and check out the exhibition shows at the local galleries and studios. Visitors had a chance to get a ride through the city on a fire truck and a horse carriage either for free or for five dollars.

At the end of the Victorian Stroll, visitors had the chance to see the Troy Monument lit up in Christmas lights at Monument Square. At the same time as the lighting of the Troy Monument, visitors were able to drive to Albany, NY to see the lighting of the state capital's Christmas tree at Empire State Plaza. In honor of the tree lighting, fireworks were shot into the air once the ceremony was over. After the fireworks, visitors were able to

have their pictures taken near the tree with their families and friends before they left the area. Residents and visitors are able to see the tree at the Empire State Plaza until January 7, 2011.

Despite the chilly weather, visitors and residents from the Capital Region alike enjoyed the ongoing festivities and events that kicked off the holiday season in Troy and Albany.

For more information about the Victorian stroll, visit the website, <http://www.victorians-troll.com/>. For more information about the tree lighting and any events that happen in Albany, visit the website, <http://www.albanyny.org/home.aspx>.

# He's Called Fran the Can Man

BEN MAX  
MANAGING EDITOR

Anyone that has spent any significant amount of time in the Clifton Park - Half-Moon area of upstate New York may have noticed a man periodically cruising around on his bicycle, collecting wayward cans and bottles. At first glance, he may give the appearance of a bum - he always dressed in earth tones, seemingly always has some sort of five-o'clock shadow going on, and regardless of the weather is always seen riding his bike around town.

These assertions could not actually be further than the truth. Francis Prouty, 61, better known as Francis the Can Man, has been collecting cans and cleaning up the streets of Clifton Park and Half-Moon for nearly thirty years.

He does indeed have his own home, and he lives in and maintains it all himself. He's not a bum, he asserts, but a public servant. "I started doing this sort of thing when I got back from Vietnam," said Prouty. "It started as a first-responder duty for the fire department, riding my bike around the town trying to spot people in need of help, and phoning back to the fire department." What he's famous for, however, is his vintage three-speed Raleigh bike with two baskets on his rear wheels, usually stacked to the brim with empty cans and bottles he collects.

"The can collecting started while I was out doing a little 'recon' for the West Crescent Fire Department," started Prouty. "I noticed that there was just litter and cans everywhere while I was biking around, so I threw these old baskets on the back of my bike and decided to start cleaning up a little."

However, upon further



Francis Prouty, better known as Fran the Can Man, with his new bike

Ben Max

prying, it appears that there's more to the can story than just Prouty seeing litter and wanting to do something about it. This traces back to his time in Vietnam.

"War is brutal," said Prouty. "All that beautiful jungle, just razed and destroyed for nothing. I couldn't consciously come home after seeing what I saw and not do something about it." Prouty would not go into much more detail about what he meant, although he added that "there was broken metal and shrapnel everywhere."

Clifton Park residents take notice of Prouty's efforts, as several denizens of the town know him by name or his trademark

red helmet and yellow rain slicker (so much for earth tones).

"How could you live in Half-Moon and not know Francis?" said Beth Plastini, a local resident. "He's been an institution in our town for almost three decades, cleaning up when everyone else would just throw their crap in the streets."

Almost everyone in the community has a story about Mr. Prouty. Take Kate Hayden, 21 of Niskayuna for instance. As she said, "When I was little, I used to see him riding his bike when I was on my way to school - every day, like clockwork. It would be fair to say that Francis was one of the staples of my childhood."

Hayden added, "Now, when

I come home from college and I see him, it's like being a kid again. It's comforting that some things never change."

"A man like Francis deserves a little recognition and the kind of person he is - he would never go out and get it himself."

- Andrew Derk

Even residents of other states have heard of the legend of Francis the Can-Man. Lois Armstrong, a former resident of Stillwater but now resides in California, was here visiting her brother when she met Francis.

"I didn't think New Yorkers were like this," said Armstrong. "He has such a beautiful soul, a real pillar of the community. He would fit in perfectly out west."

Prouty's status as a local legend has gotten to the point where the Can-Man himself has his own Facebook page, with over two thousand people from all over the country liking it. Andrew Derk, who erected the Francis the Can-Man page, had only pleasant things to say about him.

Derk said he made the page because "a man like Francis deserves a little recognition and the kind of person he is - he would never go out and get it himself."

Derk not only constructed the page, but put together a fundraiser for Francis to get him a new bike, as he had been using the same bike since the seventies. With everyone in the community pitching in, the fundraising only took five days.

Andrew Derk said he started the fundraiser "to give something to Francis, who has given our community and our town so much. No one ever asked him to, he just did these things because that's who he is."

At first, Prouty wasn't convinced of the bike and in fact thought it was a scam. Not the most computer-savvy of us, however Derk showed him how popular the Can-Man had become and said it would mean a lot to everyone involved if he accepted the bike.

At the West Crescent Fire Department meeting in November, Francis was presented with his new 3-speed rear-basket equipped Raleigh bike, to a bevy of applause. Francis seemed overwhelmed by the amount of support, he could be seen holding back tears as he

accepted the bike.

"Never in my life, did I ever think collecting cans would touch this many people, let alone anyone at all," said a humble Francis in front of a couple dozen fire fighters and local fans.

As the holiday season now approaches, everyone has their own way to prepare, and Francis is no different. To show his holi-

"I plan on biking around here and doing what I do until I can't anymore."

- Francis Prouty

day spirit, Francis decks his bike out with Christmas lights that run off of a battery, which in it of itself has its own story to it.

"I used to have a hobby of working around battery-operated lights," said Francis. "And one day, I happened to walk into a store selling Christmas lights that work with batteries, and the rest is history."

The holidays used to be a tough time for Prouty, as well. He's outlived his family and never married. The strength and love of the community is what keeps him going.

"I used to do this because I loved cleaning up and the solitude of riding my bicycle all day," said Prouty. "There's an entire new layer all these years later because people know me, and actually know me. It's a warm feeling, this community and these people are my family."

Although this edition of his bike may only last the holidays, Francis promises he'll be around as long as he can.

As Francis put it, "I plan on biking around here and doing what I do until I can't anymore."

# Features

December 16 2010

## This Band is A Way of Life

BEN SEIDE  
STAFF WRITER

For most bands playing music is something they love to do, but for Timbre Coup its about introducing the world to new combinations of music styles to keep live music interesting to everyone who sees them.

Timbre Coup consist of 4 members who all share one thing in common. They all share the same love for playing music and creating something special for live music in the world today. For Ben, Matt, Dan and Andrew playing music isn't just a hobby, it's a way of life.

"In order to play music, you have to work through the struggles of being an unsigned band and it all pays off when you play in front of your fans," said Ben Pickering, the guitarist and bassist for the band. "I'm willing to suffer to play music for the rest of my life, because that's what I love to do." He added. "I want to be playing the music I love in front of people who want to hear it."

Timbre Coup came onto the music scene in June 2007 with original guitarist named Ryan Lofaro. They began playing shows around the Albany area while trying to figure out where the band was going.

In November 2008, Andrew Chamberlaine was added and Lofaro was dropped. This brought about new influences and ideas to fuel Timbre Coup into 2009 and beyond.

"I had heard Timbre Coup play before when playing for a former band, I had seen that they

were very talented musicians and I enjoyed how the audience reacted to their music," said Andrew Chamberlaine the bands lead guitarist. "That's when Matt reached out and gave me the opportunity to join the band." He later added.

This set the standard for what Timbre Coup wanted to do, it gave them all the confidence that they knew they could work well together as a band.

"When I brought things to the band, it gave me confidence that my own ideas would expand and turn into something more creative," said Matt Pickering the drummer for the Timbre Coup.

Since then the Band has seen some remarkable results. One of their most popular songs "Don't Fly a key on a kite string when it's lightning" was featured on the CD sampler for Relix Magazine in December 2009. They continue to move forward with great songs such as Something about Radio, October and Z-Sharp. Altogether Timbre Coup carries an arsenal of 30 original songs since 2008.

"I like the song October and their songs about the seasons," said Matt Glock, a fan from Albany, NY. "It really shows the progression, feeling and mood of the band as it goes throughout the year," he added.

When it comes to the band, their ultimate direction is to make touring and live music the way of life for the band, and through that becomes a way to connect to the people who want to hear them play. They want to maintain stability in life while growing and playing music for



the rest of their lives.

"I enjoy playing with a group of guys that is like-minded in creating a new style of music or combinations of styles of music in order to keep live music interesting," said Dan Gerken the bands other bassist and guitarist.

The music-making process is very important to what the band wants to do now and heading into the future, as Timbre Coup is a band that changes with the ebb and flow of the band's mood.

"We change our music as much as possible so we are not doing the same thing over and over," said Ben. "Topics and themes change from song to song and album to album," he added.

Although they are continuously changing topics and themes, Timbre Coup is constant

in the way it makes its music.

"The music-making process really involves trading ideas off each other until we find a basic structure that is worthy of our original vision," said Matt. "Andrew and Dan have contributed full songs, but the other members are still needed to write their own parts," he added. "They all vary between different subjects which are set by the instrumentation of the music."

Sometimes the songs simply come together by the band jamming out during a weekly rehearsal.

"Something about radio started as a jam and grew into one of the bands favorite hits, said Andrew. "Whether it be in a jam or a basic idea, everyone works together to complete the final product," he later added.

Every week Monday through Thursday, Timbre Coup is working hard on getting ready for the following week when they usually play their shows. They practice new songs and covers that they're going to play along with jamming in between different songs.

"We plan our practices to make sure were ready for the weekend ahead," said Dan. "We write our setlists for the weekend and prepare for the audience were trying to appeal to," he stated.

"As time has gone by, I can tell that our music is a lot more mature," said Dan. "Certain styles have become apparent," he added. "We have become better at creating songs and forming a strong cohesive idea or theme for what we are trying to do."

The band plans to work with new manager Greg Bell in getting their music distributed from Philadelphia to Burlington. This marks a new chapter in the lives of Timbre Coup. Timbre Coup can thank Greg Bell for their opening acts for U-melt and the New Deal, which they believe really helped show the world what they can do when giving an opportunity.

For copies of their CD's or merchandise, visit any show and you will find what you're looking for. For more information on Timbre Coup or their music you can visit their website online at TimbreCoup.com or listen to their shows on archive.org where there are three shows to listen to. The band urges fans to come to the show and hear a new sound they might've not heard before.



Photo courtesy of Sean Gorse

## Finding an Escape Through Music

CHELSEA ROMAN  
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

While most bands sell out and do what others want, My Only Escape stays true to themselves with their originality and style.

My Only Escape is made of five young guys with five different personalities but they all share one goal. This goal is to travel the country playing their music knowing that they have the chance to influence people everywhere. For Mike Lennon, lead vocals, Terrence McKiernan, guitar, Jeremy Heuberger, drums, Cody Frazier, guitar, and Josh Weintraub, bass, music is a way of expressing themselves to the people who want to hear it.

"We're taking it slower and just trying to have the music

available so that there's than the demand for someone to hear us play their town rather than we have to go there and convince them to want us to be there." For this Orange County band, it's about waiting for the right time to put out new material.

With one full length album and three EP's out, the members are currently working on a new project due out sometimes this January. It has been eight months since MOE put out an album or song, and for all of the guys, it's about getting their message out there and heard when the time is right, unlike their first album "From Tiger Woods," where they refer to it as being "rushed into."

"Beethoven never rushed any of his masterpieces" says

Jeremy, the 20 year-old drummer.

With all the band members in school, and having full time jobs, their education is more important. They are all set on getting back to the point where they can do the band at a point where they want to do it again. "What we are doing now is going to allow us to play more than we used to," says Mike, the bands lead vocalist.

Most artists these days play shows just to play. The more tickets sold, the more money they make, and it doesn't matter about getting their music out there and having the audience fully understand. For these five guys, they are taking the time to write what is true. For lead

vocalist, Mike, this is an outlet that he needs. Being able to play shows, and have the emotional release and connection to the audience is something that is missed when it's not there. Terrence refers back to some shows where most of the people just don't get their message that their trying to send out.

Bands usually just tour around the country for the hell of it; they see it as an opportunity to be heard and at a shot of hopefully going further in the industry. For My Only Escape, they have a different mindset on the whole touring idea. They want to become more established as a band but not at the sacrifice of advancing the rest of their lives.

"It's a gamble to just say,

I'm gonna invest all my money into this and I'm gonna buy a van and drive around. But unless you're very good it's a waste of your effort and your time," says Lennon.

"On our first and only tour so far, we played a show in Long Island, out in Amityville, and we've never played a show out there before and we started off with a brand new song at that point and kids really liked it." Terrence said. "Then we went into an older song and all of a sudden half of these kids were on stage. And it's that kind of thing where you have people who want you to come and people who want to see you, rather than you're just touring around to tour around."

For them, it doesn't matter the size of the venue, the amount of kids that show up to performances (though that does help), or the amount of CD's or EP's they sell, what matters is that the listeners understand their words and their hard work and dedication to each song.

Every local and unsigned bands dream is to be signed and make it big. What most don't realize is that there is a long and tantalizing process on the path to stardom. Unlike artists such as Mike Posner or Justin Bieber, who made it big by recording themselves over websites like YouTube, the industry and procedure is very time consuming and difficult.

"What we believe in is to write music that we feel so strongly about and have a positive response to first and then maybe see if anyone else wants to help us distribute it," says Lennon. "We kind of operate on our own terms," he adds and then Terrence jokingly chimes in, "We're loners."

The bands popularity grew quickly when they got a once in a lifetime chance to open up for the band from which they draw their own inspiration from.

One of the biggest and most important shows the guys have every played, was opening up for

the well known pop-punk band, New Found Glory (NFG). Back in October of 2009, My Only Escape won a contest over Twitter for the battle of the local bands in the Poughkeepsie region, for a chance to get to open for NFG. Getting the chance to open up for such a well-respected band that has been a motivation to each member in My Only Escape.

"To have a band you've been listening to forever, and you modeled yourself after for a while," says McKiernan, "to look at your music in a way where they're trying to assess it is exciting and in retrospect, nerve-racking." The 21 year-old guitarist adds, "And on top of that, them actually like it and then hand pick you to open for them is just a huge thrill."

These five driven guys have what it takes to get to where they need and want to be. By playing small parties and legion halls, and to opening up for a well-established pop-punk band, MOE is definitely on the right path to being heard.

"It's not only by playing more shows," says Lennon, "it's really about releasing music that we're sincere about, that in a perfect world will create a buzz." Terrence adds, "It's about writing good music and taking the time to get it out there."

Each member has something very valuable to offer to the band. They work together as a band should, by bring their own personality and different points of view.

My Only Escape is a band of different influences, different styles of play and technique. Mike, Terrence, Cody, Jeremy and Josh, through out their differences bring a balance in personality types. They work together as a team, and through the rough times, seem to stick it out because of their understanding for one another.

My Only Escape isn't your typical pop-punk hardcore band, they have heart and they have understanding. The hope that their aggressive, "moshy" music, gets feedback.

# Features

December 16 2010

## RANERI

Cont'd from page 2

friend, do something fun or a little "crazy" to remember what life's supposed to be about," she writes in one of her forum hand-outs. "You've heard the expression, "Laughter is the best medicine." Try not to take things too seriously, and when you find that you are, think about how funny and absurd things can be."

"When I first met her I could tell that she was very animated and inviting. I knew that I was going to have a lot of fun with her," says Farley. "Her attitude and enthusiasm definitely motivate me to do well in her class." He said, "It's contagious. I think the same would go for any professor. Having enthusiasm for a subject and delivering it with positive energy would benefit all professors greatly in grabbing the attention of their students and maybe even inspire them."

With influences like her mom, which Raneri refers to her as an "incredibly, spirited and opened-minded person", and her dad, a very "generous and passionate man", who is a "monster" at his work ethic, there is no reason why Rosanne could and would not be an enthused person. Dean Vivian Tortorici, English professor Jim Slattery and the Vice President of Administration Jim LaGatta are just a few more inspirations of hers.

Rosanne Raneri's attitude and drive for what she does, influences and motivates all of those around her. She is making an ever lasting impression on her students and Hudson Valley Community College itself. "I hope to influence them by making them believe that who they are is already right."



## NYS Theater Institute's Swan Song

**THEMBA KNOWLES**  
CREATIVE EDITOR

With only three weeks remaining the internationally acclaimed NYSTI (New York State Theatre institute) program is slated to be cut Dec 31st 2010 from the state Budget after 36 years of existence.

NYSTI located at 37 first ST. in Troy, NY in the Schacht Fine Arts Center on the campus of Russell Sage College was founded in 1974, as an amendment to the education act. Since its inception NYSTI has served as a model for international programs.

NYSTI is known for offering internships to high school seniors and college students giving them actual hands on training in theatre arts. All of the teachers in this program are actors who offer training to interns that eventually become teachers themselves,

similar to a residency.

Currently HVCC offers three internship credits once approved by the fine arts department but this is now in jeopardy. In June, Gov. David Paterson slashed NYSTI funding in half for the 2010-11 fiscal year. The state's 2011-2012 budget eliminated Funding for NYSTI completely.

NYSTI annual budget is \$3.5 million of which 3 million was covered by the state and the other \$500,000 covered by the theater's production and education programs. Since the budget cuts staff was eliminated by 50 percent. According to Intern Director Sarah Melita, this created a greater hardship for the program because benefits were paid out unexpectedly due to early retirement. Paying out the benefits reduced the budget even further.

Current Suny Purchase student and HVCC Alumni Matt Sekellick, was an intern with NYSTI and has done major Broadway caliber Productions such as Romeo and Juliet with real Broadway directors without ever leaving the capital district. The head of the Theatre Department at HVCC Roseanne Raneri was also an intern with NYSTI.

*"There is quite a legacy here and it would certainly be a great tragedy and a great loss to New York State to lose this."*

- Sarah Melita

Merrily Owens, a current HVCC student and intern at NYSTI said, "People have made it from NYSTI to Broadway and on major tours. People like Tony

award winning Director Patricia Burch have come on board as a guest Director to direct plays for us Merrily said. That's how they do it, each show a different guest director, lighting person and designer."

When asked what she felt she personally gained from NYSTI Merrily replied, "I made connections that no ordinary girl usually gets from just doing theatre. I got the chance to work with Ron Holgate an opera singer, a Tony award winning actor and a great director who just closed a show about two years ago on Broadway.

It was amazing for me to have an experience like that. It's such a launching pad for kids and for anyone who wants to be into theatre and to really get their teeth sunk in. It really gave me a new appreciation for the craft. It turns people from making it

like a hobby into something they are interested in, into a career, into a life."

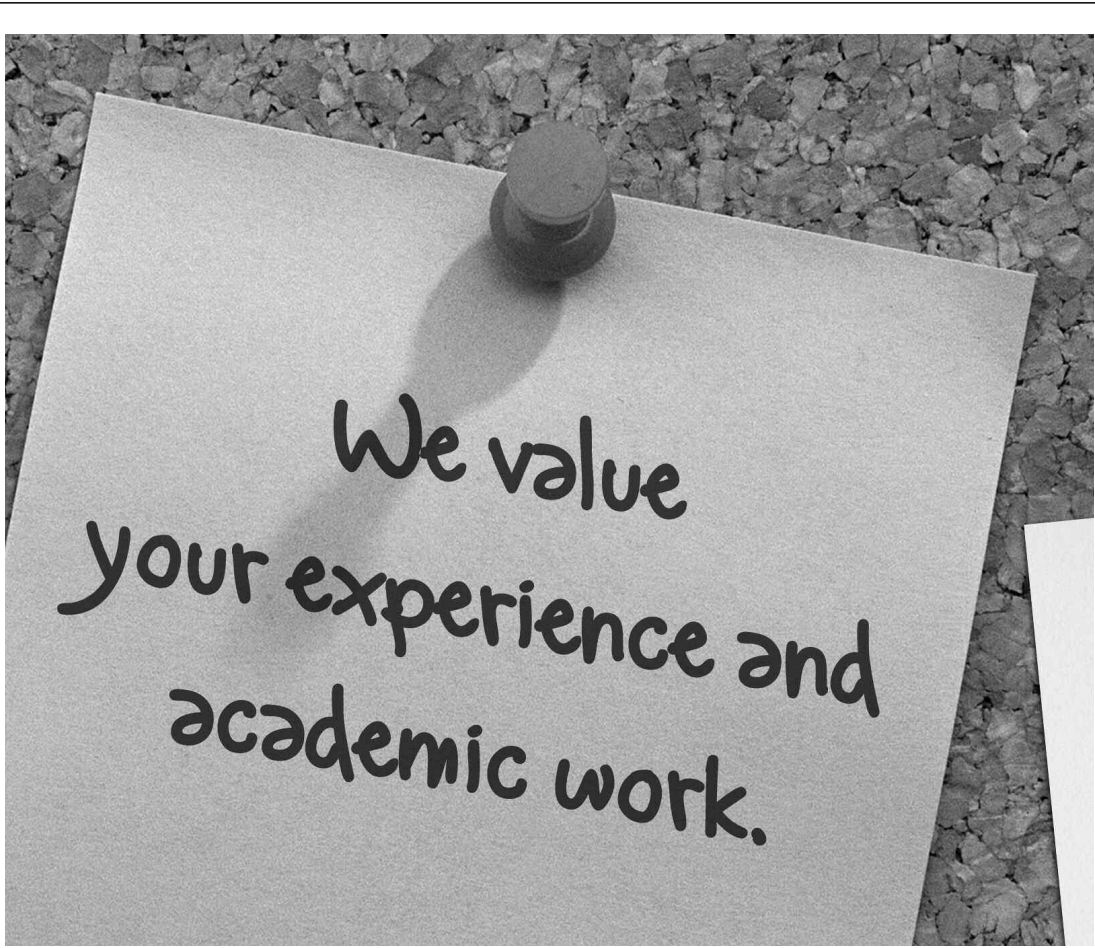
Intern director Sarah Melita has been involved in NYSTI for over 25 years and is attached to the program like a mother to a newborn.

Melita said, "I'm a product of this institution I was an intern when I was in high school. Nobody believes it but I used to be a painfully shy child. When the teacher called on me I would start crying and be sent to the nurse, and I found theatre as kind of a way of creating a roll that I could feel comfortable with presenting towards myself. So that was incredibly valuable to me on so many levels. I just fell in love with the whole idea of theater as a means of engaging students in the learning process."

Melita said, "There has been lots of people talking about saving us but it just hasn't happen yet. There is quite a legacy here and it would certainly be a great tragedy and a great loss to New York State to lose this."

Anyone interested in supporting NYSTI can do so by attending the Cabaret Night event being held in the HVCC Maureen Stapleton theatre Wednesday the 8th and Thursday the 9th of Dec at 7pm. There will be singing and acting performances. General admission is \$5 and free to all HVCC students. The \$5 will go towards the HVCC theatre program. HVCC is also accepting any donations on behalf of NYSTI.

For more info on this event contact Roseanne Raneri at r.raneri@hvcc.edu



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BY AMY MODESTI

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### WORD BANK:

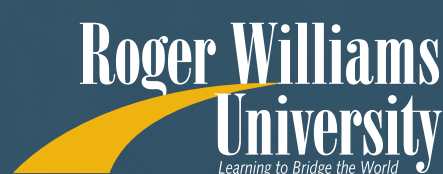
AUDE LANG SYNE  
BLUE CHRISTMAS  
DECK THE HALLS  
FELIZ NAVIDAD  
FROSTY THE SNOWMAN  
JINGLE BELL ROCK  
JINGLE BELLS

LAST CHRISTMAS  
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