Financial Aid And Registrar Grilled By Student Council

by Lucas Philippidis

The Vice President of Student Affairs, Ellen Hartigan, and the Directors of Student Records and Financial Aid Departments, Ted Witryk and Veronica Lukas, respectively, met with several members of the executive board of the Student Council on Wednesday, December 1 to discuss several issues of student life at Poly. The delegates from both sides tackled complaints about the move to the new PeopleSoft system as well as some long-term problems in the Registration process. As the fall semester wraps up, the council and the administration wished to find a solution to the common problems of unwaranted registration holds and financial aid mishaps. The topics discussed were reviewed in a council executive board meeting on Friday.

Council has suggested a solution to one of the main problems in the Financial Aid and Registrar Departments. The lack of email confirmations to inform students of their registration was mentioned. The issue concerning the comprehensiveness of the course registration booklet is also another problem. Students wish to take courses in which they are comfortable with the professor teaching. The registration booklet has professors listed for a few courses, but not for others. The registrar made it clear that the reason for this is that some department heads did not submit the names of the professors.

A big focus of the discussions was the issue of registration holds. The registrar presented a potential solution by suggesting a three-week plan where problems with registration holds would be dealt with first, another week would be devoted to advisement, and the last week would deal with problems in registration. Students would have the specified time, in addition to the regular registration period, to clear any account issues. Once all the accounts are clear, a student would receive a receipt stating that he or she has no problem with any administrative department.

Another problem discussed were the three windows on the second floor of the Jacobs building. There are three windows doing three different jobs. Consolidating the tasks of the three customer service windows into one window would ideally reduce the time spent by each student trying to clear his or her account. The task of fixing an entire student account would be in the hands of the person at any of the three windows. Hartigan, the directors, and part of the council found it troublesome to give too much power to one person though. The system of checks and balances must stay in place, and how they are carried out. The formation of another interactive advisory committee would interact between the three departments did seem appealing.

Advisement of students was also taken into consideration. In the spirit of consolidation, a suggestion, brought up by Hartigan, was that freshmen and sophomores should see general advisors to get their registration forms signed. The advisors would have appropriate training from the registrar. This plan seems to coincide with the move to the four-by-four plan announced by the Dean of Engineering, Bill McShane, a year ago.

In accordance with all of the changes that were suggested, council recommended that a student advisory committee should be formed. The advisory committee would interact with the registrar and maintain communication between the registrar, financial aid, and the student body. Members appointed by council would be informed of what changes take place, and how they are carried out. The formation of another interactive group of students and administration was also suggested, with the Student Council’s Vice President of Academic.
Well at Poly, after quite a noisy and chaotic semester, it seems we are on the way towards finals, and ultimately, the next millennium. And for you people, who tell me that the next millennium does not start until 2001, save your letters because I don’t care. Besides, if we really want to be picky the year 2000 started 3,999,998,000 years ago, (I’m assuming that Earth is 4 billion years old. And I am quite certain someone will give me the precise age of the planet).

What will you do for the millennium? I won’t be doing what everyone else will be doing—going out. Why, you ask? Simple. There are two holidays that I do not celebrate. One is Halloween. Halloween has become a meaningless ritual and a poor excuse to act stupid. The other holiday is New Year’s. It’s so arbitrary. If you really look at it, any day of the year can be New Year’s Day.

What is the big deal anyway about the numbers changing. The only thing that will change is the rhetoric from politicians and other high-winded people proclaiming a new era of (fill in your dreams here). Of course computers care. But to all of you out there that are concerned about Y2K, let me just say that the Mac was the only computer to recognize the date shift, way back in 1984. So, maybe you should have bought a Mac back then. You would have at least saved time and money.

Onto another stupid thing about the millennium. Whose millennium is it anyway? Humans have been on this planet for at least 100,000 years. Why is it now only 2000. Did we screw up some calculation or did we miss 98,000 years? And if we did, I want them back; because the last 2000 left alot to be desired.

And what exactly are years anyway? They are not a proper measure of time in space. Years are just the time it takes for us to revolve around some glowing ball in the middle of nowhere. Days are the same way. Hours ditto. A year is 365 days but what about those leap years? Lets us not forget that we are traveling a thousand miles an hour at the equator. And thanks to a guy named Einstein time slows down or stops when you travel at the speed of light. Great, so if you were going the speed of light back in 1BC, the new year would be 1AD (because there was no year 0), but it really is 2000. Sorry, you missed out. But as I said before, you did not missed much.

But of course if we lived on Pluto, which may or may not be a planet, our “year” would be equal to about 272 years. Which means traveling that if you traveled the speed of light and missed two Pluto years you would have missed about 544 years on Earth. Humans only live about 75 years on average. Does that mean we only live 1/3 a year on Pluto? Whew, better clear that schedule. And did you know the Sun is revolving around the Milky Way. Does that mean there is a solar year? And how long is that? Probably the amount of time it will take to get the Second Avenue Subway built.

Confused, well let me just say this. Time is arbitrary, just like life. And maybe we should question what exactly we are celebrating when those numbers change?
**End Of Days**

Schwarzenegger plays an ex-cop working for a top security firm. According to the story, he’s depressed to the point of contemplating suicide, when his investigation of assassination of one of his clients leads him to uncover the terrible prophecy of the end of days. Before the clock strikes 2000, and the ball drops, the devil will mate with a chosen woman and populate our world with his spawn. The dark age of Satan will then begin. That is why the devil is here, now, in New York, weeks before the Apocalypse, determined to assure his success. Arnie, alone against the power of Beelzebub and his hordes of worshipers, must stop the dark lord from possessing the chosen one and prevent the end of days from happening. That’s about it for the plot. Here comes the criticism.

The makers of “End of Days” probably thought that if you add up all of Schwarzenegger’s previous films, add a drop of biblical apocalypse, then dump in the aging action hero, you will get a blockbuster box-office smash hit and make millions. They were probably right. What they ended up was definitely a popular film. I am not sure for how long Hollywood will be able to cash in on Schwarzenegger’s glory, but they’ll certainly make fortunes for as long as he can walk, hold up a side-arm and say “I’ll be back.” Unfortunately, “End of Days” is another humiliation for Arnold himself, adding to his unlucky streak of failures starting with “Jingle Bells.” While his other pictures were for the most part entertaining, if not inspiring (who can forget Terminator II), leaving the mind alone and entertaining the audience’s emotions with surges of adrenaline, “End of Days” is so stupidly appalling in its regret for the plot, the dialogue, originality of action and special effects and finally the viewers’ intelligence, it simply does not deserve to be called entertainment. True entertainment you come back to again and again. I can’t count the times I’ve seen “Terminator,” “True Lies,” or “Running Man.” But I doubt there will be many people who’ll see “End of Days” a second time.

**Being John Malkovich**

Welcome to the seven and a half floor of a skyscraper in one of Manhattan’s busiest business districts. There, inside the doors of a corporation that meets all your filing needs, inside the copy room and behind the Xerox machine, you will find a door. That door, large enough for one human to crawl through, leads to a cold narrow portal that places you inside the world of the actor John Malkovich. Look from within his eyes. Sense his thoughts. Feel his surroundings. Be his guest for a while. Then prepare to hitch a cab, as you are spewed out several miles away on the side of the New Jersey Turnpike.

John Cusack is a poor, romantic puppeteer who is the first to experience Malkovich’s personal universe. As an out-of-work bum whose unappreciated talent dwells without audience in the confines of his basement, his wife, the weird-looking pet shop salesgirl Cameron Diaz is the only source of income in the family. To overcome the challenges of poverty, Cusack’s character has to set aside his dreams of being a puppeteer to become a lowly file clerk in a mysterious corporation on the 7.5th floor, which does nothing but file whatever its clients need to file. In the course of everyday work, consisting of mindless monotonous labor, conversing with a near-deaf secretary, getting advice from the boss that is king of 7.5th floor creepiness, and hitting on a sexy co-worker, John discovers a doorway into... well, Malkovich. That doorway should have never been opened. But once the deed is done, there is no way back. Soon everyone will get a turn to experience the Malkovich ride, even Malkovich himself.

“Being John Malkovich” is superb. It is the most original movie that has ever been conceived. There is a surprise waiting for you behind every corner, every plot twist, and each time you are about to conclude that things could not get any weirder, you’ll be shocked once more that they could. Much of the success can be contributed to live, intriguing, strange and extremely unique relationships between lead characters. Cusack, (continued on next page)
Malkovich, Diaz and others make the experience as real as sugarless coffee in the morning. It’s funny, it’s unrealistically the same time, it is pure orgasm of never-before seen originality. In other words, it’s good. It’s really good.

“Being John Malkovich” feels like one of those bizarre dreams you have during daytime should you ever indulge yourself in sleeping when you should be at work. Specifically, it is that dream when you become aware that you are asleep and you wake up, only to find yourself in another, more complex dream. And although you don’t believe what is happening could be true, the proof of the otherwise, however insane, puts you in a very uncomfortable position. “Malkovich” does not give you any explanations. There are no physical formulas, no religious dogmas, no psychic connections, no Freudian mumbo-jumbo offered in the movie to explain the phenomenon of “Being John Malkovich.” Just the facts, however surreal they may seem. So go be John Malkovich. I guarantee you won’t stop repeating his last name once you’ve been inside his head. Enjoy.

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To Shop On-line or In-line? That is the question.

Well, the holiday shopping season has begun once again and is already in full swing—just take a stroll down 5th Avenue if you don’t believe me and join the masses. It is truly an exhausting experience. For some, this holiday season means gazing at decorated windows along the way and finding the right store, and for others it symbolizes gazing at computer monitors for the right product at the best price. Increasingly, the latter is becoming more and more popular each year.

As web servers become capable of handling more traffic and database systems become more streamlined with the web, new e-commerce sites are proliferating all over the Internet each day. It seems as though everyone wants to take advantage of this fairly new medium and bring the shopping experience into every household.

With only a few weeks remaining until the last Christmas of this millennium arrives, the furthest thought on everyone’s mind is most likely Y2K, and shopping has surely taken precedence by now. It’s a time when everyone’s rushing to find the right present—and willing to spend whatever it takes. Even though online shopping may seem like the perfect alternative to traffic, crowds, and long lines, there are a few precautions one should consider to ensure convenient and trouble-free transactions over the web.

First, make sure you fully understand the return policy of each cyber boutique you decide to bring your business to. Can you return your purchase? If so, who will pay for shipping? Does the store accept personal checks or credit cards? How long will it take to process your return? Make sure you have all the answers before making your purchase.

Second, make sure you have your credit card and banking information ready. Most online stores accept credit cards, but some may require a different form of payment. Make sure you have the necessary information on hand to make your purchase.

Third, make sure you have a reliable Internet connection. A slow connection can delay the process of making a purchase, and a lack of reliability can result in lost or unsent orders.

Finally, make sure you have a plan for delivery. Most online stores offer free shipping, but some may charge additional fees. Make sure you understand the shipping options and costs before making your purchase.

With these precautions in mind, online shopping can be a convenient and enjoyable way to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list. Just make sure you have a plan and are prepared to make the most of the holiday season.

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tions, globes & maps, books, interactive cd-roms, and more. Customers have the option to gift wrap orders as well. Overall, the site has simple navigation and layout, so it’s almost impossible to get confused. Pricing charts for shipping options are a click away and so is customer service.

Harrods Online
http://www.harrodsonline.com/

Here’s a chance to visit one of the most famous department stores in the world and one of London’s top three tourist attractions—without even lifting a foot. Harrods Online is an elegantly designed website that is sure to please the serious shopper. With an excellent navigational system, the user can browse through the best selling products Harrods has to offer and view each item in detail. If you find it difficult to make a decision on which item to purchase, you can order a gift certificate in denominations ranging from $25 to $100. However, these certificates are redeemable only from the Harrods catalogue or online shop. In addition, shipping is currently available to the United States and Canada.

BUY.com
http://www.buy.com

For those looking to buy the latest gadgets and gizmos technology has to offer today, Buy.com is the right place for you. This online shopping site offers computer hardware and software, the newest releases of videos and DVDs, the latest console and PC games, music CD’s, and the top selling books all at competitive prices. Customers are able to browse through all of the Buy.com sites with all purchases combined into one shopping cart. In addition, this site offers an easy to use search engine and the capability of tracking shipments 24 hours a day.

Watchworld
http://www.watchworld.com/

Having difficulty deciding on what gift to purchase for someone special? It’s no secret that timepieces are always a good choice for a present. Watchworld.com is really the way to go if you wish to avoid all the hustle and bustle of shopping in the city. Besides selling major brands like G-Shock, Nautica, and Kenneth Cole, Watchworld offers free shipping anywhere in the United States and a free customized gift box with every order. Now there’s an incentive that is hard to refuse. Customers can browse all major brands, view the “Best Sellers” category, and “Gift Center” for selecting watches based on someone’s profile. Watchworld.com also gives you the option of contacting an expert with any questions you might have about certain features of a particular timepiece.

Here are a few additional sites worth looking into if you decide to buy your holiday gifts online:

http://www.macy’s.com
http://www.imall.com
http://www.worldshopper.com

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Normally, we here at Rangers Roundup use this column to bring you the latest news concerning the New York Rangers and the rest of the NHL. But since this is the last issue of the semester—and the millennium—we’d like to dedicate this final column to the greatest hockey player of this century or the next—Wayne Gretzky.

Gretzky is more than a sports legend in Canada. He is a national icon, a living fairy tale. When he was 3, he was playing hockey in the backyard of his house. When he was 9, he shattered every junior scoring record, scoring an unheard-of 378 goals. Everyone could see that this slightly built child was a hockey prodigy destined for greatness—but it’s hard to believe that anyone could have predicted just how great Gretzky would become.

When he retired last year, after a 20-year career in the NHL, he owned or shared 61 scoring records. The numbers he put up were staggering, but to recount the statistics that describe his incredible dominance of the sport would take many pages; and besides, words seem almost painfully inadequate to describe the grace with which Gretzky skated, or the way in which he saw the ice better than any player ever had, or probably ever will.

**GREATNESS**

On November 22nd, 1999, Toronto was the scene of an incredible hockey event—the induction of Wayne Gretzky into the Hall of Fame. Rangers Roundup was there, watching this extraordinary player—and even more extraordinary man—as he received the final accolade of his storied career.

When Gretzky arrived at the Hall of Fame on Front Street in downtown Toronto, at the head of a motorcade normally reserved for foreign dignitaries or heads of state, he was greeted by over 200 well-wishers outside who serenaded him with chants of “Gretzky! Gretzky!” and “We love you, Wayne!” He smiled, waved, and was escorted inside the Hall of Fame by a phalanx of Royal Canadian Mounted Police in full dress regalia.

Inside BCE Place, a large hall adjacent to the Hall of Fame, more than 3,000 guests watched on big-screen TV monitors as Gretzky—along with fellow inductees Andy van Hellemond and Ian “Scotty” Morrison—became the latest additions to the Hall’s honored members.

In his speech to the audience, which included his wife and three children, Gretzky was characteristically humble, thanking everyone who helped him during his hockey career, and thanking the NHL for allowing him the opportunity to play.

And with that, he sat down, having displayed the same grace in his speech as he did on the ice for so many games. The greatest player ever had come to the end of his magical and unbelievable journey. The incredible trip that began on a homemade rink in his backyard, thirty-five years ago, had finally come to a glorious end.

But for those who had the privilege of watching him play, for those of us who will always remember, Gretzky will never retire from our memories. For us, there will always be the images, frozen in time, of the young man from Brantford, Ontario, who could skate and score like no one else ever will.
1999 Homecoming Game

A Polytechnic tradition continued by inviting the Alumni to attend the annual Homecoming Day on Saturday, November 29, 1999. Unlike other colleges where the Alumni come to the campus to watch a sporting event such as Football, the Polytechnic Alumni actually compete against the Varsity teams. Over the years, many events were done during Homecoming Day, usually the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day, but the mainstay of this time-honored tradition are the Cross Country and Basketball contests.

The oldest of this tradition is the 36th Annual Alumni Varsity Cross Country meet at Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx NY. Founded by one time team member and now head coach of the Varsity Cross Country team, Rich Lucian, the competition between the Varsity and the Alumni started in 1964. Over the past few years, the Alumni have been dominating this event with Charles Castiglioni, Class of 1982, Athlete of the Year in 1981 and a member of the Independent Athletic Conference Championship team in 1981, crossing the finish line with a time of 34:38.

Leading the Varsity and finishing 4th in the race was Ben Hill, Sophomore runner, with a time of 38:22. In the series, the Alumni leads 26-10.

The next major event was the Annual Alumni/Varsity game at the Farmingdale Gym. This was started by Joe Martini, Athletic Director Emeritus and former Basketball coach of the Blue Jays from 1967 to 1977, to officially open the “Bubble,” Polytechnic’s Gym from 1971-1977.

This year’s contest made the Varsity victorious over the Alumni 63-62. Leading the Varsity was Senior student Shane Patterson. He scored 17 points and had 8 rebounds, 1 assist and 4 steals. Jason Rodriguez scored 15 points with 2 rebounds, 6 assists and 3 steals. Matt Carroll scored 14 points with 6 rebounds, 2 assists and 1 steal.

Varsity Team Comes In Third In CMSV Tournament

The Varsity basketball team won against Bard College to come in third in the College of Mount Saint Vincent Tournament. Shane Patterson won MVP for the team.

Judo Team Scores Big At NY State Championship

Varsity team members Iyla Bikhman, Max Yelyashkevich, Rhan Dillard, Ricky Ramchariter, Oleg Uruymagov, Roman Golin and Mike Chen competed in the New York State Championships held at Beacon School, Queens on November 14th, 1999. As stated by Coach Maureen Braziel, “It was a tough tournament but everyone played well. They all have been training very hard for this event.” And it paid off because the Bluejays brought home 1st, 2nd and 3rd. In the 132 pound division, Roman Golin came in first. In the 145 pound division, Rhan Dillard placed second, while Max Yelyashkevich came in third.