Show Some Skin and Ink

By Brendan Dugan

Tattoo art from The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproductive's collection will be displayed alongside student-submitted photos of their tattoos in the Ephemeral Ink exhibit. The display will remain open from 9a.m. to 5p.m. weekdays in Fisher Hall gallery from February 20 to March 23.

As the title of the exhibit suggests, tattoos are not as permanent as we may think. Though the ink may remain for a lifetime with only a few touch ups, tattoos often represent a sentiment, belief, or a brief moment in one's life, which may change in the flux of time. This among other things set tattoo art apart from traditional art.

"It was a pretty exciting experience for me to initiate the exhibit," said Jenny Pauckner, Assistant Professor of Art and Art History at Marian University. Pauckner contacted the Kinsey Institute for its extensive photo collection of tattoos, which has not been publicly exhibited, until now.

Over the summer of 2011, Pauckner visited the Kinsey Institute, located at Indiana University in Bloomington, to explore their archives.

Amy Tims, a graduate student in the theatre and music department at Marian University, had visited the Kinsey Institute, researching the culture and the media. Outlets like Skin and Ink magazine and shows like L.A. Ink highlight the cultural and individual motivation, belonging or exclusion.

"Tattoos are reflections of personal identity," said Pauckner.

The prevalence and acceptance of tattoos has increased due to popular culture and the media. Outlets like Skin and Ink magazine and shows like L.A. Ink highlit the cultural and individual motivation, artistic technique and complexity of tattoo art.

According to a 2006 Pew Research Center survey of 1,500 adults, over one-third of Generation Next (individuals born between 1981 and 1988) have a tattoo. The report, "A Portrait of Generation Next," states that approximately one-half of this age group, who are now between 24 and 31 years old, either have a tattoo, have dyed hair, or have a body piercing (excluding ear lobe piercings).

Several students exchanged emails with Prof. Pauckner and Dr. Higgs specifically regarding the nature of Flash, the tattoo image used in the email, which was a sample of clients of the tattoo artist's work. Flash depicts a nude woman combatting a colorful, oversized cobra, and another woman emerging from a flower, cupping her bare breasts. It also depicts a battleship and an eagle bearing an American flag, appealing to sailors and navy servicemen.

"I was surprised by the amount of controversy it initially created," Pauckner shared.

One student, who asked to remain anonymous, expressed concern over the content of Flash.

"I believe the history of tattoos is indeed important, but I also believe it is not appropriate to exhibit something that contradicts the values of this Catholic university. Lewd tattoos are the worst example of this, and a lewd tattoo was chosen to promote this exhibit," said the student in email correspondence with this writer.

"For that and other reasons, I believe this exhibit is imprudent for this university," concluded the student.

Pauckner defended the exhibit, saying, "The whole purpose of the exhibit is to give people insight...a different perspective. I think it's important to challenge our preconceptions of life, art, ideas. That's where learning takes place."

"We are in the business of generating young adults prepared for the future because they have been encouraged to think critically...All considerations related to art, be they acceptance or rejection of certain images due to faith, political, or social values, represent one path to realizing that goal," said Higgs in her clarifying email to campus.

Student submitted tattoos were displayed on a flatscreen during the reception February 24, from 3 to 6pm. Exhibit curator Amy Tims and Kinsey Institute Curator of Art, Artifacts, and Photographs Catherine Johnson-Roehr will deliver presentations.

No Smoking

Free Room and Board

Students and faculty think the tobacco free policy is effective.

The theatre and music departments perform Godspell.

RAs discuss the responsibilites that come with their job.
Panel discussion: Arab Spring unfolds

By Brendan Dugan

The Richard G. Lugar Franciscan Center for Global Studies at Marian University hosted a panel discussion Thursday February 16 to discuss the state of Egypt and the Arab Spring uprisings across the Middle East. The panel occurred in Marian Theater on Thursday, Feb. 16.

The panel consisted of Dr. Pierre Atlas, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Lugar Franciscan Center; Rev. Father Nobil Hanna, Pastor of St. George Church in Indianapolis; and Dr. Amira Mashhour, lecturer in Arabic and Director of the Arabic Program at IUPUI. Charlie Wire, Director of the International Interfaith Initiative, moderated the event.

Each of the panelists share Egyptian lineage: Atlas’ mother was born and raised in Cairo, Egypt, while Mashhour and Hanna were born and raised in Egypt before coming to the US in 1990 and 1968 respectively. Egyptians living in Indiana made up a significant portion of the roughly 125 in attendance. Hanna recalled events from early 2011: “The Arab Spring turns into an Egyptian revolution,” said Hanna, noting the “for-profit” nature of the military regime in Egypt.

Hanna recalled events from early 2011: Christian and Muslim Egyptians praying together, protecting each other, and generally working against the regime that had pushed much of Egypt past the boiling point and into action. “I’m sorry to say that a lot of that [optimism] has been dashed,” said Hanna. Other panelists and some of the audience agreed that the hopefulness has dissipated since the grueling efforts of reconstruction fully set in.

“The Arab Spring has turned into a dark Arab winter,” said Atlas.

Impounding Hosni Mubarak did not solve the myriad problems Egypt faced. Few expected it to. The transitional military government presents its own set of problems. The revolution ousted Mubarak, not the regime.

“The military is thoroughly entrenched in the Egyptian economy,” said Atlas, noting the “for-profit” nature of the military regime in Egypt.

Tensions rose as touchy subjects were brought to the fore. In Egypt today, roughly ten percent of the population identifies as Coptic Christian, which is to say Egyptian and Christian. Fr. Hannah’s Coptic family left Egypt in 1968, when approximately one-third of Egyptians claimed Christianity. Christians, following Jews decades later, emigrated from Egypt.

An impassioned question and answer session followed when the audience commented on religion, extremists, the media, and the state of affairs in Egypt. Despite the apparently chaotic and slow nature of progress since the imprisonment of Mubarak, some remain skeptical about the media portrayal of Egypt’s reconstruction.

“Things are not falling apart the way we believe it is here [in the U.S.],” said Mashhour.

“People are no longer afraid of their government,” Atlas said. “What comes afterwards is the big question.”

Students celebrate Black History Month

By Hadeiya Ameen

Black History month is more than just the networks such as BET (Black Entertainment Television) providing updates on African Americans who contributed to American history. Marian University students expressed what Black History month means to them.

In celebration of Black History Month, Marian University’s UBI (Union of Black Identity) committee will host its 43 annual ‘Soul Food’ luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 23, from 12 to 2p.m. in Clare Hall’s lobby.

Organizer Kyle Radliff, President of UBI, and other committee members hoped the students attending would walk away with a better understanding of African American history. Guest speakers who lived during segregation shared their thoughts and experiences. Randa Peterson, guest speaker, baked some of the food and spoke about where ‘soul food’ comes from and what it means to African Americans.

African American history wasn’t properly noted until the 20th century. While studying at Harvard, Dr. Woodson, a scholar and son of a former slave, noticed the gross presentation of African Americans in American history. Woodson led the movement to bring African American history into the public consciousness.

Determined to encourage the study of Black history and tell the story of his people, he founded the ‘Association for the Study of Negro Life’ in 1915. A year later, he began publishing what known as the Journal of African American History. Page by page, African Americans wrote themselves into the history books.

With a swell of support, he organized the first annual Negro history week, during the second week of February, to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass. Twenty six years after Dr. Woodson's death, Negro History week became 'Black History' month.

Radliff stated that Black history month is a time to, “celebrate those before us who paved a way for us to achieve our goals, whether it is in entertainment or politics. It’s a time to show appreciation and respect for what the slaves went through.”

Clay Kendrick, Public Relations and Recruitment for UBI indicated that Black history month means, “we still have a long way to go, and as we move forward, we need to keep those who have made a difference in mind. There are so many influential African Americans who contributed to American history, that to just mention one, wouldn’t do it justice.”

Theatre Department performs Godspell

By Bradley Levi

The Department of Music and Theatre performed the musical Godspell at Peine Theatre on Feb 22 thru the 25 at 8p.m. Influenced by the Gospel of Matthew, the musical draws upon the parables of Jesus Christ.

The plot unfolds in the Middle East as characters meditate upon Jesus’ teachings. A modern twist on the Gospels, the play opens with John the Baptist calling a group of young soldiers to follow and learn from Jesus.

They enact the parables through music and humor. The musical ends with The Last Supper, The Crucifixion in a battle field, and Jesus being carried aloft by his apostles back into the military camp.

Thanks to the charitable food drive, Marian students, faculty, and staff were admitted to one performance for free with a Marian ID and a non-perishable food item.

In Marian’s version of Godspell, Jesus is crucified on a wagon.
Knight Daze committee hosts hypnotist

By Hadeiyah Ameen

As part of the Knight Daze “Danger in the Dungeon” weekend presentation, Dan Lornitis, the comedic hypnotist was the perfect ending. Members of the Knight Daze committee, Matt Duncan, President, Matt Staninger, Budget Chair and Peter Hayes, Hypnotist Chair, all had big smiles as they greeted the students. It was “a show the audience will never forget… and the volunteers may never remember.” The audience is full of laughter, as they watched their friends get hypnotized.

Dan Lornitis has performed more than 4,000 live shows. He has opened for comedians such as Louie Anderson, Phyllis Diller and “Weird Al” Yankovic. He has appeared on stage everywhere from America’s Top Comedy Club, to Funny Bone, and onboard the Carnival Cruise Line. He has performed for many organizations like Best Buy, IBM, and several colleges. While in college, Dan Lornitis was a magician, until he and his friends went to see a hypnotist show where he volunteered to get hypnotized. Afterwards, he couldn’t remember the show but his friends cracked up laughing as they told him all of the crazy things he did on stage. Lornitis said, “It was a moment that has always stayed with me.”

Before the show got started, Lornitis explained some hypnotic terms such as the theta state, in which the mind is in a very deep, meditative state. During this state, the split between the conscious and subconscious mind no longer exists. This allows the subconscious mind and the imagination to be manipulated through suggestion.

Misty, a volunteer, reflecting on her participation said “When I came to, I felt very relaxed, as if I had been sleeping for 8 hrs; it was very refreshing. I couldn’t really remember much when I woke up but I remember something about Bambi’s mom getting hit by a truck, the feeling of being five years old, and the tune of Beyonce’s, Single Ladies song was in my head”. I bet those of you who attended remembers those funny moments as well.

To end the night, Lornitis shared his most memorable moment in a show. He recounted that an elderly woman with a walker, sitting in the second row, went under as Lornitis hypnotized the volunteers. She raised her hand to come on stage, all the while hypnotized. She walked all the way to the edge of the stage without her walker. Once she reached the stairs to the stage, she came out of it. Lornitis states, “She came out of it because her subconscious mind understood she couldn’t make it up the stairs without the walker. That was the coolest experience because it showed the strong will of the subconscious mind. Delighted, Dan Lornitis hopes to be performing and hypnotizing people for the rest of his life.

Burning the midnight oil: CEC hosts Up All Knight

Several students got no sleep last Saturday. But for once, they weren’t studying. On February 17, the Campus Events Committee held Up All Knight. During this event, students stayed in the library from 8pm until 2am enjoying various activities and entertainment. Some of the activities included crafts, food, musical events, and movies.

A couple of weeks ago, The Knight Daze “Danger in the Dungeon” was a success. Every night the performers were greeted with a crowd that couldn’t wait to have fun. Feb. 9 to the 11th was a great weekend. There was a hilarious night of comedy with special guest comedian/actor Michael Malone.

Michael Malone has performed in more than 32 states. He’s made appearances on WGN, CW, and Tom and Bob radio and TV show. His humor about life experiences and wildly imaginative views will have you bursting out laughing. Didn’t get a chance to see his performance, check out his website at malonecomedy.com.
Students and faculty reacts to the new tobacco policy

By Michael Schrader

On May 8, 2011, Marian University transitioned into a new era in campus life, Tobacco Free. The Tobacco Free Policy has been with the University for over nine months.

Dean of Students Ruth Rodgers suggested that the ban has been reasonably successful thus far.

“There are people who push that limit still, but generally there is very little public smoking in areas where lots of students are walking by.”

Rodgers went on to say there are problems with campus visitors who aren’t aware of Marian’s Tobacco Free Policy.

Chief Scott Ralph also said, “The Marian Community has shown respect and dignity of others regarding this policy. It seems to be working very well.”

Even some of the students agree with Rodgers and Ralph.

Freshman Donovan Jones and Sophomore Allie Foley said they believe the Tobacco Free Policy is effective.

“I don’t see anyone smoking on campus,” said Foley.

Jones believes the Tobacco Free Policy is working. “I haven’t encountered anyone smoking on campus or having smelled smoke on anyone in any of my classes so far.”

Yet, not all students see the policy as being effective.

Transfer Sophomore Karl Williamsson noticed students and faculty smoking in their cars.

“Tobacco Free Policy with desig- nated smoking areas will allow people to smoke on the ground that it becomes a problem. The push for a tobacco free campus started in 2008 when the University moved to a Tobacco Free Policy with designated smoking areas.

Conversations about a completely Tobacco Free Policy began in the Fall semester of 2010, Rodgers said. The policy was passed in October of that same year but didn’t come into effect until May 8, 2011. Currently, there are no monetary sanctions for smoking on campus. The act is a conduct issue, and persistent violators will be reported to Human Resources or the Dean of Students.

However, the discussion of the Tobacco Free Policy is still ongoing.

A Marian University Admissions member explained how forcing students to smoke on the other side of Cold Springs Road looks unappealing to prospective students and families.

“We have had potential students and their families making negative comments about the students lining the area across the street from campus in order to smoke.”

The staff member suggested that bringing back the designated smoking area, “will allow people the space to smoke outside, will be far enough from any doors…and will produce a more professional and inviting campus for potential students and their families.”

Rodgers also mentioned some faculty and staff members have suggested that they do not like the policy, but there are no current efforts to reverse the policy as it stands.

A day in the life of an RA: What is it really like to work as a resident assistant?

By Bradley Levi

Having a free single room, gaining leadership skills, and receiving a $300 stipend at the end of each semester can be a fun and great way to gain experience while in college. However, becoming a Resident Assistant can be burdensome with responsibilities.

Junior Danielle Mumma is a second year Resident Assistant at Doyle Hall. She majors in Art, and has Psychology and Art History minors and a concentration in Art Therapy. She is in the Honors Program with 17 credit hours for this semester. Mumma participates in Green Life Club and shows interest in the College Mentors for Kids organization. Mumma has enjoyed the experience of being an RA because she was able to bond with her hall mates in a very unique way.

“What I like about being an RA depends on what’s going on that day. I enjoy one-on-one chats with people,” said Mumma.

Being an RA can be rewarding. Students can get to know their hall mates better.

However, being an RA can be difficult due to time demands of responsibilities. Mumma has been an RA for two years, and she found that this year was so much easier, probably because of past experiences, such as rock climbing in Climb Time Indy, and basically hall-bonding.

“One on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the most difficult, it was a 4 last year. Now, it’s a 3. It’s difficult, but not super stressful,” said Mumma.

It is especially difficult when you are on call. That indicates your day to make sure that the entire residence hall is in good shape. This involves going on rounds around the interior of the building, making sure that no one is playing hall sports or arguing with other hall mates.

“You are expected to be in your room or office, and your door has to be open in case someone has an emergency,” said Mumma.

Some RA’s have had to wake up very early in the morning because a student locked him/herself out of the room.

“I had to get up at 4 in the morning twice for that,” said Mumma.

Having the job as a Resident Assistant can be difficult, but it doesn’t always have to be. It just requires students with that position to be very responsible and caring to everyone in the entire building.

Mission Statement

The Knight Times is a student newspaper dedicated to serving the Marian University student community. Our goal is to inform the Marian community about campus, local, and global issues. We strive to report the stories that matter and take student opinions and comments into consideration. We want you to read, comment, and enjoy!

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