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Net Neutrality: A Wake Up Call Technology Addiction Amongst Us

By Aysia Pryor

With net neutrality coming to an end, those of us who depend on technology, mainly our phones, might have a difficult time adjusting. I fall into the category of people who depend on technology, but it is possible to live without it. This idea reminds me of the days where majority of my childhood was spent outside playing. Every now and then I would use the “old-fashioned” box-shaped computer, with Windows ME (Millennium Edition), which took forever to load, so it wasn’t even worth it in the end. The internet wasn’t always reliable, sometimes it would vary on how long it would take for each different website to load.

When I got my first phone, in middle school, I could only use it for texting and calling. My phone had the ability to use the internet, but it wasn’t a part of our phone plan, meaning we had to pay extra for it, and I didn’t want to surprise my parents’ phone bill. If I ever clicked on the application for the internet, I would press the back button

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?
Internet and phones have become daily necessities. How do I know if I have become too dependent? Here are some warning signs.

When the first thing I do after waking up is check my phone.

When I give preference to social media notifications instead of work/study.

When I email/text/check social media while driving.

When I spend more time online than with real people.

Graphic by: Aysia Pryor

multiple times in order to avoid being charged. This meant that I couldn’t type a question into Google and expect an instant answer, via multiple sources. It wasn’t a big deal to me that I couldn’t access the internet on my phone. Instead of using sources from the internet, you had to find the source yourself. If you

wanted to know something, you’d have to go and find it. Today, looking up the definition to a word takes eight seconds, at the most. Before we depended on the internet, we had to use a physical dictionary to look for a word and its definition; this also required knowing how to properly spell the word because autocorrect

wasn’t around. The end of net neutrality is a reminder of the days when internet access wasn’t unlimited.

I am 21 years old, and I grew up in the midst of the rise of technology addiction. It blows my mind to think that kids now are surrounded by technology and are advised to use technology in classrooms.

A 2017 poll found that 50 percent of teens said they “feel addicted” to their cellphones. This statistic isn’t surprising to me because technology devices are our way, as consumers, to feel connected. The average U.S. consumer spends an average of five hours each day browsing the internet.

Growing up in the middle of this rise to technology dependency, I feel as if I had the ability to enjoy my childhood without depending on technology, but I still enjoyed browsing the internet as an alternative. I love net neutrality, and I will be as devastated as the next person if it comes to an end, but we have to learn how to be smarter than our smart devices.



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Black History Month

By Armond McCray

Historically, Black History Month initially began as “Negro History Week” in 1926. Its founder, Carter G. Woodson, was disheartened after he discovered how underrepresented African Americans were in the shaping of American history. In 1915, he founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. This organization promoted and celebrated the accomplishments of African Americans by launching “Negro History Week” during the second week in February. Reason being, both Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln have birthdays that fall during this monumental week. “Negro History Week” didn’t become “Black History Month” until 1976, when President Gerald Ford declared it as a national observance. “In celebrating Black History Month, we can seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history”- President Ford.

Although Black History month has been embraced by many for over 40 years, there has recently been some light shed on the controversy of this celebration. Advocates of Black History month argue that this is a significant month vital to recognizing the achievements of African Americans in an otherwise

European dominated history. Others believe that African American achievements should be integrated and celebrated throughout the entire year. The problem that experts are seeing is that the teaching materials produced for February’s celebration of black history are often confined to the most well-known African Americans (Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington Carver and Rosa Parks). But some even argue that a month of learning about black history is “too long”.

In recent years, several African American celebrities have been publicly opposing the observance of this celebration. During an interview with the Oscar-winning actor, Morgan Freeman willingly told “60 Minutes” co-host Mike Wallace, “I don’t want a Black History Month. Black history is American history.” Stacey Dash, a famous African American actress declared that she would also like to have Black History Month eliminated. She labeled it as “a vestige of segregation”.

It will be interesting to see what will become of Black History month in the future. But for now, Carter G. Woodson’s efforts to support African American pride and ensure consciousness of African American achievements will be observed and celebrated during the entire month of February.

Armed and Dangerous: School Shootings On the Rise

By Emmy Goering

On the afternoon of February 14, 2018, a 19-year-old former student entered Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida with an AR-15-style semi-automatic weapon and several magazines of ammunition. Shortly after, students began dying.

Although the school had practiced a fire drill earlier in the day, the fire alarm had reportedly been pulled by the shooter, which led students to pour into the halls. The attacker, Nikolas Cruz, fired his legally-purchased weapon

into the fleeing crowds. Cruz also fired into several classrooms. Overall, seventeen people were killed. At least fifteen others were wounded, with five suffering life-threatening injuries according to Broward County Hospital officials.

Sadly, this tragedy is not the first school shooting of 2018. Just weeks before, a shooting at Marshall County High School in Kentucky killed two people and injured 16. Even more startling is the fact that as of Wednesday’s shooting in Florida, three of the ten deadliest mass shootings

in modern U.S. history have occurred in the last five months, according to a February 16th article by The New York Times.

The issue of firearm deaths goes beyond school shootings and mass shootings. The Washington

Post reports, “On average, two dozen children are shot every day in the United States, and in 2016 more youths were killed by gunfire — 1,637 — than during any previous year this millennium.”



The McPherson College flag at half-staff on Feb. 16th, 2018 in honor of the victims of the Parkland, FL shooting.

Mac College Influenza Outbreak

By Deiah Curtis

Coughing, shivering, burning throat and fever through the roof. These are the beginning signs of what is now one of the biggest Influenza outbreaks in decades, and doctors are screaming, “Stay home!”

We’ve been hit hard at McPherson College, but the number of sick staff and students is low in comparison to other institutions around the country. 49 states have experienced wide-spread Influenza outbreaks lasting for over three weeks. 12 states having to shut down several schools, districts and universities because of the severity of

the infection. In Florida, a school of 1,900 students had over 550 confirmed cases of influenza, causing a two week shutdown. 37 children have lost their lives due to either symptoms of the flu or complications that arose from it. The death toll is speculated to be even higher in adults according to the Center of Disease Control (CDC), but the number of cases of infection or death related to influenza is not recorded after the age of 18.

Back on McPherson’s campus, students and staff alike are feeling the influenza’s wrath and the college is doing its best to keep afloat in the raging seas of fever and fatigue. “Just last week, we had six

confirmed student cases of the flu on campus,” says Ben Coffey, Associate Dean of Students. “The flu is a tricky thing we are dealing with as it is an airborne infection. The maintenance has worked tirelessly on making sure all surfaces are cleaned and disinfected even more than usual. We’ve also continued to contain the flu by keeping students that are infected in ‘sick rooms’ and keeping them from contact with others while allowing them to recover.”

The number of student and staff infections on campus have finally started to slow, but it’s still a highly contagious virus that’s tearing through the campus and the country. You’re not

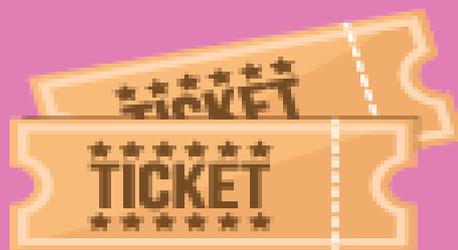
doing anyone any favors by showing up when you’re sick. As much deep-cleaning and disinfecting is going on around campus, the infection is airborne and is passed easily through coughing or sneezing. Do everyone a favor and stay home if you’re experiencing any fever, non-stop coughing, or sore throat. See a doctor with your symptoms and make sure to let your RD or RA know what you are dealing with. Once people know about it, you will be able to get the help you need to get over the flu. We don’t want anyone else infected, so if you are infected, make sure you do us all a favor and stay home.



The Spectator Give Away Baskets!

Starting in February....

The Spectator will be drawing a ticket to hand out a gift basket



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CORRECTIONS: Star Wars Movie Review Written by Ben Falconer

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Letters may be edited for grammar, spelling, content or length. The Spectator staff reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter.

All letters should have a point that is constructive or contributes to the enhancement of the McPherson College community; The Spectator staff will not print libelous material.

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Letters can be printed and submitted directly to any member of The Spectator editorial staff or emailed directly to the Editor-In-Chief at spectator@mcpherson.edu



Traveling to Another Country: A Trip to Rwanda



Photo Submitted by Emmy Goering

Jaden Hilgers and Emmy Goering with members of the conversational English class in Rwanda.

By Emmy Goering

Just a few weeks ago, six other students and I traveled to the African country of Rwanda with Dr. Herb Smith as part of our interterm class. We met several times prior to the trip to learn about the country we'd be visiting, and I was shocked by its

violent history. Just 24 years ago, in 1994, Rwanda found itself in the midst of a genocide. About 800,000 people were murdered in the span of only 100 days. This racial-fueled rampage left Rwanda a completely different country.

Dr. Smith also tried his best to prepare us for

the culture shock we'd experience, since, for most of us, we would be in the racial minority for the first time in our lives. He also walked us through the logistics of traveling to a country halfway around the world and tried to prepare us for the amazing adventure that

we had in store. We left MC at 4 A.M. to catch an early flight from Wichita to Washington, D.C. The next day was another early morning and long travel day with a fourteen-hour flight from D.C. to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. From there, we flew four more hours to the capital city of Rwanda, Kigali. Although we spent a lot of time getting to our destination, the experience we would gain would prove to be more than worth the effort.

On our first full day in Kigali, we visited a memorial museum dedicated to remembering the genocide victims and telling their stories. The sheer number of people who had been killed is hard to fathom, but as I looked at pictures and learned more about the victims, I felt overwhelmed by the many tragedies. Because the horror had occurred so recently, many of the people working in the museum had been affected by the genocide, having lost friends and family members. One of our drivers shared his story

from the genocide. As a young boy, he had come home from school one afternoon to find his family missing. He knew that if he was to survive, he'd have to leave so he struck out on his own. He eventually fled to the Republic of the Congo during the conflict and found safety. 800,000 others weren't so lucky.

On a lighter note, one of my favorite experiences from the trip was our visit to Akagera National Park along the border of Tanzania. According to its website, Akagera is the last remaining refuge for savannah-protected species like zebras, giraffes, elephants, and baboons. I had hoped that we'd get to see some of the wildlife up close, but I could never have imagined just how close we'd be. In fact, I have some photo bursts of a young elephant practicing his charge technique with the vehicle in front of us. It was remarkable!

This trip wasn't all about sightseeing, however. Our group was asked to spend three days with Rwandans at varying levels of English

proficiency. Rwanda is quickly making a name for itself in their educational advancements, so it was exciting to be a small part of this effort. My group met with university students and highly-educated adults who needed practice with their pronunciation and conversational English skills. We spent time just talking with students, practicing certain words and common phrases, as well as reading aloud. On the last day of class, we produced a deck of cards and the students giggled with excitement. The students quickly picked up our instructions, and we laughed together over several silly games of Go Fish. Their enjoyment of this little glimpse of Western culture gave me a new perspective. In those moments, our "differences"--in culture, in backgrounds, in understanding--transformed in a new, shared reality. Although our return trip was just as long, Rwanda no longer seems so far away.

Elephant and Piggie: "We Are In A Play"

By Gregory Roller

Elephant and Piggie "We are In a Play" was an excellent play. The play was written by Mo Willems, and directed by Jd Bowman. It was about

a pig named Piggie and an elephant named Gerald who were best friends and went on many adventures together. Piggie was played by Micaila Curtis and Gerald was played by Grant H. Tuttle. They

did a wonderful job of reaching the intended audience perfectly. The play got the kids to interact and the adults as well with arm flailing they asked them to do. The play was filled with many laughs

and many obstacles that the two best friends would solve as well as help from the squirrels. The squirrels were played by Courtney Weesner, Elisha Wilcock, Liz Thornton, and Bailey Short. At many times, I was

drawn in and caught myself really genuinely laughing. It was a very well put together play. One fan's favorite scene was at a point where Piggie was invited to a party, and Gerald acted like he knew all about parties,

yet never been to one. The two brainstormed and knew it was going to be a funny hat, fancy costume, pool party. Overall the play was a success and I will be attending many more school productions.



Campus Invites Families to ‘Bulldog Family Day’

By Deiah Curtis

Saturday, February 10, McPherson College hosted their very own Family Day. Family Day was filled with competitions, games, prizes, family and entertainment. One big hit on Family Day was SAB’s Family Feud! Eight families competed in a massive, audience-interactive, live game of the hit game show Family Feud. Families went head to head, battling it out for the \$50 gift card prize and a chance to win \$100 cash in the Fast Money round. “It was a fantastic time, being able to be a part of the competition,” says Misse Cooper Swiggart, sophomore Ryan Swiggart’s mom.

The McPherson College

Family Day not only had the excitement of feuds between families, but a range of activities brought the campus to life making it enjoyable for people of all ages. “Oh, I think the college has done a great job with today’s activities and including everyone,” says Lynnette Martin, sophomore Kylie Martin’s mom. Whether you’re young or old, from town or the other side of the country, Family Day took care of each of the 143 guests on Saturday. Greeted at 9am with an address from President Michael Schneider, 41 families had the rest of the day to go, go, go. From the raffles to cash prizes, Family Feud to Bulldog Basketball to Big-Time Bingo, the events were endless on McPherson

turf.

Along with several other fantastic events for families to go to, some of the students from the Automotive Restoration program broke their team’s record of the fastest Model-T car assembled from simple parts to a functioning automobile. The six-man team completed the build in 7 minutes and 27 seconds, giving the audience quite a show. “This is the fastest this particular team has ever built it,” says Lucas Jez, a junior in the automotive restoration program. “It’s a great feeling to complete something like this, especially for a crowd when the pressure is on. I love being a part of this team and we all work very well together making the build a



Photo Submitted by McPherson College

Students and their family members during a game of Family Feud on Bulldog Family Day, Saturday, February 10.

lot smoother. Today’s time was good, but I know we are going to push to be even faster for our build in May.” After a great day on

campus; through a scavenger hunt, family feud, senior recognitions, raffles and prizes, basketball games, a theatre production

and late night bingo, families left McPherson College with great laughs and great memories.

MC Students Take on NYC During Interterm

By Tomi Simmons

Over interterm, fifteen students and fifteen community members of McPherson traveled to the Big Apple! New York City! Professors Rick Tyler and Jd Bowman led this trip. We spent nine days there, and saw two Broadway shows, a tour of the Steinway Piano Museum, and a tour of the Metropolitan Opera House together. Though we went as a group, everyone had their own personal experiences that made New York special.

The class was for an Introduction to Performing Arts credit, and so the students and I were extremely focused on different aspects of the art in the city. Personally, my focus was how art related to the life of New York City. I found my answers through the art at the Museum of Modern Art, Guggenheim, and the MET; which showcased some of the best paintings and creations ever made in the world.

The city of New York was extremely overwhelming, however after a day I

felt at home. The public transportation and the way everyone could walk to their destination without an issue absolutely amazed me. There were all walks of life from everywhere too. One day I went to Chinatown and Little Italy; the amount of cultural differences by just one street was tremendous. The different parts of the city were all different as well, which made it an adventure when transferring from Manhattan to Brooklyn. A restaurant called Eataly, which served some of the

most authentic Italian food I had ever had in the United States; and a conveyor belt sushi restaurant were the easily the best food places I went to. Although there were so many choices, I never went wrong with one dollar sliced pizza too!

The performing arts and Broadway itself was a great treat to experience. The group saw “Come from Away,” and “The Band’s Visit” together. Overall, I saw five Broadway shows due to student rushing and discounted tickets. On Martin Luther King

Day, I also got to go see performance tributes to Martin Luther King and his impact on the world. The performance and gospel music were empowering. In addition to the performing arts, I was granted the opportunity to perform poetry at the Nuyorican Poetry Cafe two nights that week. I was blessed to see poetry that was much different from the west coast (where I am from), and raw passion in the writers I have looked up to for years.

After New York City, I feel empowered. I attended the 2018 Women’s March in the city, and I achieved my dream of seeing the United Nations building and I got closer to the people I went with. I made friends with all of the students who went on this adventure with me. In addition, I am forever grateful for Rick Tyler and Jd Bowman for showing me the different sights of life. New York City gave me hope for the future and insight on how important art is in our culture.



Senior Spotlight

Kendahl Kelley

By Logan Hartman

Kendahl Kelley is a member of the women's basketball team at McPherson College and will be graduating with a bachelor's degree in political science this spring. Kelley was born in Svendborg, Denmark, but her father was born in Brooklyn. She is one of three siblings and the middle child between her two brothers. As she grew older, basketball became her focus and she knew she wanted to play beyond high school. Kelley heard about McPherson College after the coaching staff had contacted her.

Kelley's political science degree is driven by her desire to help people and she feels this is the best way that she can do it. One day she hopes to be able to work to help refugees or impoverished families get closer to the normal lives they are pursuing. With graduation

quickly approaching, Kelley has applied to one graduate school in the United States and plans to apply to schools in her home country of Denmark. She says her decision to stay or leave the United States will come to her when she receives the notification on whether she was accepted to the schools she applied, and she will follow her heart from there.

Kelley is thankful for the bonds she has formed with her teammates on the basketball team and for McPherson college helping her to become more independent.

Kelley's advice to the student body is, "Don't stress, there are going to be ups and downs in your college career, nothing is ever as bad as it seems, and don't sweat the small stuff because it is all small stuff."

Diamond Dogs Competitive Debut

Stunting On The Competition

By Toni Snyder

The McPherson College 2018 Cheer season drew to an end on February 18th at the KCAC Cheer and Dance Championship in Hillsboro, KS. Despite losing many members throughout the year due to injury and ineligibility, the squad managed to take fifth place out of the six teams in attendance with a score of 53 points. This was the third competition the squad had performed in, following a duel with Friends University on the February 7th in which

the team suffered a close loss of 43-52 and another against Tabor college on the 14th, raising their score by 17 points (60-75) with zero points taken off for deductions!

The cheer squad is scored on a 100-point system that must include a jump sequence, standing and running tumbling, a stunt sequence, baskets, and a pyramid with transitions. The routine must not exceed two minutes and fifteen seconds, and there are points deducted for each wobble or drop.

There are also points awarded for overall uniformity, enthusiasm, and use of the area. The team performed well for their first year on the mats in four years and is expected to continue excelling through the coming seasons. "For our cheer program to still be growing and for us to be new to competition, I think we did pretty well," said Aysia Pryor, junior, "I feel as if this was our test year and we were able to dip our feet in the water so I'm excited for the next

competition season, to see how we improve." The team understands that the only limitations they have are the ones they place on themselves. Nothing can hold back the stars of the sideline. One thing is for sure, even with the odds stacked against them, like a new coach, ineligibility, new routines, and countless injuries, the Diamond Dogs will overcome, because after all, athletes lift weights, cheerleaders lift athletes.



Photo by: Toni Snyder

Mcpherson Spirit Squad pre-competition photo before stepping on the mat.



Bulldog Baseball

Three Weeks In & A Season Of Curves



Some of the McPherson baseball team poses for a picture.

By Tyler Dunn

The season has just started for the Bulldogs and already the baseball team has had to battle off many curveballs. From the weather to overbooked hotels. Mentally the Bulldogs have faced a season's worth of trouble in a matter of weeks. Despite all this adversity, the boys have been able to win ten of their last twelve games, all of which have been on the road and covered by twists and turns giving the dogs

every reason to falter. For example, after an opening sweep against Huston Tillotson, the dogs traveled back to Texas to face off against Texas College. That's where the fun started, during the second game of the series the lights went out during senior Dylan Fontenot at bat. This same weekend the dogs were shocked to find out the hotel they had planned to stay at had given their rooms away. Even through all of this, the dogs were able to continue winning.

After returning home and briefly catching up on homework, the dogs were off again. Cold weather and delayed construction of Bulldog Park caused the dogs to travel to Oklahoma Panhandle State University. The weekend resulted in another series swept, and a team even closer together going into the start of conference against Kansas Wesleyan. All of this speaks to the culture of the Bulldogs, they have created an atmosphere that demands excellence. The coaching

staff had the challenge of blending a young team with a legacy of determination, and they did just that. From the coaches to the rest of the team there is an air of dedication and commitment that is driving this team's season. This team is making a statement, turning heads in the KCAC, because no one expected this. One thing is for sure, you can expect to hear more about the McPherson College baseball team.



Senior Spotlight Aaron Bachura

By Logan Hartman

Aaron Bachura is a member of the men's basketball team at McPherson College and will be graduating this spring with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Bachura grew up in a small town on the east side of Kansas called Council Grove. Bachura enjoyed playing sports such as football and basketball with his brothers, but basketball took priority. One thing that drew him to McPherson was the fact that it was in a relatively small town which reminded him of home and made him feel more comfortable.

After setting up his visit at McPherson, Bachura knew he wanted to be a Bulldog and he was done searching.

After graduating, Bachura will be moving just 30 minutes south of McPherson to Hutchinson where he has secured a position at an accounting firm by the name of Lindburg, Vogel, Pierce, Faris, and will acquire his certified public accounting license while employed.

In the near future, Bachura hopes to become a managing partner at the accounting firm he will be working at. Bachura has been involved in many groups during college other than just the basketball team. Since his time at McPherson College began, Bachura has been a student ambassador, Ace mentor, a member of the business club every year, is a Resident Assistant, and currently holding the position of president of the Student Government Association. He is thankful for the person that McPherson College helped him to become. "It's just fun to be here, it has made me into a complete person, it's in the mission statement." Said Bachura. If he could give any advice to his peers, Bachura encourages his fellow bulldogs to "embrace everything you could be and do so that you can become someone you didn't expect to become, so you can become that whole person."



Uncommon, Unusual, Unwanted Cars on the Corner with Andrew Tanner

By Andrew Tanner

A common theme across the board for many car enthusiasts is knowing the right car when they see it! Such is the case for 20-year-old Anthony Falcone, a junior from New Jersey. At the end of his freshman year here at McPherson college, Falcone found a 1965 Chevrolet Impala Super Sport for sale in Wichita. “I have always wanted to build one of these cars and when I found the right one I bought it,” says Falcone, thinking back to pulling his car from a backyard, “It

was in a million pieces.” Many students remember when the car first appeared in Falcone’s bay at the storage facility near school, if for no other reason than its state of disassembly. Now mostly assembled, Falcone hopes to have his Impala at the college’s upcoming spring car show. As rough as it once was, this Impala is an actual Super Sport model, making it more desirable to most collectors. The engine is a 327 cubic inch Chevrolet small

block V8 with an upgraded camshaft and roller rockers. Falcone spent many hours during the last school year rebuilding this engine in preparation for the 2017

show, but was met with disappointment when a few problems arose the night before.

The transmission is a 2-speed Powerglide hooked

up to a 12-bolt rear axle. If the drivetrain combination isn’t enough, has bucket seats and a console floor shifter, a side effect of being a Super Sport car.

As it sits presently, it is painted white with white interior. For ease of use, it came equipped from the factory with power steering and power brakes. Those who know Falcone can vouch that there is seldom a moment he isn’t enthusiastically talking about his

Impala or working long into the night, hoping to get it one step closer to being on the road.

His future plans are to make it into a fun cruising car to take out for joyrides, “something that I can get in and drive to the shore or anywhere I want.” He hopes to eventually replace the 327 with a more powerful 454 big block with an upgraded Monster brand 700R4 transmission. If all goes well, the Impala will move onto the show field under its own power in May.



BAILEY PORTER



Freshman, Major: Physical Education
“My New Year’s Resolution is to be a better me, to give back, and to help others before myself.”

Freshman, Major: Auto Restoration Design
“My new year’s resolution is to finish restoring my car.”

CALVIN CASSIDA



New Year New Me Resolutions

GILLIAN MARTIN



Freshman, Major: Business Administration
“My new year’s resolution is to not go back for seconds at the caf.”

Junior, Major: Digital Media
“My new year’s resolution is getting healthy to play by spring break.”

DORIAN PAIGE

