

The price of change

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contributing writer

Change is terrifying. It is even more terrifying when you are stripped of the friends, protection of parents and other constants that gave your life structure. Nothing does this more effectively than college.

The point of college is helping you grow, and it does so by cutting you off from your old life and routines and forcing you to grow. This sets the freshmen and transfer students up for a trial by fire, and as my old football coach said, "Welcome to the Thunderdome, bitch."

I will admit it, that last sentence sounded pretty harsh. But I am not going to sugar coat it for you; change is a scary thing. I know this because I am going through the same thing. I am currently transferring into my junior year to a brand new school and I am terrified.

I spent two years forging treasured relationships and carving out my own place in my little world. I loved my campus and the people there. But after I tossed my statics book across the library and exclaimed, "I do not give a damn about this crap," I realized that it was time to do some personal reevaluating.

After a whirlwind of crap, I found myself enrolled somewhere else and scrambling to throw together a half-relevant schedule.

I would tell you that it all worked out, that I immediately found a group of awesome friends and am currently madly in love with my soul-mate, who I met at orientation.

However, I am still working out the ending. I am a twenty year old man, yet I still feel like a child going to his first day of school. I ask myself questions like:

Will I make friends?
Will the other kids be nice to me?

Will the girls there talk to me?

Will their lunches suck?

I am in the same position I was in two years ago, only I am not lucky enough to be living on campus and forced to make friends. But even though I was forced to leave my old school behind, I still did my job as a student. I learned quite a bit and I plan on utilizing it.

I will not lie, I am damn scared about starting over at a new place with nothing and no one to back me up but my crappy Honda Accord and the poor bastards on my Facebook friends list who will soon be inundated with passive aggressive cries for attention and sympathy via status updates, but I will not let that fear cripple me from continuing to grow.

This semester, I will be making a point to get involved and try new things. It will be kind of like Russian Roulette, but instead of possibly receiving a bullet to the face, the risk is that I will just have to awkwardly sit in on a "Students Against Squirrel Kicking" meeting. The same coach who cordially welcomed me to the Thunderdome, and then proceeded to insult my masculinity, also told me that there was a difference between bravery and courage.

He said that being brave is simply not being afraid, but courage was being smart enough to be afraid, but pressing forward anyway.

While I did not like being lectured on what defined intelligence from a man who once repeatedly misspelled the word "block" for different ways in our playbook that year, his words still resonated with me.

I will not stop just because I'm a bit frightened and insecure, and I would hope that no one reading this would either.

College is scary, but so is the alternative of stagnating your life.

Rihanna's new song "lies" to listeners

ELESE MERKOVSKY
sports editor

If you turn on the radio or the TV, you have probably heard the hit single by Rihanna and Eminem "Love the Way You Lie."

The amazing mix of vocals and great beat made the song a quick hit, but the song is causing a lot of controversy. The lyrics portray an abusive couple going through what seems like a continuous path to destruction.

If the lyrics were not proactive enough, the recently released video then takes it to the next level. The video features Megan Fox and *Lost's* Dominique Monaghan, in a violent relationship, bordering on abusive.

This video brings the idea to a whole new light in the media on a topic that is usually hidden from mainstream society. If you have not seen the video, then I would highly recommend watching it. Not that I personally condone violence in any way, but because it allows people to get a glimpse of some-

thing horrific that happens much more than it ever should.

Some may be surprised that Between 600,000 and six million women are victims of domestic violence each year, and between 100,000 and six million men, as said by the American Bar Association.

This statistic may seem like a shock to a lot of people, because most do not realize how prevalent this is. The trouble is that many people are unaware as to what the signs are of someone who is suffering an abusive relationship, or even those who are in one of these relationships do not know where to go if they need help. The media has been rather hard on the "Love the Way You Lie" video because they feel that the video sensationalizes the issue rather than bringing up the main issue, that physical violence is prevalent but does not need to be occurring. Unfortunately, many of these relationships do follow these high and low points as seen.

Domestic violence is one that singer Rihanna knows all too well. The public became aware

of her abusive relationship with singer Chris Brown after the pictures of her bloody and bruised face appeared all over TMZ and the Internet.

The shocking fact was Brown's side saying that Rihanna had to have done something wrong, and brushing the blame from Brown quickly stood many fans of the singers. This is outrageous that today's society even at a young age are able to blame the victims. Being hit or pushed or hurt in any way is never okay in a relationship, no matter what the reason.

These relationships are also a problem due to the fact that they are not usually just a one-time thing. As Eminem says, "next time there won't be no next time, I apologize even though I know its lies," shows that these acts of violence are a continuous pattern.

The song also hits on a point that these relationships often go from very high to very lows, and the pattern is hard to quit. The victim often feels alone with no choice, and still feels love towards the attacker, mak-

ing it hard to do the right thing. The right thing would be to get help, and go to the police to make sure that the person will stay away.

People think that these victims should just walk away from this bad situation, but it is very hard to understand how the victim feels.

If you know someone who is in a relationship like this, the best thing you can do is be there for that person. They need support to know that it is okay to go to the authorities, and to know that they have people there for them aside from their abuser.

Those who are the abusers know how to manipulate their victims, and the victims need to find the power within themselves to step out of the pattern of abuse.

As college students I feel it is extremely important to be aware of domestic violence. If it takes a hit song from Eminem to bring this topic back to the public eye, lets look at it objectively and learn how to lower the domestic violence rates.



Save the news for newsworthy topics

BRANDON BOYD
opinion editor

Tiger Woods has been featured on the news much too often in the past year.

There's no problem with hearing about how he golfed, but there is a problem with hearing about his divorce.

I don't want to see Tiger standing in front of an audience, reading a script that apologizes for his actions. I don't want to hear about how sad Tiger's life has been in the past year.

You make your bed; you lay in it, and Tiger was in his bed a lot - with other women.

In fact, if you go through a

book listing girls names and point to one, Tiger likely slept with someone with that name.

And now that his divorce is finalized, you would think we would get a break from all things Tiger.

Instead, we get to hear Elin Nordegren say that she has been "through hell."

Question: Why are we hearing about what Elin Nordegren has been through? Couldn't we surmise that ourselves?

Seriously, if her husband cheated on her with over 100 women, it's not she's going to be smiling from cheek to cheek.

Chances are, she'll be crushed.

It's one thing to mention

what she says in a brief second on a news program - it's another thing to devote hours and hours of television to Tiger Woods' saga.

If divorce rates are truly on the rise, why don't we hear about the average couples that divorce? If Joe Schmo and Jane Doe divorce because Schmo cheated on Doe with 100 women, why don't we hear about it?

Because it's not Tiger Woods, that's why.

Personally, I don't care if it's Tiger Woods. While what Tiger did was despicable, many people in America do much, much worse every day.

Let's save Tiger Woods' di-

vorce for Entertainment Tonight and the gossip magazines. If Elin Nordegren has been "through hell," let's put her on the cover of OK Magazine, not in the lead of a major news network.

Let's save the news for something newsworthy.

The proposed mosque stirring up controversy like a spoon in a cup of hot chocolate?

Newsworthy.
The war currently going on?
Newsworthy.

Tiger Woods cheating on his wife and getting a divorce?
Nah.

Then again, if he actually did sleep with over 100 women...

Jersey Shore: The best show on television

BRANDON BOYD
opinion editor

Gym, tan, laundry. It's the combination sweeping the nation. It is to college students what peanut butter and jelly is to elementary students.

Or, if you're a poor college student, perhaps you appreciate both combinations equally. Either way, *Jersey Shore* has become a hit television show on MTV, specifically towards our demographic. With all the clubbing and fist pumping you can handle, it provides an hour's worth of entertainment that can't be matched.

Perhaps it's the outrageousness of each character on the show. Or, maybe the vapors from their spray tans and hair spray are seeping through the television and warping our minds.

Regardless, *Jersey Shore* is the best thing on television. It doesn't just deserve two thumbs up - it deserves two fist pumps.

For those of you out of the loop, here's the scoop: *Jersey Shore* is a reality television series on MTV that follows eight housemates spending their summer on the Jersey Shore (although Season Two is located in Miami).

For those of you who don't like the show, this question comes to mind:

Are you crazy?
Sure, they might be a little bit "out there." Yes, Snooki can be quite annoying. Yes, Pauly D's hairstyle is ridiculous. And, yes, Ronnie's constant cheating is shameful.

But each character is just like us, just in an extreme way.

Let's start with my favorite: Mike, better known as "The Sit-

uation."

While it may seem like his role on the show is to flaunt his abs and hook up with women, he provides the show with hilarity and wittiness.

He also teaches us. After all, how would we know what "grenades" and "landmines," Italian-American slang for unattractive women of various weights, were if it weren't for The Situation and the rest of the Grenade Free Foundation? Exactly.

Then there's J-Woww, which is exactly what you say when you see her. She's a gorgeous woman who provides the show with attitude.

Major attitude. She describes herself as the "praying mantis" of women when it comes to relationships.

Vinny is a family guy and could be described as the most "normal" of the group.

Sammi is referred to as the "sweetheart," and she seems to be a nice girl, although naive.

Pauly D is a DJ with a relaxed personality.

Although I find her annoying, Snooki is a fun-loving girl who some people like. I'm not one of them.

Angelina is downright annoying. Luckily, she doesn't make it through Season Three.

Ronnie is funny to watch when drunk. That's possibly his only redeeming quality.

All of this is what makes the show so special. It's got people you will like, people you will hate, and lots of humor and hook-ups combined effectively.

If you're a college student, it's practically a guarantee that you will enjoy the show.

And if you don't enjoy the show?

Well, then we'll really have a Situation.



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