

FEATURES

Adam Turner, Editor

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Thursday, March 29, 2012 B1

LEXINGTON COMIC & TOY CONVENTION

By MICHAEL EMERSON
progress@eku.edu

Saturday, March 24 marked a momentous occasion for the nerds, geeks and fans in the Lexington area as the city held its first major comic book convention featured in Heritage Hall of Rupp Arena.

As with any comic-con, the costumes abounded from Star Wars, Batman to Quail Man from *Doug*.

The highlights of the convention included the appearance of veteran *Power Rangers* actors Jason David Frank (White Ranger), Catherine Sutherland (Pink Ranger) and Nakia Burisse (Yellow Ranger), as well as Paul Schrier and Jason Narvy who portrayed the notorious Bulk and Skull respectively. Other big names like Mark Dodson, who provided the vocal effects for most of the grem-lins, and Dean Lorey, who is noted as a writer for shows and movies featuring Damon Wayans such as *My Wife and Kids* and *Major Payne*, also attended.

But one highly anticipated draw the convention had was a fully drivable DeLorean replica from the *Back to the Future* franchise, which people could sit in and have their picture taken as long as they donated \$20 to the Michael J. Fox foundation for Parkinson's disease research.

This centerpiece of the convention easily tied with the Power Rangers as the most popular showcase.

Various groups of people of all ages turned up, from teenagers, college students and parents with their children in tow, all to see a bit of nostalgia, art and some pretty outrageous costumes.

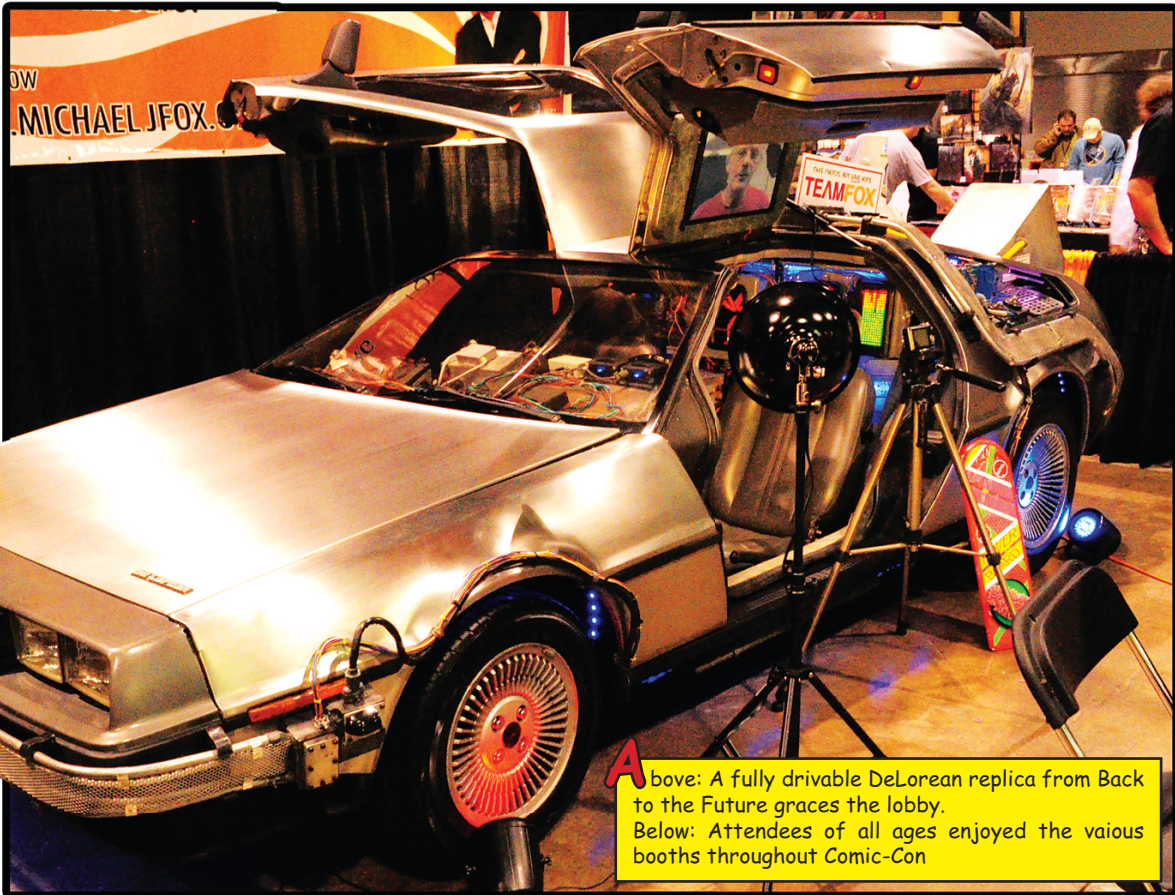
One student, Zachary Buckles, 20, industrialist major at BCTC from Frankfort, was among the crowd of enthusiastic participants. "It's very diverse and not what I expected," Buckles said.

Another attendant, Lexington native Erin West, 25, University of Kentucky graduate student, was surprised at the convention's size.

"It's a big con, I love the costumes the most and although I wish there were more things to do, it's full of good energy," West said.

The effect this convention had on people was not exclusive to any particular age; a boy who was no older than six went up to one of the storm troopers and said, "Trooper...trooper, I found the

➤ SEE COMIC, PAGE B3



Above: A fully drivable DeLorean replica from *Back to the Future* graces the lobby.
Below: Attendees of all ages enjoyed the various booths throughout Comic-Con



TAYLOR PETTIT/PROGRESS

The Hunger Games fails to stand alone from book

By KENNA TRENT
progress@eku.edu

Unless you have been living under a rock—wait, no, let me rephrase that. Even if you have been living under a rock for the past few months, it is likely you still know about *The Hunger Games*. Fans of Suzanne Collins' best-selling novel have been eagerly anticipating this film adaptation for over a year and finally got to see their favorite characters come to life on screen last weekend. And since I can't resist a midnight premiere, I was there, too.



COURTESY OF IMP AWARDS

In the spirit of full disclosure, I must admit I haven't read the book. But, in all fairness, this isn't a book review so that doesn't really matter. I'm just calling it like I see it.

The Hunger Games is the story of a post-apocalyptic society where 12 outlying districts are controlled by a governing city known as the Capitol. In order to pay penance for an uprising against the Capitol, the districts submit one teen-aged girl and boy to participate in a broadcasted competition called the Hunger Games.

In the Hunger Games, the 24 tributes, as they are known, are let loose in an environment completely controlled by the Capitol to hunt and kill one another. The last tribute standing wins. Our heroine Katniss ends up in the Hunger Games after she volunteers herself in place of her younger sister. She and her male counterpart Peeta travel to the Capitol where they are trained with the other tributes and paraded around in front of audiences before being sent into battle.

Sounds like wholesome family fun, right?

From the very beginning, it was obvious the audience was uncomfortable. Probably be-

cause the camera stability in the movie was a little shaky. It was hardly noticeable during action sequences, but some of the quieter and more intense moments were accompanied by a gentle bobbing up and down. It didn't really bother me that much, but vfrom what I'm hearing, not everyone was a fan.

The reason I don't really have a problem with it is that it was obvious to me there were some reality TV undertones in the staging of the film. Here was a clear criticism of the way the world is glued to the fate of "performers" on reality TV—cheering them on even unto death. I think that kind of serious parody can get away with a freely moving camera.

Casting also worked very well for the filmmakers. Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss was a fantastic choice. She has already had a gorgeous start to her career in *Winters Bone* and *X-Men: First Class*. Now, a big title like *The Hunger Games* will only make her the new "it" girl in Hollywood.

Another standout in the crowd was Stanley Tucci as the over-the-top commentator of the Hunger Games. Big teeth and bright blue hair weren't too much for him to overcome and completely shine through. But I honestly don't remember the last time I didn't like Stanley Tucci in a movie. The man's a pro.

As I sit here trying to think of any more aspects of *The Hunger Games* that I liked or didn't like, I'm stuck. While there were some positive points, I must say I just didn't really like it. The story was extremely heavy, and it was apparent that I was missing out on many details by not reading the book, including some character names. I resent the fact that I would have to read a book to accompany a movie. The film



COURTESY OF IMP AWARDS

should stand alone, and it doesn't. I hate to say it, but this series is poised to be the next *Twilight* fiasco; and I'm not sure how much more of that we can take.

Verdict: C

Fun "alternative" classes for summer and fall semesters

By KERRI HINKLE
progress@eku.edu

With advising just around the corner and the spring semester coming to a close, it's time to start planning your schedule for the summer and fall semesters. Are you looking for a class that is fun, interesting and low stress? Or do you just need a class to fulfill graduation requirements or to stay a full-time student? Check out these fun classes you can add to your schedule. No prerequisites required.

Beginning Motorcycle Safety (TRS 234)

Always wanted to ride a motorcycle but never really understood how to operate one correctly? This class is designed to develop in students the necessary concepts, principles and competencies for use of two-wheeled-motorized vehicles including mini bikes, mopeds and motorcycles. Motorcycles and helmets are provided.



Dance and Culture (PHE 200)

This class is an introduction to dance and its role as a non-verbal means of expression. The course examines several dance forms and their context including folk, social, ethnic, entertainment and dance as an art form.

Individual and Dual Sports (PHE 305)

If you really enjoy sports either as an individual or with a partner, try this fun active class that teaches the basic skills, strategy, etiquette, rules and teaching techniques related to tennis, golf and badminton.

Individual and Dual Sports II (PHE 306)

This class teaches the basic skills, strategy, etiquette, rules and teaching techniques related to archery, bowling and racquetball.

Photojournalism (JOU 325)

This class is a fun way to examine the principles of digital photography, stressing hands-on skills in producing professional quality images. Looks at the role the photojournalist serves in newspaper and magazine production, and provides an introduction to color correction in Photoshop.



Social Dance I (PHE 230)

This course introduces the basic movement concepts of social dancing. Rhythm, style and variations of several popular social dances are covered as well as leading and following skills. Some of the dances covered include swing, salsa, merengue, tango, waltz and hustle.

Wellness Experience (PHE 190)

Lifetime Activity Series (PHE 390)

These physical education classes on campus offer many different options for students. "Our goal is to promote health and wellness for students for the rest of their life," said Jack Rutherford, chair of the Department of Ex-

➤ SEE CLASSES, PAGE B3



COURTESY OF IMP AWARDS

Best Freshmen Rapper

CLASS OF 2012

By JABRIL POWER
progress@eku.edu



For the last few years, *XXL* hip-hop magazine has created a list of the most important and popular upcoming rappers to look out for that year, throws them in a round-table discussion, a cypher and puts them on the cover for one of the most popular hip-hop magazines in the states. I can honestly say the 10 *XXL* Freshmen of 2012 were the worst picked class yet, and not because the rappers are bad, but because *XXL* had such a good crop of rappers to pick from. So just in case you don't read about music much, understand this year's freshmen class is a bad representation of talent, and you should reevaluate what's on your iPod. Here are the top 10 upcoming rappers that you should be looking forward to this year.

Danny Brown



COURTESY OF RCRDLBL.COM

Song to listen to: "Blunt After Blunt"
Reason you should care: This guy has been quoted saying, "My only responsibility is to be irresponsible in my music," and it totally shows. Danny Brown is super energetic, has a unique look and brings everything that has been looked down in hip-hop for years —misogyny, drug abuse, etc. — and mixes it all in with a bit of lyricism and an experimental, unique sound. His latest album has received tons of critical praise across the Internet, and he actually earned a place in the annual *XXL* Freshmen list. What Danny Brown lacks in teeth, he totally makes up in lyrical ability and viral attention.

SchoolBoyQ



COURTESY OF THISBEATGOES.COM

Song to listen to: "Sacrilegious"
Reason you should care: This rapper is one the most skilled guys on TDE, a label with the amazing Kendrick Lamar. SchoolBoyQ has been gaining a lot of fans associating with popular acts like A\$AP Rocky. SchoolBoyQ blends the sound of stoner music like A\$AP and the dark, grim rhymes of Odd Future, carefully mixed with the cleverness of Kendrick Lamar and liveliness of Waka Flocka. SchoolBoyQ is surely not the guy to just overlook. TDE will be taking over the rap game. This rapper unfortunately did not make it into the *XXL* Freshmen class this year.

XV



COURTESY OF CLOUDMUSIQ.COM

Song to listen to: "Textbook Stuff"
Reason you should care: This guy has been making noise for years, appearing on a BET cypher last year, has a fairly huge fanbase, has collaborated with the likes of Kendrick Lamar and released a track for every day and night for 40 days, producing nothing but quality work. This guy works hard and will be making a mark this year on hip-hop. RapGenius even wrote an article praising XV entitled, "XV reasons why XV is the next big thing." He has yet to be a *XXL* Freshman.

Stalley



COURTESY OF HIPHIPWIRED.COM

Song to listen to: "Pound"
Reason you should care: He's probably one of the most lyrical rappers on MMG, a label with Rick Ross. This guy has been getting tons of attention, and people are just waiting for him to drop an album that will really make them question the skills of current rappers today. Oh yeah, and he also has a huge trademark beard. It looks pretty cool.

Chip The Ripper



COURTESY OF BUZZINMAGAZINE.COM

Song to listen to: "Freestyle-Chip the Ripper"
Reason you should care: Well because he's been getting tons of praise and has collaborated with the likes of Kid Cudi. He should've been on the most recent freshmen class and he has his own hilarious Internet meme: "Interior Crocodile Alligator, I drive a Chevrolet movie theatre." Google it.

Hopsin



COURTESY OF LAST.FM

Song to listen to: "Pans in the Kitchen"
Reason you should care: People, more often than not, have compared his style to the legendary Eminem's. The guy has content, is pretty lyrical and, above all, is very entertaining. From his weird contacts to his dark

and sometimes humiliating subject matter, the guy has dissed everyone from Rick Ross to Tyler the Creator. He's a very talented young guy, and I'm glad *XXL* put them on their most recent freshmen class list. He proves he deserves it with his video that has snagged almost 10 million Youtube hits in less than a year.

Earl Sweatshirt



COURTESY OF TASTEMAKERZ.COM

Song to Listen to: "Blade"
Reason you should care: He's arguably the most lyrical rapper in web-dominating Odd Future. Or how about that he's finally back from Somoa after his mom kept him from making music throughout all of Odd Future's rise to fame. No, no, no, you should care because in just a few hours of him making a Twitter this year after his famous return, Earl gained 50,000 followers in response to him releasing the amazing song "Home." The guy is a lyrical force to be reckoned, with and the worst part is, he just turned 18. He was nominated for the freshmen class this year, but didn't make it in.

A\$AP Rocky



COURTESY OF GRANTLAND.COM

Song to listen to: "Peso"
Reason you should care: This guy has been in the spotlight for quite some time now. His real name is Rakim. Drake praises him for his music, he has a super unique sound to be from Harlem, has worked with TDE, is blowing up and has a huge fan-following. But most importantly, the guy is just a good artist. Plain and simple. The stoner and rebellious sound proves he truly knows what swag is. People were shocked that he didn't get in the *XXL* freshmen class; A\$AP later said that not being on the list was due to him being too busy.

Childish Gambino



COURTESY OF GOLDENSWEATSHIRT.COM

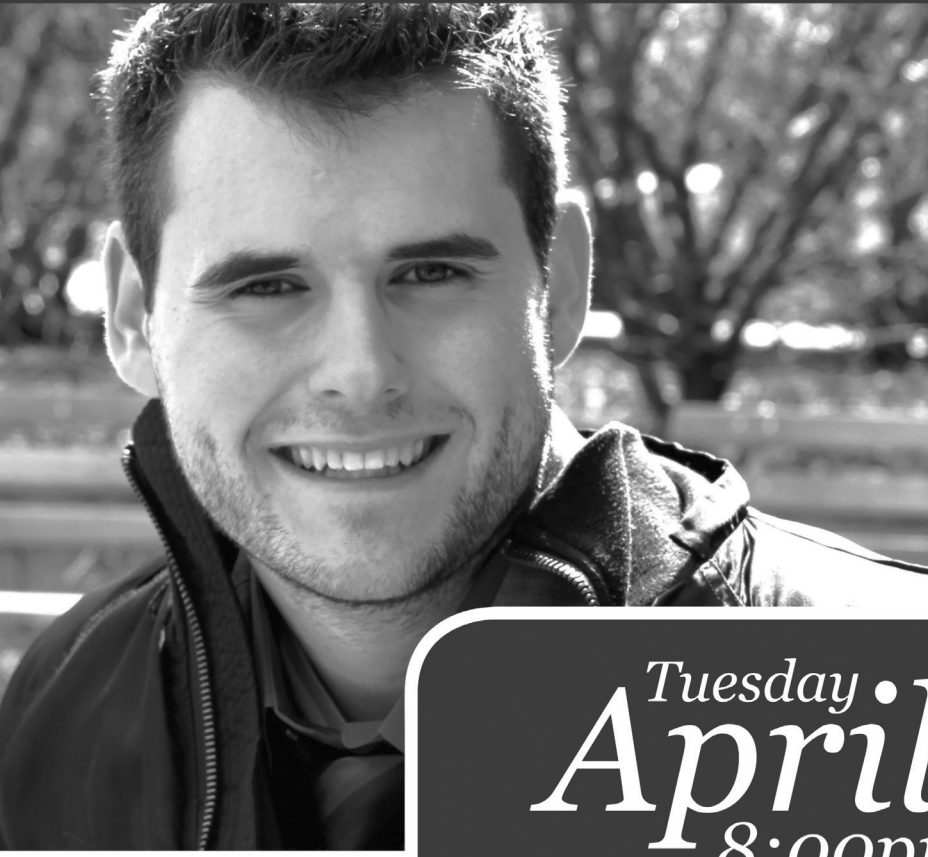
Song to Listen to: "Freaks and Geeks"
Reason you should care: This guy has probably the brightest future out of all the previous rappers listed. Gambino is independent. He acts, writes, raps, sings and does stand up comedy.

➤ SEE RAPPERS, PAGE B3

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ZACH WAHLS

AUTHOR OF MY TWO MOMS



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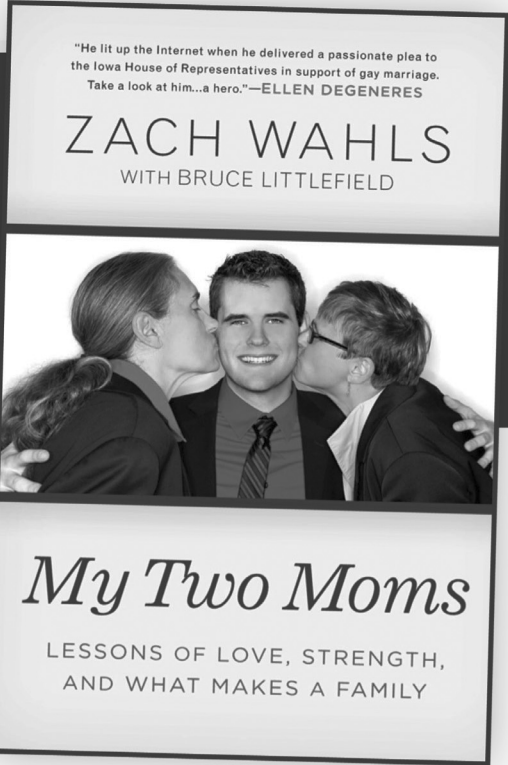


@ZachWahls



Personal site and blog

Tuesday
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CULTURAL ARTS
COMMITTEE

COMIC

CONTINUED FROM B1

droids,” sending everyone in ear shot into uproarious laughter.

The entire convention was littered with booth upon booth of hand-drawn, obscure oil paintings, familiar, and in some cases, weird artwork that went beyond the unconventional.

The artist, Mike Eshelman, 41, from Columbus, Ohio, and a purchasing analyst for his pharmacy, said he had been doing this for over a year and a half, creating artwork out of iron beads.

“It took me a while to get it just right, lining up the beads and using a ton of pressure, but it paid off in the end,” Eshelman said.

He added this wasn’t the first one he’s been to and had found a good market with the convention’s demographics.

Another artist, Bryce Oquaye, expressed his new found love for conventions.

“Man, it’s cool to be in the same room as the Power Rangers and I can’t believe how many people love my artwork,” said Oquaye, who said



TAYLOR PETTIT/PROGRESS

he had started to develop a bit of carpal tunnel in his wrist, but claimed it was worth it.

The energy presented throughout the convention was unlike any other and inspired a few like-minded groups to start working on their own conventions. A group called Bluegrass Otaku advertised the convention they’d be putting together next year, and the Derby City Con, held in Louisville was present in anticipation of the future.

Mystery Science Theater 3000: A classic cult series

By EVAN McMILLIN
progress@eku.edu



What comes to mind when I say, “classic cult series?” If I were to guess, many of you would say *Firefly* or *Doctor Who*. Well, let me tell you what I think of: *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.

Mystery Science Theater 3000 (*MST3K*) is a 90s television series created and produced by Joel Hodgson. *MST3K* stars Hodgson, Trace Beaulieu, Frank Coniff, Kevin Murphy and many more. The show involves three individuals who poke fun at and point out all the flaws behind bad B-movies while watching them. Its first episode aired Nov. 23, 1988 and its final episode aired Aug. 8, 1999.

Depending on which season you watch, Joel Robinson (Hodgson) or Mike Nelson (Michael J. Nelson) is launched into space aboard the Satellite of Love, a bone-shaped space station that orbits the Earth. The satellite is launched by Dr. Clayton Forrester (Beaulieu), who performs experiments on Joel and Mike by forcing them to watch terrible B-Movies. To help him survive his experiments, Joel builds two robots, Tom Servo (Murphy) and Crow T. Robot (Beaulieu), who watch the movies with Joel while poking fun at them.

MST3K has many elements that make it a true must-see. The show’s premise is truly unique. It’s easily one of the wittiest shows ever made. There’s something irresistibly charming about it that makes it a true cult classic.

The show’s premise involves the host and robots sitting in the front row of a movie theater, silhouetted against the movie screen. This allows them to interact with the movie in comical ways, such as attempting to push movie characters down flights of stairs.

The show’s props and special effects are the results of a low budget. Certain props are obvious cardboard cutouts, and the string that holds the Satellite of Love is visible in every outer space shot. This showcasing of the poor budget of the show gives *MST3K* a certain charm to it.

Finally, *MST3K* is among the wittiest shows I have ever seen. While most of the pop culture references made are of the late 80s and early 90s, there is still much to laugh at. An example is when there was ominous horror movie fog, Tom Servo says “Oops. Sorry, had Mexican for lunch.” These jokes make it a true laugh-out-loud experience.

MST3K is a great classic cult TV series that everyone should watch. The show is charming, memorable and easily ranks in my top five funniest shows of all time. You should definitely be watching *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.



CLASSES

CONTINUED FROM B1

ercise and Sports Science. “We really focus on individual sports more than team sports.”

There are many different activities to choose from: tai chi-arnis, beginning karate-aikido I, II, Brazilian martial art, ultimate frisbee, fencing (beginning, intermediate and advanced), pilates, deep water aerobics, weight training, fitness swimming, kickboxing,

Brazilian jiu jitsu, yoga, shiatsu (massage), cardio and tone. “We have everything students are looking for,” Rutherford said. “You name it, we offer it.”

PHE 190 is the first level of wellness activities of current interest and/or need for students. This class may be retaken to a maximum of six hours, if subtiles are different. PHE 390 is the second level of wellness activities and is a series of activities suitable for participation throughout life. It includes rules, skills, techniques and strategies and may be retaken to a maximum of four hours toward graduation requirements.

RAPPERS

CONTINUED FROM B2

This guy does so much and somehow is one of the most entertaining rappers that we’ve seen in a while, maybe because he has studied so many forms of entertainment. He’s been rapping for years, but just recently received tons of attention and millions of views with his music videos. His two albums *Camp* and *Culdesac* have done nothing but prove that Gambino should not be looked at as a comedian who turned to rap, but an actual artist who just happens to rap

and be a comedian. Gambino (Donald Glover) is not joking with these works of art though. He puts his heart and soul into his albums, and it shows. NPR has recognized Donald for all his talent, Cartoon Network has featured him as a talent in one of their cartoons, and all over the Internet are articles about how fans wanted Gambino to be the next Spiderman on the big screen with the slogan, “Donald for Spiderman.” What I think people like most about Gambino is that he’s a nerd and isn’t afraid to express it. He loves Asian women, loves clothes and has had problems with alcohol. Just go listen to the music. I think that if you look in the dictionary for the word “creative,” you should see a picture of Childish Gambino right next to it. He has yet to be an XXL Freshman.

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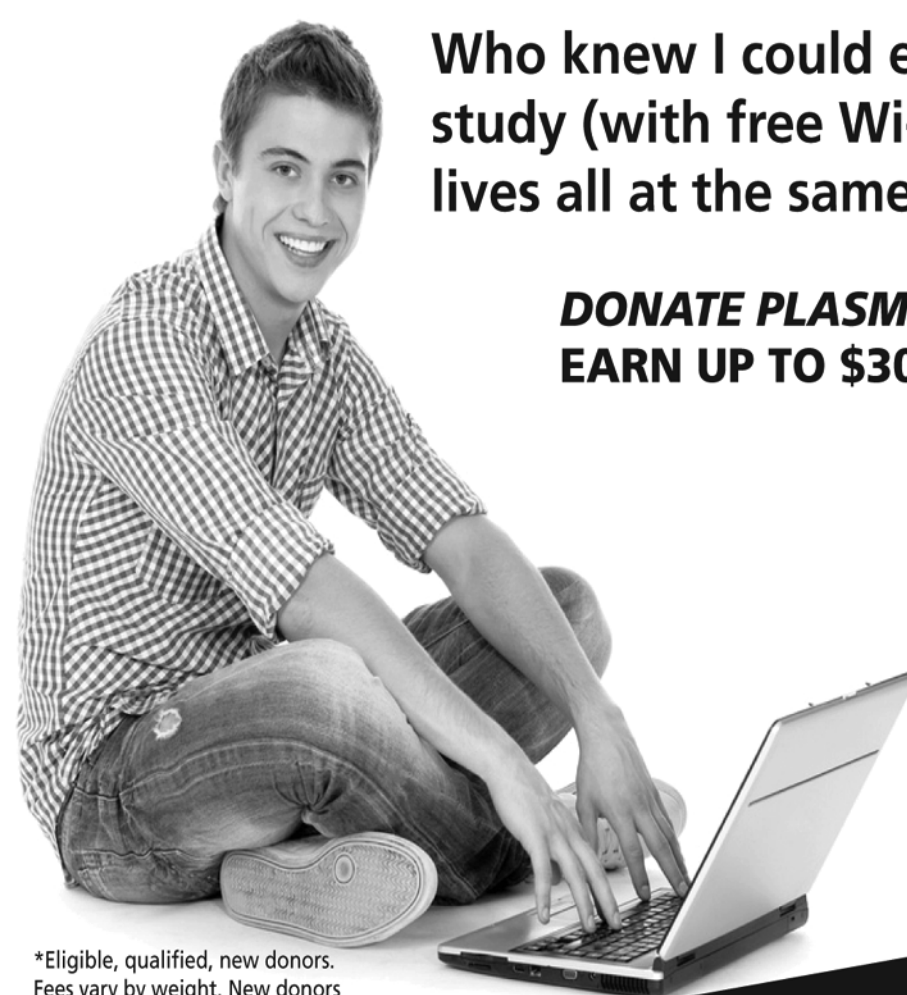
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