Ah, March. In Claremont, it means that one day, the sun is out and you’re wearing flip flops while traipsing through a field of shamrocks without a care in the world, while on the next, you’re getting pelted in the face by rain as you trudge towards the library (having carefully left your umbrella in the aforementioned field of shamrocks). This month, thanks to Shakespeare, many people will erroneously beware the ides of March and tiptoe around superstitiously for fear of provoking the same fate that befell Caesar. Then, just two days later, these same people will throw caution to the wind and willingly go out and drink green beer, even though we know that beer is supposed to be amber or golden, like waves of grain. Does any of this make sense? I don’t know. Does it matter? Not in the least. It’s March, and like the NCAA tells us, March is madness.

In case you didn’t notice, we don’t have an NCAA basketball team here at CGU (heck, we don’t even have shuffleboard), but what we have got are a ton of graduate students. In this issue, The Zine celebrates March Madness, graduate student style. As bettors make predictions about NCAA brackets, Karen Mowrer, in her article on student health care, likens foregoing health insurance to a game of Russian roulette – a gamble she’s not willing to take. In her monthly music column, “Songs to Make Lunch To,” Sharone Williams provides you with appropriate tunes to enjoy as you go slightly insane when books and papers begin to pile up.

Grad school may seem like madness sometimes, but as we find the semester in full swing, we hope you’ll take some time with The Zine to relax, learn about your colleagues, and join in on the conversation.

- Jan Michelle Andres

P.S. If you’re thinking that this issue of The Zine seems a bit eclectic, you’re absolutely right. (How much coherence is there in madness anyway? Discuss. Talk amongst yourselves.) But really, that’s why we’re here. March’s issue reflects the viewpoints and preoccupations of the diverse population of thinkers that make up the remarkable community of CGU students. Going into our second semester of publication, The Zine is more than ever committed to providing a forum for student expression. Whether you feel like sharing the things that keep you up worrying at night, or the entertaining tidbits that, somehow, help you maintain your sanity as you face a flood of assignments, you can always turn to The Zine to voice your opinions, your thoughts, and the news that means something to you.

GET INVOLVED

The Zine is looking for staff writers, editors, designers, online content producers, and marketing & advertising whiz kids. We are also accepting submissions for our Earth Day issue in April. Submit your own writing, poetry, art, photography, etc. Email thezine@rocket-mail.com or visit us at cguzine.wordpress.com.
This issue’s cover art:  
“Monopolization”  
by Mihyang Kim  

My work has common themes of balance and co-existence. The balance found in nature and also the fight for balance and co-existence in human life or political struggles. They embody my homeland, my countryside, and my journey to America. I think art is the way I can live as myself.  
www.mihyangkim.com
“If I Were You I Would Kill Myself”
by Mihyang Kim
When English doctoral student Danelle Dyckhoff accepted a gift of ceviche from a co-worker last spring, she didn’t know her meal was contaminated. Later that evening, an ambulance rushed her to the emergency room, where she was given an IV to help her weakened body fight severe food poisoning. After spending a night in the hospital, Danelle returned home with her stomach settled, but her worries were far from over. A month later, she was charged over $3800 for her ambulance ride and hospital visit because she didn’t have health insurance.

As grad students, a lot of us are only one hospital visit away from being in Danelle’s shoes. But when the cost of our tuition is $1,524 per credit, it’s difficult to afford health insurance. Many of us, like Danelle, cross our fingers and hope that we don’t get sick during the few years we attend CGU, and that we somehow survive to the day when (we hope!) we’ll find jobs that provide coverage. For Danelle, the experience was a huge financial hit, but she doesn’t have regrets; she reasons that the cost of four years of health insurance would have been at least equal to if not more than her hospital visit.

Like Danelle, I’ve gone back and forth about whether to pay for health insurance. I’ve had an independent plan from AETNA for two and a half years and have never used it once. That’s over a hundred dollars a month for services that I don’t use. Am I throwing away money when I have a body that will probably remain healthy?

I went on a journey to find the cheapest health care available for a 28-year-old student like me. I figured that maybe if I delved into the dizzying maze of statistics, I might find an answer to my question: is insurance during grad school a waste?

After comparing three health care plans available to students, I found that I could get better coverage at Claremont’s Health Services for the same price as my current insurance. Even better, I learned...
I could have “just in case” health care for only sixty dollars a month, almost half of what I currently pay.

But perhaps the data itself was less helpful than the realization I made: I may be a sissy and a grade-A coward, but I don’t want to play Russian roulette with my health. Everyone I know who is older and wiser than me says the most important thing to protect is your health. An unhealthy life is a miserable one. Will I get sick in the next year while I finish my dissertation? Probably not. Am I brave enough to risk it? No.

I’ve done a lot of risky things throughout the years. I took an expedition to Antarctica in 2006 and almost got stuck in an ice storm. I’ve sky-dived. I taught in one of the more violent schools in Harlem, NY. But what if I get a brain tumor and need an $80,000 surgery that I have to pay for myself? That’s a situation I’m not ready to face, and no matter how much the odds of good health are in my favor, I can’t convince myself to take that risk. Catastrophes always happen to people who thought it could never happen to them. As the health care debate swirls around us, we have to realize that people are gambling with their lives, and when they lose, they lose big. I want a nation where people can afford to be taken care of and don’t have to sell their homes to afford vital surgeries.

So at the end of this year, I’ll be another $600 poorer, and on my sparse income, that’s a lot. But I’ll have the peace of mind that comes from knowing that if something terrible does happen, I’ll be ok. And I guess that’s not the worst thing I’ve ever spent $600 on.

Catastrophes always happen to people who thought it could never happen to them. As the health care debate swirls around us, we have to realize that people are gambling with their lives, and when they lose, they lose big.”

Student Health Options Breakdown
Comparing three health insurance plans: CGU’s Health Insurance Plan, Aetna’s PPO 2500 and Optimum Advantage HSA 4500.

- **Monthly Premium.**
  For a 28-year-old, CGU’s Health Plan costs $136/month (if you’re under 26, the price drops to $103/month). Aetna costs $138/month, and Optimum Advantage costs $60/month and sets up an optional Health Savings Account (HSA) for you.

- **Cost of Doctor’s Appointment.**
  You have the flu, and you can’t shake it. You just need a doctor to prescribe you
medicine. How much will it cost you? With CGU’s plan, it’s only $10. You do have to go to SHS (Student Health Services) first if they are open, but it’s a low co-pay. AETNA, on the other hand, has a co-pay of $40 - definitely a steeper cost for some antibiotics - even if you go to a doctor in-network. Finally, Optimum will make you pay the full cost of the doctor’s appointment, which can range from $150 to $250. Winner? CGU wins this round for affordable doctors’ visits, though the commute would be a little bit aggravating for people living outside Claremont.

**Cost of Surgery.**
As long as the SHS gives you a referral for surgery and you go to a doctor in the First Health Network, you will be covered 100% for a surgery with Claremont’s insurance. With AETNA, you would have to pay for the surgery yourself unless it exceeded the $2,500 deductible, in which case AETNA would cover the remaining 80% of the surgery. With Optimum, you have to pay for the surgery up to the deductible for $4,500, and then the rest is 100% covered. Winner? CGU’s Health Plan wins again; it’s the only plan in which you wouldn’t have to pay thousands of dollars for a surgery.

**Cost of ER Visit.**
CGU’s Health Plan won’t cover the cost of an ambulance ride (which costs anywhere from $500-1000), but if you go to an in-network hospital, they will pay 100% of your visit. With Aetna, you’d have to pay your $2,500 deductible and then 20% of the remaining bill if you went in network. With Optimum, you’d have to pay your $4,500 deductible first, and then they’d cover the rest. Winner? CGU wins once again. It’s the only insurance program that would have given Danelle significant savings.

**Other Considerations.**
CGU’s Insurance is the only one that covers maternity. All plans offer some level of preventative health care that is free or has a low co-pay (for things like gynecologist checkups), but CGU appears to offer the most. On the other hand, CGU has the lowest maximum lifetime pay out - you can only get $100,000 per injury, where the other insurance plans can pay out up to $5,000,000. Winner? CGU’s Insurance again, especially if you are considering having a child. Yes, CGU pays out less, but most of us aren’t going to have an injury that costs more than $100K.

**So which is better?**
CGU’s insurance is the best value hands down, but you have to be willing to pay $136 each month. It also makes less sense if you live far from Claremont. But for someone who wants to have almost everything covered, CGU’s plan is the best in its price range. If you’re someone who wants “just-in-case” insurance - for instance, you almost never go to the doctor, and you just want the peace of mind that if you get cancer or a tumor, you won’t go broke - then I’d recommend the Optimum Plan. ■
SONGS TO MAKE LUNCH TO  March Madness Edition
by Sharone Williams

To some people, March means a 65-team basketball tournament loaded with thrills and excitement. But for grad students, March means we’re in that awkward spot where it’s too late in the semester to pretend it hasn’t really started in earnest, but far too early for the special alchemy of stress, research-brain-stew, and looming deadlines that results in FINAL PAPER GENIUS. March Madness indeed. If only it would go away when March does!

Here at Songs to Make Lunch To, we’ve realized that hiding beneath every song is another song that reveals the inherent madness of the graduate student condition—all it needs is a little tweaking here and there to bring it out. With all due respect to Johnny Depp, this month’s playlist is for the March Hare or Mad Hatter in all of us.

Heavy Clouds, No [B]rain – Sting
Cabin fever after too many rainy weekends in a row stuck in the house makes us all dull boys and girls. Not to mention that rain seems to deprive all other drivers of their natural intelligence. Not you or me. We’re fine. But everyone else should be locked away at the first drizzle.

What Are You Doing [with] the Rest of Your Life? – Peggy Lee
Adding that one little word makes this the most madden-ing question in the world, one you’ll hear hundreds of times from hundreds of people over the course of your graduate education. Try not to get aggressive when you answer; it scares people.

Viva la [Viva Voce] – Coldplay
Looking forward to that time-honored tradition that final-izes your graduate education, the oral defense? Heh. I mean, good luck.

Working [through] the Weekend – Loverboy
They say some people in the mysterious outside world spend their Saturdays and Sundays “relaxing” and “having fun,” not coaxing microfilm images from reluctant machines or combing fine-print footnotes for source material. I don’t believe it.

[Not] So Far Away [as It Seems] – Carole King
We’re at a very tricky point in the semester. Memorial Day and glorious freedom might seem eons away, but those final papers are due in nine weeks. For reals.

Mad World – Gary Jules
I think it’s kind of funny, I think it’s kind of sad / That the dreams in which I’m dying are the best I’ve ever had.

Tears for Fears co-founder Ro-land Orzabal wrote this song following an evening in the library when, after realizing how many papers he had yet to write, and how few weeks in which to write them, he found himself fantasizing about a giant earthquake that would crush him and his unwritten papers simultaneously. [True story.]

Can’t Get You Out of My Head [and onto the Paper] – Kylie Minogue
You’ve finally tracked down that most elusive of creatures, the Final Paper Topic. It’s brilli-ant, genius, the best you’ve ever had. But when you try to put it into actual words, it sounds like something Elmo would sing on Sesame Street.

Crazy[Heart] – Gnarls Barkley
I remember when I lost my mind, / There was something so pleasant about that place.

The greatest madness of all is that, beneath all of our moan-ings and complaints, there is a little kernel in our heartest of hearts that is having the time of its life. Deep down, we love what we do. And if you don’t, all I can say is...what are you, crazy??
ART REVIEW

Secrets in a Democracy

by Gail Taylor

Last semester, Scripps College sponsored a series of art shows, lectures and films titled “Secrets in a Democracy,” an exhibit which fell under the auspices of T. Kim-Trang Tran, director of the Scripps College Humanities Institute.

The connection between secrecy and democracy in the United States, a culture which espouses freedom of assembly and speech, exercise of religion, freedom of the press and the freedom to let the government know when it has done the people wrong, is a tense relationship in a post-9/11 world. After all, each one of us may have varying ideas of what freedom is, but there is only one constitution of the United States. As “Secrets in a Democracy” demonstrated, there are multiple ways of interpreting texts and images within a democratic system of governance.

A multi-genre, three-month show, “Secrets in a Democracy” included a conceptual installation floor piece entitled “Habeas Lounge,” by L.A.-based artist Linda Pollack. “Habeas Lounge” draws inspiration from the Latin habeas corpus, which has its origins in 15th Century Middle English and means to bring the party before the judge, usually for subjugation. Most people are familiar with the common use of the term habeas corpus to describe a legal order that is used to question the legality of a person’s imprisonment. With “Habeus Lounge,” Pollack plays with the concept of subjugated bodies, in this case, brought before, not a judge for subjugation, but before art (for subjugation)! In order to facilitate this aesthetic experience in subjugation for the purpose of art, Pollack seated the audience in white chairs that were arranged around an outline of a huge sofa. Think crime scene investigation. Only instead of a human body, there was an outline of a couch rendered on the wooden floor in red duct-tape.

Upon entering the Williamson Gallery I felt a conflicting sense of excitement and ominous uncertainty as the audience was dutifully seated in the white chairs that were grouped around the blood-red outline. From the corner of my eye, I could see one of the “Witches’ Cradle” pieces presented by the Center for Tactical Magic, - a swing of sorts, made up in nylon fabric and primary colors that was at once eerily suggestive of a piece of playground equipment and a torture chamber for wise women, also known as witches. Located behind me was the twin to this creepy piece, a full-on replica of a gallows with a reference Abu-Ghraib in the form of a dark cloak-like hooded cloth suspended and draped on the wooden sculpture.

What do these works say about secrets in a democracy? The secret revealed in all three of these pieces is that the mere suggestion of bodily restraint carries ontological presence. The presence of the restraining object weighs on us even though we are merely part of the audience, experiencing the object as bystanders.

In a lecture entitled “Whose First Amendment?: Reclaiming the Public Interest in Our Media” Loyola-Marymount law professor Jennifer Levinson, director of political reform at the Los Angeles-based Center for Governmental Studies, discussed the First Amendment and a 1970s Supreme Court case in which justices declared money as equivalent to speech. Addressing the members of the audience who were seated in white chairs around red duct-tape, Professor Levinson asked, “Is money speech?” I thought of secrecy. And money. Who has it? Who doesn’t? What does money do? It is all
around us shaping who we are, how we dress, how we talk, what we read. And yet, like an invisible wand, money has the power to grant one access to the highest office of the land, to control and manipulate news and information that the public often relies upon in order to help make sound, well-reasoned decisions.

Is money speech? Maybe. But if money is speech, then what happens if I am a state worker in California, for example, receiving a paycheck in the form of an IOU? Does that mean my voice carries less weight than that of a corporate lobbyist? Do I even have a voice if I am paid in anything less than U.S. dollars? Who can reveal the answer to that question without violating a secret?

[read Gail’s full review and see installation photos and artist links at cguzine.wordpress.com/2010/03/08/secrets-in-a-democracy/]

BRACKET[]LY

If you find yourself constantly debating over the best pseudonym of all time; if you can’t quite figure out which breakfast cereal is the most excellent; if you’re invested in finding the best alternative national anthem; or if the sight of a bracket just makes you happy, check out Mark Reiter and Richard Sandomir’s *The Final Four of Everything* (Simon & Schuster; $19.95) and keep the madness going well beyond March.

From the Introduction: “In these pages we are celebrating everything good, surprising, and silly about America - which means that (a) it’s a happy, optimistic book, that (b) is designed to generate arguments....In areas where taste, judgment, and hard-earned wisdom really matter...we’ve set out to determine The Final Four of Everything.”

THE METHOD

IN THE MADNESS

We took the theme and ran with it for this issue, and we’re proud of it. But there’s more logic holding together this issue than you think. March is a month as rich with nonsensical, corporate-driven celebrations of Noodles and Peanuts as it is with causes that The Zine cares about deeply.

Secrets in a Democracy

Did you know that March 16 is Freedom of Information Day? Celebrated each year on James Madison’s birthday, it is an annual event designed to highlight the importance of open government and educate the public about the dangers of excessive and unnecessary government secrecy.

I Will Not Play Russian Roulette

March 30 is National Doctors Day. Granted, we’d be more excited if this included PhDs, but we’ll take it. On March 30, 1958, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution commemorating those other kinds of doctors, and in 1990 Bush Sr. signed it into a national day. If the 42 years it took to formally acknowledge the people who ensure our health isn’t madness - not to mention an interesting insight into the relationship between governmental bureaucracy and health care - we don’t know what is.
Events

March 8-12: Spring Cleaning Donation Drive
Donate gently used unwanted items such as books, cell phones, eyeglasses, shoes and clothes to various charities. DesCombs Quad.

March 11: St. Patrick’s Day Party
A collaboration between the GSC and DSSA with snacks, drinks, and music by DJ Gerard Pacificar. Dress in green in honor of the Emerald Isle, or just come on by and have a great time. 9:30 pm-2 am. Hagelbargers.

April 1: Cesar Chavez Blood Drive & Ice Cream Social
Literally a pint for a pint. Give blood and stop by for ice cream. 11 am-5pm. Multipurpose Room Tranquada Center.

April 2: Spaces In-Between: Igniting Conversations Among Disciplines
The 11th Annual Transdisciplinary Student Research Conference & Art Exhibition, brought to you by the MMP and the Department of Transdisciplinary Studies in partnership with the GSC.

April 9: A&H Conference | Subverting the Margin
Transgressing Boundaries, Displacing Grand Narratives, and Investing in Solidarity. Featuring papers discussing the need to challenge grand narratives and the rigid boundaries of hegemony.