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December 1, 2008 – 8:45 am

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Thanksgiving Day Fact and Fiction

November 24, 2008 – 10:10 am

The Lamson Library and Learning Commons will close for the Thanksgiving Day holiday at 5 pm on Wednesday, November 25th. The building will re-open at 6 pm on Sunday November 30th.

Here are the answers to last week’s TRUE/FALSE Thanksgiving Day quiz.

1. The Pilgrims introduced the Thanksgiving Day tradition in the United States.

   FALSE. Indian tribes in the Americas had celebrated the harvest for centuries. Also, states like Virginia and Texas have also made plausible claims for hosting the first Thanksgiving celebration in the New World bringing into the doubt that it was introduced by the Pilgrims.

2. The poem Over the River and Through the Wood, by Lydia Marie Child, captured the tradition of people gathering for the Thanksgiving holiday.

   FALSE (well, technically!). “Over the River and through the Wood” was originally entitled “The New England Boys’ Song: About Thanksgiving Day” and there were 12 verses. The original poem also included “grandfather’s” house, not “grandmother’s house.”

3. Sarah Josepha Hale is credited for the creation of the modern Thanksgiving holiday.

   TRUE. New Hampshire native Sarah Josepha Hale, waged a 50 year campaign through her role as the editor of “Godley’s Lady’s Book” to “ensure that the last Thursday in November shall be the Day of National Thanksgiving for the American people.”
4. At the first Thanksgiving, Pilgrims served pumpkins, turkey, corn and squash.

FALSE. The Pilgrims may have eaten such foods, but given that they were indigenous exclusively to the Americas, it is most likely that these harvest treasures were provided to the Pilgrims by local Indian tribes.

5. President Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863.

FALSE. Individual states celebrated Thanksgiving for decades before Congress made the holiday legal in 1941. President Roosevelt changed the date from the last Thursday to the 4th Thursday to accommodate a request from the National Association of Merchants who wanted more shopping days before Christmas. Thus, Black Friday was born!

Sources consulted: Thanksgiving: the true story by Penny Coleman and Lies my teacher told me: everything your American history textbook got wrong by James W. Loewen.

By Anne Kulig | Posted in Feature, News | Comments (1)

Thanksgiving Quiz
November 19, 2008 – 3:47 pm

In celebration of Thanksgiving next Thursday, we would like to invite you to test your knowledge of Thanksgiving Day facts.

Which of the following statements is TRUE?

1. The Pilgrims introduced the Thanksgiving Day tradition in the United States.
2. The poem Over the River and Through the Wood, by Lydia Marie Child, captured the tradition of people gathering for the Thanksgiving holiday.
3. Sarah Josepha Hale is credited for the creation of the modern Thanksgiving holiday.
4. At the first Thanksgiving, Pilgrims served pumpkins, turkey, corn and squash.
5. President Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863.

Use the comments section below to indicate your choice. We’ll post the answer next week.

By Anne Kulig | Posted in Feature, News | Comments (5)

Heads or Not? Student Artwork on display in The Commons Cafe
November 7, 2008 – 2:41 pm

The Lamson Library and Learning Commons is pleased to welcome the artwork of students in Michael Heffernan’s Spring 2008 class in Painting II. The instructor described the resulting artwork:

"These are works of the Spring 2008 Painting II class which focused on the figure. They are an attempt at having an awareness of the complexities of the human head and each individual’s response to a head (if such a thing as a human head exists or such a thing as an individual exists).

......The more we look at the head the more we see there is no head in-and-of-itself. The head doesn’t look like anything. So we paint not what it looks like but how it looks. Then we find out that “how” it looks depends on the “how” of everything around it. So we are looking at the “how” of “not heads”.

......Each head painting is really a compression of continuous experience."
So there was no head to paint. There was also no individual experience of a head to paint. Each artist painted from within the maelstrom of the totality of experience."

The artwork will be on display until November 17th.

By Anne Kulig | Posted in Feature, News | Comments (0)

“Choose or Lose” on November 4
October 16, 2008 – 4:41 pm

Video channel MTV’s 2008 election year theme is a short, but poignant reminder to all of us about the importance of exercising our right to vote.

Until 1971, most college and university students didn’t have the right to vote, so this November don’t throw away your chance to make a difference. Remember that college students can vote where you go to school; in NH, you can even register to vote on Election Day. Check out our Election Links 2008 where you will find a variety of independent Websites with information on the candidates and the issues. You can use these to “fact check” the accuracy of some of the campaign ads and statements, and even find the candidate that best matches your personal beliefs.

Librarian Gary McCool “is responsible for the list of these links” and “approved this message.”

By Anne Kulig | Posted in Blogroll, Feature, News | Comments (2)

Election 2008 Links
October 16, 2008 – 4:36 pm

NATIONAL LINKS

CNN: Election Center 2008

ABC News: Match-O-Matic
Answer a few questions on your positions on issues and find the presidential candidate that most closely matches your beliefs. (Includes all the candidates in the primaries.)

VoteMatch Quiz
Another site at which you answer a few questions and find out which candidates are closest to your own views.

FactCheck.org
Debunks false and misleading ads and statements. A project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, this site acts as a nonpartisan "consumer advocate" for voters with the aim of reducing "the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics".

ProCon.org: 2008 Election
“Our goal is to research issues that we feel are complicated and important and work to present them in a balanced, comprehensive, straightforward, and primarily pro-con format for free and without advertising on the internet.”

League of Women Voters Education Fund: VOTE411.org
"VOTE411.org is a “one-stop-shop” for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information."

Project Vote Smart
As a national library of factual information, Project Vote Smart provides information on candidates and elected officials in six basic categories: biographical information, voting records, issue positions, interest group ratings, public statements, and campaign finances.

New Voters Project
A project of the Student PIRGs (Student Public Interest Research Groups). “The New Voters Project is a nonpartisan effort to register young people and get them to the polls on Election Day.”

Student Association for Voter Empowerment (SAVE)
Save is “a national non-partisan, non-profit organization, founded and run by students, with a mission to increase youth voter turnout by removing access barriers and promoting stronger civic education.”
Rock the Vote
“Rock the Vote’s mission is to engage and build the political power of young people in order to achieve progressive change in our country.”

MTV Choose or Lose

FiveThirtyEight: Electoral Projections Done Right
The number 538 refers to the number of electors in the electoral college. The mission of this Website, in its own words is: “Most broadly, to accumulate and analyze polling and political data in way that is informed, accurate and attractive. Most narrowly, to give you the best possible objective assessment of the likely outcome of upcoming elections.”

NEW HAMPSHIRE LINKS

WMUR-TV (Channel 9): Commitment 2008
WMUR-TV (Channel 9): Compare Candidates
New Hampshire Democratic Party
New Hampshire Republican Party
New Hampshire Secretary of State’s Election Division
Voting [in NH] as a College Student
(from the NH Secretary of State’s Office)
New Hampshire Voting Districts and Past Election Results

ISSUE-ORIENTED WEBSITES

League of Conservation Voters [Environment]
“The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) is turning environmental values into national priorities. To secure the environmental future of our planet, LCV’s mission is to advocate for sound environmental policies and to elect pro-environmental candidates who will adopt and implement such policies.”

We Can Solve It [Climate Crisis; Environment]
The We Campaign is a project of The Alliance for Climate Protection — a nonprofit, nonpartisan effort founded by Nobel laureate and former Vice President Al Gore.

Divided We Fail [Health Care]
Sponsored by AARP, Business Roundtable, Service Employees Union (SEIU), and National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

Just $6 [Publicly Funded Elections]
Compiled by Gary McCool
gmccool@plymouth.edu
October 2008

By Anne Kulig | Posted in News | Comments (1)

American Politics 2008: A View in Prints
October 16, 2008 – 9:00 am

For more than 200 years, political art has helped ignite discussion, sway votes and entertain voters. Plymouth State University presents American Politics 2008: A View in Prints, September 15 to November 21. The exhibit opening is Wednesday, September 17, 4-6 p.m. at Lamson Library. This show displays the prints of nine northern New England artists whose works include the clever and colorful presentation of words that confront our ideas to a distinctive use of familiar political personalities and cultural icons. The exhibition is curated by David A. Beronà, director of the Lamson Library and Learning Commons.
“It is invigorating to see the enthusiasm that these artists have taken in presenting dynamic works that shake up and sometimes challenge our awareness of the political process during this important election year,” said Beronã. “These works step outside the static rhetoric of commercial media, which we have all grown numb to, and makes us all ponder the important issues that shape our lives—like the war in Iraq and our economic recession—and the threatening consequence that our vote in November will have in our future.”

The work of printmakers from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont are presented in collaboration with the Art of Democracy, which is a national coalition of political art exhibitions taking place in the fall of 2008 on the state of the American political scene. Artists include Carroll Berg, Elizabeth D’Amico, Nancy R. Davison, Anita Dillman, Terry Downs, Brandy Gibbs-Riley, Henrieke Strecker, Adam Jacono, and Brad White.

Above: Opening Event

List of Works
All works are copyrighted by the artists.

Carroll Berg
“I am a producer of dreams and ideas through Graphic Hacking, Urban Development, Memory Disruption, and Public Interventions. I believe that Art and Design can grab your attention not only for products but also for political and social awareness. Design can tell you what is going on in your town, tell you what band will be playing or what event is happening. Design can inform you of an expansion of toll booths threatening homes or corporations moving in next door to pollute and cripple your small town economy. These posters are designed to grab your attention and help gain awareness for the issues and inform the viewer. The role of a Graphic Hacker is to use different delivery systems as well as to make bold decisions and risk taking to help others.”

Vietnam. Screen print, 32 x 22 inches.
Obama. Screen print, 26 x 20 inches.
Political Prisoner. Screen print on shirt, Image 11 x 14 inches.
Blackhawk Down. Screen print, 20 x 26 inches.

Elizabeth D’Amico
United for the Environment? Oil based collograph print, 14 x 11 inches.
“The ferns in this collograph symbolize the importance of protecting the earth’s...
ecology. This print is as literal and simplistic a statement as possible. Humankind must unite on all fronts to help reverse global warming. Each political party should unite on this subject if on no other.

Nancy R. Davison


“This piece is a memorial of death and despair to the utter dangerous stupidity and arrogance of the Iraq War. The block is printed 5 across and 3 deep for 180 flag-draped coffins per page—a coffin for each American killed in Iraq. As the death toll rises, I print more pages to add to the tablet format. When I began the piece in August 2004, I printed 976 coffins. By June 2006 I had printed 2503. We have just passed 4100 dead and I need to print again.”

Change. Color linocut, 9 x 18 inches image, 15 x 24 inches, 2008.

Red Herrings. Color linocut, 4 x 18 inches image, 10 x 24 inches, 2007.

“Three Red Herrings—Abstinence, Abortion, Gay Marriage, School Prayer, Evolution, Flag Burning, Guns, and Anna Nicole—trivialize our public discourse and distract us from the overwhelming, overriding crisis of our time—Climate change and its children War, Famine, Flood, and Fear.”

Anita Dillman


“We are faced with very serious problems, many of our own making: global warming, depletion of resources, environmental toxification, inadequate healthcare, the threat of nuclear annihilation (whether by armaments, accidents, or waste disposal). Ignore the rhetoric and Hollywoodization of candidates. Look below the surface. INFORM yourself. Read. Demand accountability. VOTE!”
Terry Downs

“At an interview, a reporter asked vice president Chaney about the relentless criticism of administrative policies regarding the war in Iraq, the huge sums of money going to the military-industrial complex, the deficit, the policy toward oil and energy, the policy toward the environment, the policy towards the economy and what his response was to all of that. His response was ‘...SO!’ The arrogance of this imperial presidency is what motivated me to make this design.”

Brandy Gibbs-Riley

“This work is a commentary on the greed of the current administration and its prey on others in the pursuit of personal, financial, and territorial gain. ‘Pray for Peace,’ an expression of hope that transcends race, religion, and creed, takes on a dark, satirical undertone when juxtaposed the homonyms, ‘Prey for Piece’–a piece being that of land, oil, money, etc. The contradictory nature of each expression is reinforced by white and black backgrounds, symbolic of good and evil in this world.”

Henrieke I. Strecker

How long will you stay? Photopolymer plate on arches watercolor paper, 5 x 4 inches.
“I had some bad experiences with Customs when I came to America. I had to go through a second security control–the only passenger from the Frankfurt-Boston flight–at the airport in Boston and they asked me very intimate questions. It seems the government’s need to take my fingerprints will never end.”

Terror Colors. Screen print, 40 x 30 inches, 2008.

Adam Jacono

“[My recent work examines the gap between culture and nature, ideals and reality–with contemporary advertising at the forefront of behavioral modification. The work serves to eradicate the ideals which society places on objects and as a triumphal scream into the face of a confused culture.]”

Brad White

The Young American. Digital print from drawing in oil pastels, 24 x 18 inches, 2005.

“I created this drawing immediately after President Bush declared himself ‘the decider’ on all matters in regard to his administration. This picture is a parody of old prime time television programs, and statements made by President Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. The bloodshed by the youth is difficult to explain. It has something to do with the circumstantial tension our youth must be living under. It represents blood purging to remove evil from one’s self. The clothing, especially the belt is a parody on our Navy, which is more feared by opposing nations than our ground troops. The drawing is loaded with encrypted symbolism and I will leave the decoding to the viewer. I drew the youth as if a teenage boy drew the picture.”

By David Beronà | Posted in Exhibit, Feature, Uncategorized | Comments (5)

New database offers global economic data and forecasting

October 13, 2008 – 8:00 am

Country Analysis and Forecast Service, from Global Insight, provides users with same-day analysis of breaking events in 204 countries evaluating political, economic, legal, tax, operational, and security factors for each nation. This premier database also offers important data for each country including:

- Domestic data (GDP, inflation, budget, unemployment)
- External data (trade, debt, etc.)
Five years of historical and demographic data (population, literacy rates, etc.)
Country Analysis and Forecast may be found under the Databases link from the library website.

By Anne Kulig | Posted in Blogroll, Feature, News | Comments (0)

**Lamson goes global with SCOLA Database**
October 10, 2008 – 10:00 am

SCOLA is a non-profit educational organization that receives and re-transmits television programming from around the world in native languages. The SCOLA database offers a number of exciting services:

- **World TV Online** offers live television programming from 100+ countries in 95+ languages.
- **Insta-Class** contains 5 minute clips of authentic news that has been transcribed and translated.
- **People and Places** offers an extensive album of pictures worldwide.
- **Foreign Text** is an online library of worldwide newspapers, magazines, poetry and children’s books.
- **International Radio** is a growing library of selected broadcasts.

By Anne Kulig | Posted in Blogroll, Feature, News | Comments (0)

**Artwork by Bradley White on display in The Commons Cafe**
October 6, 2008 – 12:00 pm

The Library and Lamson Learning Commons is pleased to welcome the work of Bradley White, a BFA student at Plymouth State. Of his work, Brad writes:

"I make art to be noticed. I use color and subject to get a reactive response from the viewer otherwise the viewer would just pass by my art. These attention-seeking paintings were primed in acrylic gesso. Some have an under-painting in acrylic then oil painted and some have oil stick pigment over that. Some are stretched on picture frames, appropriated (discarded student canvases), and works done to complete the painting professor's curriculum. I paint to push myself to the limit of my knowledge in painting. If painting was like high bar jumping, I keep raising the bar. This I do enthusiastically because to reach past one's high mark is always challenging."

The artwork will be on display until mid-October.

By Anne Kulig | Posted in Blogroll, Exhibit, Feature, News | Comments (0)

**Banned Books Week 2008 and the Freedom to Read**
October 1, 2008 – 10:24 am

The Lamson Library and Learning Commons invites the campus community to recognize the "freedom to read" during Banned Books 2008. According to the American Library Association, these ten books top the list in 2007, but thousands of other books are also challenged in school, public, and other libraries.

Books are challenged from all directions; the Left, the Right, and in-between. Laura Ingalls
Wilder's book *Little House on the Prairie* was challenged at a school in Louisiana because it was "offensive to Indians."; Jon Stewart's *America (The Book)* was banned by a regional library board in Mississippi because the book contained images of Supreme Court justices' faces superimposed on naked bodies; *The Guinness Book of World Records* was challenged, but retained, in a Wisconsin school for being "sexually explicit."; and children's picture book author Rosemary Wells' *Shy Charles* was challenged in Oregon because the mother was "portrayed too negatively."

These books, and other lesser known challenged or banned material, are on display on the Main Level of the library near the Reference/Research Desk.

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**Citation made easy with new EndNote software**

September 30, 2008 – 9:00 am

Lamson Library and Learning Commons has purchased a PSU license for Endnote. Instead of spending hours typing bibliographies, or using index cards to organize their references, many researchers now do it the easy way—by using EndNote! [Read more.](#)

This software is available to all students, faculty, and staff on a CD to load on your computer at the Lamson Learning Commons Information Desk. Endnote is available for use on all cluster computers, as well.

Easy tutorials are available at [endnote.com/training](http://endnote.com/training). If you have questions, [Ask a Librarian.](#)

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**Arab Artifacts by Najwa O’Hara on display at Lamson**

September 24, 2008 – 8:45 am

The Lamson Library and Learning Commons is pleased to welcome the exhibition *Explore Other Lands: a Journey into the Arabic World* by Najwa O’Hara.

Ms. O’Hara was born in Mosul, a small city in the north of Iraq. After she finished her high school studies, she studied at the University of Mosul and graduated from the same university with a AAS and BA. Presently, she is an MBA student and a member of the Fellowship Program in the Business department at PSU. In her artist’s statement, Ms. O’Hara noted that "her jobs as an Arabic special tutor, translator, interpreter and Executive Assistant for International companies in numerous countries exposed her to other cultures and taught her how to respect and appreciate the differences between people."

The exhibition contains a selection of 20 items including photographs (like the one above), spices, copper and silver work, and beautiful tea and coffee accessories.

Please stop and visit this lovely exhibit on the Main Level of Lamson. Materials will be on display through September 30th.

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**Lamson expands full-text coverage for sports and sports medicine**

September 18, 2008 – 3:44 pm
The Library is pleased to announce the arrival of the SPORTDiscus Full-Text database.

SPORTDiscus has long been recognized as the premier source for information in sports and sports medicine. SPORTDiscus with Full-Text will now include full-text coverage for more than 440 journal titles going back to 1985. The database includes links to journal articles, book chapters, and conference proceedings.

By Anne Kulig | Posted in Blogroll, News | Comments (0)

Welcome back!
September 2, 2008 – 11:21 am

Welcome to Fall 2008! The Lamson Library and Learning Commons would like to extend special greetings to the Class of 2012. We're glad you're here! Fall hours resume this week.

This semester our website will feature many new and exciting things to make your search for information easier...our improved interlibrary loan services, exhibits, book events, and much more. Check back often for more details!

By Anne Kulig | Posted in Feature, News | Comments (0)

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