Campus beautification project underway, works to continually improve pond and wildlife

By Seth Mattei

In 2009, a service learning project/fund-raise was started by Fred Tuhro, Delgado's business and management program coordinator, in order to resurrect and maintain the pond on the college’s City Park campus, which, along with the rest of the campus, was still suffering from visible damage left behind after Hurricane Katrina. “After Katrina, the campus was a mess,” Tuhro said. “The pond got so bad that it stank.”

The campus beautification project will be holding a raffle on Wednesday, Nov. 7 and Thursday, Nov. 8 to raise money to construct a small waterfall and a turtle island in the pond. “Every semester, we pick something,” said Tuhro. “Last semester was [Delgado's] 90th anniversary, so we put 90 koi fish in the pond. The semester before that, we put up the windmill.”

“This is a 50/50 raffle,” Tuhro noted. “The winner gets half of the money, and the other half goes into the pond.” The raffle tickets cost one dollar and the winning ticket will be pulled on Friday, Nov. 9. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in the raffle; the winner usually receives an average of $1000 in cash.

The campus beautification project raised the money for a construction of the windmill, and along with Delgado’s horticulture department, were in charge of growing and maintaining the plants around the pond.

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Sullivan and May both acknowledged that glitches with the roll-out of new computer software called Banner caused enough problems with fall registration to affect enrollment numbers. In a letter to Dr. May, Faculty Senate President Bob Lawyer said that hundreds of students frustrated with registration problems attributed to Banner “voted with their feet” and left the college.

Dr. May said the Banner system has been beefed up and that the LCTCS is exploring possible legal remedies against Elulian, the software manufacturer. “What happened with Banner is inexcusable,” he said.

May further discussed statewide budget woes, saying that Delgado has so far avoided cuts that have affected other institutions in the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, saying the system is down 300 employees across Louisiana.

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Spring 2013 registration underway

Compiled by Dolphin Staff

Registration for Spring 2013 classes began Monday, Oct. 22. Continuing students and first-time applicants may begin the registration process at www.dcc.edu/departments/admissions/register-now.

Spring 2013 classes begin Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013. For more information about Delgado registration and enrollment call 504-671-5012, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., or email delgadoadmissions@dcc.edu. For information about support services available to Delgado students, visit Single Stop at www.dcc.edu/departments/studentaffairs/single-stop or call 504-671-6563, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., or email singlestop@dcc.edu.

Delgado is also providing priority registration assistance to military veterans, as well as their dependents, for the Spring 2013 semester. The “Veterans Are Our Priority” program provides these individuals the opportunity to take care of all registration needs before other students and the general public.

Debate breakdown: Romney’s plan

By Blake Newman

On Oct. 3 the first presidential debate was held at the University of Denver and both candidates were asked a series of questions regarding the economy with an allotted amount of time to respond. When asked how he would handle the deficit problem that the country faces, candidate Mitt Romney stated that the he wants to lower spending and encourage economic growth. To do this he plans to test multiple programs to see if they are worth borrowing money for and putting the country into further debt. “I’m not going to keep on spending money on things to borrow money from China to pay for,” said Romney. The programs that do not pass this test will be cut, and Obamacare is one program headed for his chopping block. He also brought up President Obama’s previous plan to lower the deficit before he entered office. Romney says that Obama was going to take the deficit that the country faces and cut it in half, but since Obama has been in office it has doubled. Romney wants to give states more control over Medicaid, and said, “Medicaid dollars that go to states and say to a state, ‘You’re going to get what you got last year, plus inflation, plus 1 percent, and then you’re going to manage your care for your poor in the way you think best.’” Throughout the debate Romney was battling with Obama over his health care plan, commonly called Obamacare. When asked what he would do about replacing the president’s plan if it was repealed, Romney mentioned that young people would have the opportunity to stay on their parent’s healthcare plan longer, like under Obamacare. Romney also stated wanting to bring down the cost of healthcare, making it more affordable in — in bringing down the cost of almost anything,” Romney said. The vice presidential candidates had their debate on Oct. 11 and discussed foreign and domestic policy. This debate focused on issues like the situations in Libya and Syria as well as the economy. Unlike the presidential debate, one candidate did not seem to be taking it very seriously. Joe Biden behaved in a condescending manner and even chuckled while Paul Ryan was answering questions.

The third and final debate between President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney was held on Oct. 22 and focused on foreign policy. The debate was held at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla.

Campus Events

City Park

Family Fest
Tue, Oct. 30
4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Student Life Center 2nd Floor

An event for students and children to explore, play and learn.

NoShavember
Thu. Nov 1
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Student Life Center

Kick off of month-long event to raise awareness for testicular cancer.

Fall Job Fair
Wed. Nov. 7
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Student Life Center 2nd Floor
Lake Pontchartrain Room

For students and alumni

Covington

Halloween costumes and giveaways
Wed. Oct. 31
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Slidell and Covington

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Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced, and not longer than 400 words. Guest columns and articles should be no longer than 700 words. The Dolphin reserves the right to edit letters and guest columns for space and to reject any letter without notification of the author. Faculty and staff members should include their titles and department. Students should include their majors and classifications.

All submissions must include full name and phone number. Submissions can be mailed to The Dolphin, 615 City Park Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119 or brought to the Dolphin office in CP11 Room 104, Monday through Friday. The office phone number is (504) 671-6605, and the e-mail address is thedolphin29@gmail.com.
Thrift stores offer students a way to keep costs down

By Chris Farrell

College is expensive and getting more so by the day, while tuition rates and the cost of books continually rise each semester, and the amount of financial aid continues to drop. In light of the economic dilemma our country now finds itself with trillions in debt to other countries and good jobs harder to find, every advantage that a Delgado student can take to save a dollar, or even a penny, can help them reach the goal of graduation.

Benjamin Franklin wrote, “A penny saved is a penny earned,” reprasing an older English proverb, “A penny spair is twice got,” and iruer words could not be more appropriate for the student struggling to make financial ends meet in these economically trying times. One financial facilitator which students can take advantage of here in New Orleans is the extensive network of thrift stores. By taking the time to thrift, you will be surprised by all the great school gear that can be found for pennies on the dollar. Items that are easy to find include binders and staplers, printers and computer cases, dictionaries and tape recorders. The possibilities are endless and the prices are unbeatable. This reporter found a great computer case, which would cost well over $50 retail for only $2 at the Pelican Thrift store on Carrollton Avenue. You’ll spend less money shopping at thrift stores especially when the time comes in certain classes to purchase materials needed for special projects. When it came time to paint a picture in an art class I priced the cheapest canvas at an art store at well over $25 but decided instead to buy a painting at the Red, White, and Blue Thrift shop on Jefferson Highway for $1. After a re-paint with white house paint that I had in the garage, it gave me the blank canvas that I needed. You may need costumes or props for a Television Production or Theatre class - thrifting is the cheapest way to go. You may be pleasantly surprised by some of the great stuff you find in these large, catch-all stores as the saying goes, “One man’s garbage is another man’s gold.” There can be great pieces of clothing found for again, pennies on the dollar, and sometimes you can find a diamond in the rough that is specific to you. A used guitar might catch your eye if you play, whereas someone studying the culinary arts might be attracted to a great deal on a pressure cooker.

Once Metairie shopper at the Goodwill on Robert E Lee Blvd. commented, “At the rate (my kids) are growing it doesn’t make any sense for me to spend a lot on clothing. I find really great children’s clothes at very inexpensive prices when I look around town at the different thrift stores and yard sales. I figure that they’ll thank me when they go to college and I have a little something put away to help them. (Kids) don’t need to impress anybody right now and are just as happy with what I buy here and will wear it just as quickly as any thing I might buy at the mall.”

If you can find things you need for substantially less in a thrift store, then swallow your pride and save those precious dollars. Remember, if you are pursuing your college education with the assistance of loans and grants, when you graduate that money has to be paid back. The less you owe the better.

By Blake Newman

There comes a time in a driver’s life when an accident just happens. The accident may or may not be your fault, but it is important to remember to properly go about dealing with it.

The one thing you want to do after you have been in an accident is keep calm and make sure no one is hurt. After you have made sure no one is injured call the police. Calmly answer the operator’s questions, and if you are not sure of the street name, give them a landmark so the officers can find you.

If anyone is injured while you are waiting on the police and ambulance stay calm and explain to the injured party that the police and ambulance are on the way. Panic can only make accidents and injuries worse. If the party is seriously injured, do not move them, be sure when you call the police to tell the operator how severe the injuries are. Do not move your car, even if you are blocking lanes. When the police arrive if they need you to move your car they will tell you to. While waiting for the police to arrive get your documentation in order. Make sure you have an updated insurance card, your license, and the registration of the vehicle.

Once the police arrive they will take statements and file reports. A ticket may or may not be given out to one of the parties involved in the accident. If you are at fault for the wreck, be honest about what happened - the last thing you want to do is lie. After the wreck has been reported and police give the parties involved the okay to leave, promptly call your insurance company. They will ask for your statement and other information regarding the wreck. Make sure you have the other party’s information so you can call their insurance company as well. Once all the steps above have been dealt with, the insurance companies will contact you regarding estimates and repairs. If the person who was at fault does not have insurance the police will handle it accordingly, but if you were hit by someone who does not have insurance contact a lawyer.

It is important to remember to keep calm throughout this process. This will make the process go smoothly and easier for all parties involved. Some accidents can’t be prevented, but it is important to remain mature and calm about whatever situation you find yourself in.

Associated Press News Briefs

City

State

National

International

A group known as “OPEN”, the Orleans Parish Education Network, is beginning a series of public forums on the governance of public schools in New Orleans. The state’s Recovery School District has run most public schools in the city since Hurricane Katrina and is turning most over to charter organizations. The Orleans School Board still oversees and charters a small percentage of schools, but pressure has been growing in recent years to turn more schools to return to the locally elected board.

Two LSU researchers have won a $250,000 grant to probe the origins of the universe. Parampreet Singh, an assistant professor in the LSU Department of Physics & Astronomy, and Peter Diener, assistant research professor in the LSU Center for Computation & Technology and in Singh’s department, won the grant funded by the John Templeton Foundation. The foundation awarded more than $4 million by the John Templeton Foundation. The state’s Recovery School District has run most public schools in the city since Hurricane Katrina and is turning most over to charter organizations. The Orleans School Board still oversees and charters a small percentage of schools, but pressure has been growing in recent years to turn more schools to return to the locally elected board.

Residents of Washington, Oregon and Colorado won’t just be considering whether to let adults buy pot at state-sanctioned shops when they vote on legalizing and taxing marijuana. They’ll be voting on whether to let farmers grow marijuana’s far less potent cousin, hemp - for clothing, food, biofuel and construction materials among other uses. Farmers who say they have enough to worry about with drought and crop diseases don’t want to also be left wondering whether federal drug agents will come knocking. The three ballot initiatives to regulate pot like alcohol have garnered much attention, in part for the hundreds of millions of dollars they could bring into state coffers and for the showdown it could set up with the federal government. No state has made recreational pot legal, and these measures would be the first to set up state-sancioned pot sales. The Justice Department could try to block them in court under the argument they frustrate federal antidrug law enforcement efforts.

Plagued by uncertainty and fresh set-backs, the world economy has weakened further and will grow more slowly over the next year, the International Monetary Fund says in its latest forecast. Advanced economies are risking recession, the international lending organization said in a quarterly update of its World Economic Outlook, and the malaise is spreading to more dynamic emerging economies such as China. The IMF forecasts that the world economy will expand 3.3 percent this year, down from the estimate of 3.5 percent growth it issued in July. Its forecast for growth in 2013 is 3.6 percent, down from 3.9 percent three months ago and 4.1 percent in April. Conditions could worsen if the United States doesn’t deal with its budget crisis soon, the IMF said. The IMF has urged the U.S. to raise the ceiling on the level of debt the govern- ment can issue, which is capped by law. In August 2011, a battle between the Obama administration and Congress over raising the limit was resolved until the U.S. almost defaulted on its debt.
This year’s most popular Halloween costumes

By Khanh Nguyen

Halloween is right around the corner, and it’s time to get those perfect costumes ready for Oct. 31. The majority of Halloween costumes will be witches, princesses, vampires, and other traditional outfits. According to the Nation Retail Federation’s 2012 Top Costumes survey, 10 percent of kids plan to dress as a princess, while six million adults will dress as a witch. However, several new popular costumes hit stores in the last few months and many choices are coming from popular movies and video games. It’s no surprise that Batman and Catwoman from The Dark Knight Rises are leading the way because the movie itself was a huge financial success in the summer, despite the shooting in a Colorado movie theatre showing the film. Also climbing to the top of this year’s list are Captain American and Black Widow from The Avengers, as well as male and female versions of Spider Man. With the presidential election approaching, we can expect thousands of Halloween party-goers wearing some sort of political costume, according to NRF’s survey. Since the music video “Gangnam Style” by Korean musician PSY has taken the world by storm with more than 292 million views online, there will no doubt be a multitude of revelers mimicking the dance sensation. There are a lot of sales going on as the holiday draws closer and stores like Party City and websites like buycostumes.com and spirithalloween.com are good bets. As New Orleanians we know Halloween isn’t just a kid’s party. It’s a great chance get creative with a homemade costume, or a favorite store-bought disguise. It’s also a night to break away from the day-to-day routine and let loose. Stay safe, and have fun!

Lafitte Fire Department operating haunted house throughout October

By Megan Alleman

The Fire Department in Lafitte is scaring the area for its second year in a row with its very own haunted house. The site used is stretched across the back of the fire station to the practice fire house on the back of the property. There is a large maze that winds through a building that fire fighters use for practice, called the “burn house.” The haunted house has grown this year from one football field in size to two. This haunted house is full of ghouls, clowns, and other frightening characters, and has several different atmospheres within in it. When I walked around the back of the fire house and saw a girl running out, I knew I was in for a scare! The people that participate in the haunted house are made up of members of the Lafitte Fire Department and their families. A waiting area at the start has refreshments and food for sale, and the volunteers are great with children. On the other hand, they certainly know how to scare the adults as well, and they make sure your group stays together throughout the experience. Admission is $10 per person and this Halloween treat is open every Friday and Saturday night of October starting at 7 p.m. The haunted house is located at 5510 Jean Lafitte Blvd., Lafitte.
Halloween is a holiday that brings piles of sugary sweets, however with the right tricks this holiday can be made healthier. Instead of indulging, try sticking to just one or two snacks, and remember to go for the smaller, “fun size” versions. By the numbers: Skittles fun size packet, 60 calories, Kit Kat miniature bar, 42 calories, Reese’s peanut butter cup miniature, 36 calories. Another trick for those with a sweet tooth would be to purchase candy that you don’t like! If you’re worried about ending up with left over treats, bring the extra into work or school. Handing out snacks like popcorn, pretzels, raisins, trail mix, gummy bears or even marshmallows are definitely a healthier alternative to a chocolate bar. Forgoing food all together and giving trick-or-treaters novelty items like glow in the dark necklaces, trinkets, stickers or games might be a cool idea as well. (think Mardi Grass throws).

Make Halloween a holiday to celebrate good health rather than one revolving around sweets. Walking around a pumpkin patch with family or friends is a great way to enjoy the spirit of the season. Try bringing pumpkins to the park and having a healthy picnic while you carve them. This could be a fun afternoon and mean less mess at home! Remember this Halloween season, fun does not have to involve junk food.

Paranormal Activity 4 brings a chill to horror movie fans

By Khanh Nguyen

Finally, the wait is over. One of the most anticipated Halloween movies of 2012, Paranormal Activity 4, was released on Oct. 18. Paranormal Activity 4 is directed by Ariel Schulman and Henry Joost, the directors of Paranormal Activity 3, and written by Zac Eisin. It is the fourth film of the Paranormal Activity series and is a continuation of the second and third installment, which left off a few years ago.

The film takes place five years after Katie killed her boyfriend Micah, sister Kristi, her husband Daniel and took their baby, Hunter (now named Robbie). This story focuses on the life of Alice, her boyfriend Alex, and her brother who are experiencing weird occurrences since their new neighbors moved to town. This will be the first time the series has shifted its focus from Katie and her sister Kristi.

The previous three installments had success utilizing the tried and tested formula of little happening in the early scenes short of story set-ups, and the horror then emanating from long static shots that are punctuated by jumped scares or quick bursts. The difference this time around is the inclusion of modern technology in scenes like iPhones, Skype, webcams, and an Xbox to investigate the ghostly goings on.

While the script may not bring the franchise to a new level, the scares that the series deliver still make it a good choice for Halloween moviegoers.

POBOYS
Roast Beef Debris style roast beef poboy with gravy
Cuban Pressed poboy w/ roasted pork, ham, Swiss, mayo, mustard & pickles
Fulette Pressed poboy with ham, salami, melted Swiss cheese & olive salad
Fried Shrimp
Dirty Bird Grilled turkey, debris roast beef, Swiss & gravy
Cold or Grilled Ham or Turkey
Hot Sausage Patties

BURGERS
Bacon Cheddar Burger
Avocado Swiss Burger
Dirty Burger topped with debris roast & cheddar
Jalapeno Burger topped w/ mozzarella & jalapenos

EGGS BENEDICTS
Eggs Benedict
Turkey Avocado Benedict
Spinach Artichoke Benedict
Sausage Jalapeno Benedict

BREAKFAST PLATES
2 Eggs With potatoes or grits & toast or biscuit
Navarre Special Scrambled eggs with cheese, ham, potatoes, onion & turkey, served with grits with jalapenos & cheese & toast or biscuit

Health Plate Scrambled egg whites served with avocado & tomato slices, grilled turkey & whole wheat toast
Combination 2 eggs w/ bacon, ham, or sausage & 3 small pancakes

Egg Sandwich Bacon or sausage, egg & cheese
B.L.T. Bacon, lettuce, tomato & mayo on toast

PANCAKES
Butternut Chocolate Chip
Blueberry Banana

OMELETTES
Mediterranean Spinach, artichoke, feta, mozzarella & tomato
Three Cheese Cheddar, American & mozzarella
Southern Bacon, cheddar & tomato
American Ham & American cheese
California Turkey, avacodo, Swiss cheese & tomato
Southwest Sausage, jalapenos, mozzarella & tomato
Veggie Bell peppers, onion, tomato & mozzarella

Everywhere in moderation, healthier Halloween ideas

By Julie Tommenas

Halloween is a holiday that brings piles of sugary sweets, however with the right tricks this holiday can be made healthier. Instead of indulging, try sticking to just one or two snacks, and remember to go for the smaller, “fun size” versions. By the numbers: Skittles fun size packet, 60 calories, Kit Kat miniature bar, 42 calories, Reese’s peanut butter cup miniature, 36 calories. Another trick for those with a sweet tooth would be to purchase candy that you don’t like! If you’re worried about ending up with left over treats, bring the extra into work or school. Handing out snacks like popcorn, pretzels, raisins, trail mix, gummy bears or even marshmallows are definitely a healthier alternative to a chocolate bar. Forgoing food all together and giving trick-or-treaters novelty items like glow in the dark necklaces, trinkets, stickers or games might be a cool idea as well. (think Mardi Grass throws).

Make Halloween a holiday to celebrate good health rather than one revolving around sweets. Walking around a pumpkin patch with family or friends is a great way to enjoy the spirit of the season. Try bringing pumpkins to the park and having a healthy picnic while you carve them. This could be a fun afternoon and mean less mess at home! Remember this Halloween season, fun does not have to involve junk food.

October 29, 2012
**Hornets geared up for 2012-13 season**

By Jordan Dolese

It’s been a busy offseason for the New Orleans Hornets. Tom Benson purchased the team for $338 million in April, finally ending the team’s ownership woes and Coach Monty Williams was given a four-year contract extension, keeping him with the team until at least 2016. The team also brought in a lot of new players, and they arguably have one of the youngest rosters in the NBA.

Thanks to the NBA draft lottery, the Hornets landed the top overall pick and nabbed college standout Anthony Davis. They also secured Duke shooting guard Austin Rivers with the 10th overall pick. With two stud rookies, league veteran Eric Gordon, and newcomer Robin Lopez, the team is loaded with fresh talent. Coach Williams and staff are hoping that they can turn this young team into a playoff contender, but in all likelihood this will just be a year of rebuilding.

The team finished with a disappointing record of 21-45 last year, having had a shortened season due to the lockout. The Hornets are set to tip off the start of their regular season against the San Antonio Spurs on Halloween night at the New Orleans Arena.

**NHL lockout sees players leaving, fans upset**

By Trey LeCompte

The National Hockey League players are locked out and so far there are no signs of any games being played this season. Over the last couple of years, a lot of teams in the NHL have been losing money and a few have barely broke even. Only about eight to ten really successful franchises made money for themselves and the league.

In the new bargaining agreement, the league is trying decrease the player’s share of revenue, lower the salary cap, and lower or do away with guaranteed contracts. These changes could help the league and the team owners make more money, but the players would make significantly less money. Like the owners, the players don’t want to lose money either.

Also, like in many professional sport leagues, players feel that a large portion of the money their league makes is due to their skill, hard work, and popularity. Players also know that they are the ones playing the game, not the team owners or the commissioner and his staff.

As for guaranteed contracts, most players feel they need them to ensure they will make money because their careers are already short. The possibility of injury is also there, which can end a career in the blink of an eye. With no end to the lockout in sight, many players such as Philadelphia Flyers goaltender Ilya Bryzgalov and Detroit Red Wings forward Henrik Zetterberg are deciding to leave the United States and play in Europe. Zetterberg is currently plying for EV Zug in Switzerland and Bryzgalov is playing for CSKA Moscow of the Kontinental Hockey League, Russia's primary league for professional hockey.

“I think some of the players may not return to the NHL because you have everything here and major companies are going to pay the top players here big money. And, especially for Russian players who can play at home in front of their own fans and families and earn even bigger money than they have in the National Hockey League,” said Bryzgalov.

The NHL and NBA both had problems getting a deal done this year, but in the end they did, and both leagues were able to continue. Now NHL fans are hoping for the same result and want to see a whole season played. Some fans would settle for any kind of a season as long as they get to enjoy the game they love. In the meantime, more players will sign with international teams abroad, and NHL fans will continue to be restless and disappointed.

**Associated Press Sports Briefs**

**Football**

Knicks forward Amare Stoudemire is expected to miss the start of the regular season and be out two to three weeks because of an injured left knee. He returned to New York for another evaluation, and an MRI revealed a ruptured benign cyst, the team said. Anything involving knees is a concern when it comes to Stoudemire, who had microscopically surgery on his left knee in 2005 and arthroscopic surgery on his right knee in the following spring. The Phoenix Suns refused to offer him a fully guaranteed maximum contract in 2010 when he became a free agent, and the Knicks couldn’t even insure his contract when they signed him. The Knicks open their regular season Nov. 1 against Brooklyn.

**Basketball**

Rafael Nadal plans to play at the Mexican Open in February, although the fourth-ranked Spaniard expects to return before the Australian Open. Nadal has been sidelined with a left knee injury since a second round loss at Wimbledon in June. He has said it was unlikely he could play for Spain in the Davis Cup final in the Czech Republic next month.

The 11-time Grand Slam champion’s aggressive playing style has come at a cost as he has been beset by serious injuries since 2005, when a left foot problem put his career in doubt. He recovered from that but has had to deal with troublesome knees and an abdominal problem.

**Sports Betting**

Anton Ferdinand joined elder brother Rio in refusing to wear a T-shirt to support an anti-discrimination campaign, in a perceived protest at the impotence of organizations during recent racism cases in English football. The younger Ferdinand was at the center of the most high-profile incident in the past year when he was abused by John Terry during a Premier League match last October. Terry was banned for four matches and fined 220,000 pounds for hurling a racial slur, but many players feel the punishment was too lenient, as with other sanctions related to recent incidents of racism. It has been widely reported that the players are unhappy not just with the Kick It Out campaign but also the FA for a lack of action in combating racism in football.

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**Tennis**

The heads of the NCAA and the four major professional sports leagues will give depositions in a lawsuit that seeks to stop New Jersey from instituting sports gambling. Under a judge’s order, NCAA president Mark Emmert, NHL commissioner Roger Goodell, NBA commissioner David Stern, Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman will be questioned for up to four hours each. They’ll also have to produce years’ worth of documents regarding the potential impact of sports betting, fantasy sports leagues and even “March Madness” office pools.

The leagues and the NCAA sued in August after Gov. Chris Christie vowed to defy a federal ban on sports wagering. New Jersey plans to license sports betting as soon as Jan. 9. The NCAA says it will relocate six championship events scheduled to be held in the state next year.

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Dear Erika,

I ended a two-year relationship about three months ago and I have finally healed and am ready to get back out there. I’ve been flirting with a co-worker lately and I think he maybe interested. He is a really nice guy and every since I’ve become single, he has really kicked it up and been super attentive. He is always complimenting me and was very super attentive. He is always is a really nice guy and every time I show up. What if he is just being nice because he’s worried about me? Or maybe he strictly wants a friendship? What if it doesn’t work out and things on the job become super awkward?

-Take a Chance on Me

Dear Take a Chance, I suggest you do. I’m glad you are ready to get back out there and someone like your co-worker, who you are very comfortable around and always happy to see, is the perfect guy to start with, or to end with if things work out. It can be hard to tell if someone’s feelings are platonic or mutual, so you’ll have to feel things out a bit. Sudden attentiveness when you’re newly single is a good sign. Showing enthusiasm when you come in to work is also a great sign! Do you two hang out when you are not working? If not make it a priority immediately. Pay attention to subtleties about him. Is he very attentive with other coworkers, customers, or humans in general? Is he equally excited when other people approach him? If these behaviors aren’t to the same extreme for others than he may be into you and I say go for it. What if he’s not just worried about you? What if he really likes you and needs some reassurance from your end? What if you stop worrying and took a chance on him?

Dear Erika, I am in a long distance relationship with my boyfriend of two years. About half the relationship has been the most long distance and it’s starting to take its toll on me. All of my friends are paired off and when they are out doing things as a couple I have to tag along solo. My boyfriend had to move for a job opportunity and our plan was for me to move to be with him once I graduate next fall. It is easier said than done. I miss him constantly and I always feel lonelier after a phone call or visit. A new co-worker and I have been getting pretty close. I haven’t cheated on my boyfriend, but I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t tempted. This new guy and I have so much in common and he makes me feel wanted. I guess his behavior isn’t so subtle about what he wants. Whenever I think of my boyfriend it isn’t happy thoughts anymore. Should I end things with him and pursue things with this new guy?

-Here without You

Dear Here without You, I think you need to take some time to yourself and think about what you really want. A year is a long time to be away from the person you love and I can imagine having to go another year isn’t exactly making it easier. Where is your boyfriend? Is he living in a city far away? Is the thought of moving away from your familiar surroundings scarifying you? I ask because I want you to consider all angles of your situation before you make a decision. How do you really feel about this new coworker? Do you really like him? Is the feeling of being wanted that draws you to him? You are not alone in your relationship and there is probably a good chance your boyfriend feels the same way. You made plans for the future with this guy so I assume you saw a life with him. How do you make the decision together. Don’t make choices for your future based on feelings that may only be fleeting.

Need advice? Email erikaexplains@gmail.com
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