

# The Insider



Volume 1, Issue 2

Serving the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg Campus

November 3, 2014

## Yak Attack: Are Your Posts Anonymous?

By Christy Walters

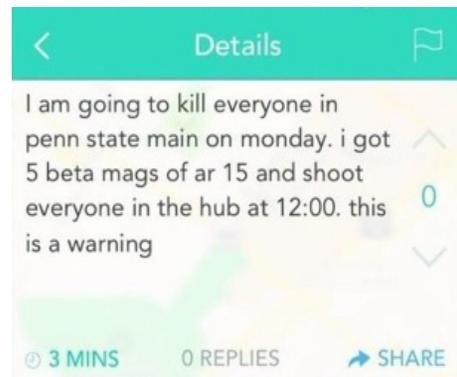
On Saturday, October 11, Penn State sophomore Jong Seong Shim, posted a threat to the social-media platform Yik Yak.

"I am going to kill everyone in Penn State Main on Monday," Shim posted. "I got 5 beta mags of ar 15 and shoot everyone in the hub at 12:00. This is a warning."

The "Penn State shooting" threat, along with other threats and harassment claims, has cast a dark shadow over the app whose tagline states: "no profile, no password, it's all anonymous." But is the app truly anonymous, and how does anonymity affect student safety?

Alex Knapp, a Pitt-Greensburg freshman, does

not post on Yik Yak but scrolls through its comment feed during the day, for something to do.



A screenshot of Jong Seong Shim's threat from October 11 that was posted on Yik Yak.

"It's foolish for people to think the app is really anonymous," Knapp said. "You have to put your location services on to use it. They're tracking your lo-

cation and probably much more, so you're not truly anonymous."

The administrators of Yik Yak do track more than just a user's location. According to their privacy policy, they collect users' app access time, device I.D., application I.D. or other unique identifier, domain name, I.P. address, screen views, geo-location data (with permission), language information, device name and model, operating-system information, activities within the services, and the length of time that users are logged in.

This collection of data can be beneficial, like with the "Penn State shooting" threat, when police were able to apprehend Shim and charge him with sending terroristic threats,

before any damage could be done.

Data collection and monitoring can also be considered an invasion of privacy. The "Yik Yak" app is marketed as anonymous but can track multiple pieces of identifiable information. Some may call this false advertising. "It's a double-edged sword," Knapp said. "The police or security can protect us, but is somebody going to take that power too far? Have they yet? No, but who knows if that will be the case in the future."

Seniors Kayla Dames and Megan Hans think that Yik Yak's collecting user data is a good thing.

"There are a lot of messed up things that get posted on the app,"

*Continued on page 3*

## Lookin' for a Good Time

### Hook Up Vs. Dating Culture In The College Demographic

#### FEATURE

By Michelle Boring and Christy Walters

How do you define a relationship? How do you define a hookup? What about "talking?" Is that even a thing? It seems that our generation likes to throw these words around, but we don't even know what they mean.

So we ask you, the readers, what's the best way to define all these things?

In a poll open to college campuses in Pennsylvania and surrounding states, we received 91 responses, from students, aged 18 to 24.

The majority of participants were heterosexual, but we

also had some responses from homosexual and bisexual students. Women dominated the sample, with a three-to-one ratio.

Due to time constraints and other limitations, this sampling cannot reflect the views of every campus, or person, out there.

Given the demographic polled, it's important to understand why we struggle with relationships and intimacy. The prefrontal cortex (you know, that part of the brain that helps you make decisions) isn't fully developed until age 25. This means that we make really stupid decisions up to that point. Most of the time, those decisions have something to do with relationships.

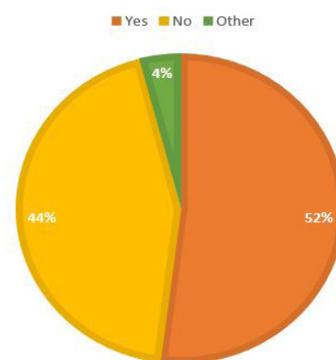
Erik Erikson, a psychologist known for the Psychosocial Theory, said that you have to know yourself before you can develop intimacy with someone. His theory states that you have to answer the question "Who am I?" before you can relate to another person socially or intimately.

So if we're still trying to find ourselves, based on these theories, how can we, as college students, de-

velop stable, lasting relationships?

52 percent of participants say that they are in a relationship, based on their individual definition of the word.

#### ARE YOU IN A RELATIONSHIP?



As a group though, how do we define a relationship?

According to the masses, a relationship is two people who have a romantic, emotional connection and are exclusively committed to one another.

"When you are in a relationship, you are the other person's priority," said one participant. A significant other "brings you coffee" when you're sleep deprived from working too much or "hugs you when you feel like you can't

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## Campus Chief of Police Retires

By Luke McDermott

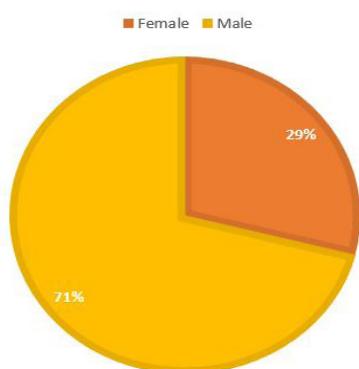
After serving more than six years as the chief of police at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Dale Blasko has decided to retire. Some people may note that the change occurs on the wake of a tragedy that affected the campus.



"It's just ironic or somewhat coincidental that that event occurred in close proximity to my resignation," said Blasko. "That event had no role in my decision. I was leaving here in November of

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#### WHAT'S YOUR GENDER?



# The Insider

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## Police Blotter

These are the events that happened between Thursday, October 22, 2014 and Thursday, October 29, 2014 on the Pitt-Greensburg campus.

### Thursday, October 22

3:45 p.m. –Resident student reports being victim of theft by extortion via social media networks. Investigation continues. Date of incident: 10/20/14.

### Thursday, October 22

Midnight –Larceny-Theft. Student reports theft of a Hoss's sign from athletic field area. Sign later found, owner states sign is in good condition. Activities appear to be a prank. Date of incident: 10/16/2014.

### Thursday, October 29

5:00 p.m. –Assault/Disorderly Conduct. Resident student reports harassment, describes stalking by a non-student. Investigation continues. Date of incident: 10/28/2014.

### Thursday, October 29

10:23 p.m. –CSA reports one student found to be in possession of marijuana in residence hall. Date of incident: 10/13/2014.

## Pitt-Greensburg Travel Writing students traveled to the historic Carrie Furnaces



Pitt-Greensburg Travel Writing students traveled to the historic Carrie Furnaces on Saturday, Oct. 25 to take a guided tour of the site's wild gardens, the mill itself, and to watch a molten iron pour.

Penn State University Master Gardener Anna Johnson led the students through the gardens and helped them identify and understand the plant life that has reclaimed the mill site, which closed 32 years ago.

Ron Baraff, director of museum and archives for the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, which supervises the Carrie Furnaces site, explained the importance of the mill's history in Pittsburgh.

At 4 p.m., a group of artists, CMU students and master gardeners tapped a 6 1/2-foot-high iron furnace and poured molten iron to cast 10 plaques that describe the natural garden that has grown up around the furnace.

"I hate when people call the Carrie Furnaces an abandoned mill," Baraff said. "We're anything but abandoned. Look at us. We're here. There's all this life here."

Participating students included Melissa Bernard, Brooke Lawrence, Nikki Pena, and Kevin Scrima. Professor Lori Jakiela leads the Travel Writing class.

## Ask A

Advice column that answers the questions of Pitt-Greensburg Students  
Dear A.,

There is this guy. I've liked him since high school, but I haven't told him. My friends think that I should go for it because they think that we would be great together. The thing is, I don't want to ruin our friendship. What should I do?

Dear Friend-Zoned Female,

There are reasons that you don't want to ruin the friendship. Don't ignore your reasoning.

Evaluate the current friendship against the possibility of a romantic relationship. If you don't think that he's your soul mate or can't envision a long-term relationship, it might not be worth the risk.

If you have developed feelings, you should tell him. You will drive yourself insane analyzing what "could be." Even if you come to find that he doesn't feel the same way as you, at least you know. If his feelings aren't the same, it doesn't always mean that the friendship is ruined. Remember, it's only awkward if you make it awkward.

Take the chance if you want to, not because your friends want you to. It could be the start to an awesome relationship. Some of the best relationships start as friendships.

Good luck.

Sincerely,

A.

# Yak Attack: Are Your Posts Anonymous?

Continued from page 1

Hans said. “I’m kind of glad they can track people down if they have to.”

Pitt-Greensburg campus security is aware of Yik Yak and the problems that the app can cause on college campuses.

“We’ve received some complaints about things posted on the app,” said Chief of Security, Dale Blasko. “The problem is that the posts are time sensitive and they disappear. If we’re not alerted before that happens, we can’t retrieve any information. That’s what makes Yik Yak different from other social-media platforms.”

Officer Rob Jones, who specializes in cyber crimes for Pitt-Greensburg, said that an overwhelming amount of students use the app daily. This causes posts to disappear quickly.

“If something was posted yesterday and we weren’t alerted, chances are we wouldn’t be able to get any type of important information from the company, unless someone took a screen shot of the post itself or of the map that is attached,” Jones said. “It’s the same thing with Snapchat. The apps bill themselves as anonymous or temporary, and it takes more time and effort to track people down.”

These apps make it easier to hide behind a screen, and even elude authorities, but what many students do not know is that their yaks

(posts on Yik Yak) aren’t contained in the Pitt-Greensburg campus. In fact, Yaks can be read up to 1.5 miles from their posting locations.



Carly Cardillo, a Pitt-Greensburg sophomore who reads Yik Yak for fun and posts content occasionally, understands that outsiders can see her posts.

“People that think their yaks are only seen by other Pitt-Greensburg students are wrong,” Cardillo said. “You can see our yaks up at the mall and we can see Seton Hill’s. They’re not contained to our campus. Plus, people post their hall names and room numbers on there. Anybody from the outside can come find you that way. It’s dangerous.”

Inviting outsiders to come to campus and leading them straight to a specific doorstep may not be the only piece of flawed logic that students don’t account for when posting. Being mostly commuters, Pitt-Greensburg students may post threats to the school from more than 1.5 miles

away where campus police and other students will never see them.

“If we’re not alerted to threats made off campus, like in Wilkesburg, for example, we won’t know they exist,” said Jones. “Luckily though, most of the time, if someone sees a threat of any kind, they will go to their local authorities and then those authorities will alert us.”

Chief Blasko praised the support that campus security receives from neighboring police departments.

“We work closely with officers in the surrounding communities, and they are always forthcoming and helpful when matters of student safety are at hand,” Blasko said.

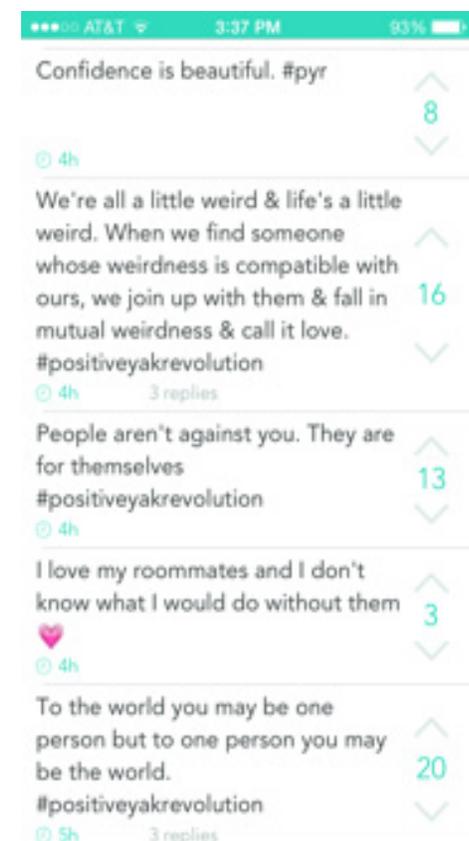
Security threats are not the only problem associated with Yik Yak and college campuses. Harassment and cyberbullying occur and, in fact, appear much more frequently.

Some students at Pitt-Greensburg have tried to take a stand against hateful comments and other forms of defamation that are posted on the app. They write good things about their teachers, roommates, and their community assistants, as well as spreading inspirational quotes. They use the hashtag #PositiveYakRevolution with their posts.

Though the positive Yak revolution is a nice idea in theory, plenty of unkind words still litter the app.

Chief Blasko and Officer Jones encourage students

to call campus police and take screen shots of any posts that are direct threats to campus security, that could be deemed harass-



Positive Yaks from Pitt-Greensburg Students.

ment, or that seem suspicious.

“Threats and things like that aren’t taken lightly these days,” Jones said. “If something doesn’t look right, it’s better to report it. Nobody is going to think you’re stupid if we look into it, and it ends up being nothing.”

Students can call campus police at 724-836-9865.

## Campus Chief of Police Retires

Continued from page 1

2014, one way or the other.” The official date for Blasko’s retirement is November 3.

When asked whether Blasko had given any reason for his leaving, the Vice President for Administrative Affairs, Carl Rossman, said that “he didn’t have to.” The campus’s Director of Human Resources, Mary Anne Koleny, explained how Pennsylvania “is an at-will-employment state.” That means that an employee has the right to leave an employer at any time, and an employer can dismiss its employee whenever it wants.

Blasko offered a more thor-

ough view: “This position never ends. This position is 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That becomes a bit grueling—calls at midnight, two, three in the morning, 18-hour days. I’ve been doing this for quite a while.” He also said that he notified his superior (Rossman) in “January or February of this year.”

Rossman also pointed out that Blasko “will not qualify for benefits through the school,” because of age and time employed. But Blasko’s kids have already graduated from the University of Pittsburgh, and his employment with the university allowed them

discounted rates.

Blasko has decided to leave his chief-of-police job, but that doesn’t mean that he’s opposed to another opportunity. “Since the ‘Sandy Hook’ shooting, there’s been a big push . . . to have retired, plain-clothes, armed police officers in schools,” said Blasko. “I’ve had talks with Penn Trafford . . . I’ve talked to some school-board personnel there.” As of now, he’s “waiting to see what opportunities occur, and meet with those individuals to see what the particulars of the employment would be.”

Now, Blasko is no stranger to change: after a 31-year career

in the Pennsylvania State Police, Blasko is retiring for the second time in his life. While in the state police, Blasko also served six years as an undercover narcotics officer. Though in that line of work, he experienced a different sort of change. There were no tattoos, but he had “long hair, facial hair—oddities” that he doesn’t have now.

Blasko has offered advice to the administration on the hiring of a new chief of police. “He brought a wealth of experience with him,” said Rossman. But Rossman admitted that a replacement is “not likely” to be ready for November 4.

# Features

## Lookin' for a Good Time Hook Up Vs. Dating Culture In The College Demographic

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possibly function any more.”

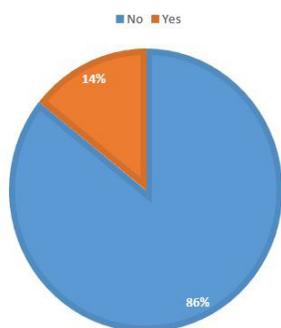
Another defined a relationship as “[n]o side bitches.” That’s to the point, don’t you think? But if you have a “side bitch,” what does that mean? Does that constitute cheating? What is cheating?

Cheating is the encounter of a romantic, emotional, or sexual relationship with someone other than your partner.

Someone said, “Cheating can be physical or emotional. Talking to another person romantically, lying about being with another person [and] making out/having sex are all forms of cheating.”

86 percent of the stu-

HAVE YOU EVER CHEATED ON YOUR PARTNER?



dents whom we polled have never cheated on their partners, but 43 percent have been cheated on.

Well that sucks.

So wait, what’s hooking up? 97 percent of people say that there is a definite difference between a relationship and hooking up. So how do we define it? A hookup is having sex or performing sexual acts on another person. A hookup happens only once and involves someone with whom you are not in a relationship.

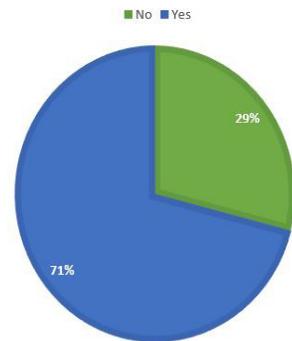
According to one responder, “A ‘relationship’ implies exclusivity to a single person. The physical things of a ‘hookup’ would only happen between the couple. A ‘hookup’ implies a sense of randomness or a fling. There is no emotional or personal connection between those involved. It is a purely physical thing.”

Another responder said, “Hooking up is just for selfish pleasure, and usually does

not turn into a relationship. It’s a hit-it-and-quit-it mentality.”

71 percent of those polled say that they have never had a hookup or a one-night stand. Of the

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A ONE-NIGHT STAND?



26 people who did have a hookup, 14 said that alcohol was involved, and six regretted their decisions.

How did hookups develop? How did this term become so commonplace in our culture today?

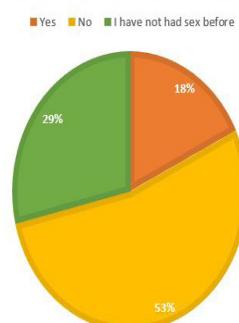
“I think there are societal changes in the way people view sexual relationships now,” said Dr. Russ Phillips, a psychology professor at Pitt-Greensburg. “It [sic] originated in the 1960s, with the sexual revolution, and evolved from there.”

For those of you who have never heard of the sexual revolution, just think of it this way: it started with the 60s-and-70s hippie culture. Woodstock. Make love, not war. This was the time when contraceptives were becoming wildly popular. When women realized that sex did not always have to equal a baby, they felt liberated and obligated to sow their wild oats.

The short version: the 60s was the springboard for hookup culture. It set the standards for today’s flings.

If a hookup is about just “opening your legs for one more,”

ARE YOU ABLE TO HAVE NO-STRINGS-ATTACHED SEX?



as one responder said, then why, out of the 65 participants that have had sex, did 49 responders say that they develop emotional attachments to their sex partners?

Are hookups natural?

Because of our age group, we are at a stage in which we develop and try to hold on to intimacy. We don’t naturally seek out flings, according to the data. So does this mean that we have identified who we are and that we are able to hold on to lasting, intimate connections? Or does this mean that we are unable to separate who we are as individuals from the intimacy that we seek through sex?

Perhaps, because we do struggle with this, our generation has this new thing called “talking.” Yes, you read that right.

“Talking” is actual communication, usually involving texting or social media. It’s getting to know somebody. It’s meant to lead to a relationship, though you are not exclusive when you are talking to someone.

According to one responder, “Talking is the part of a relationship when you are first getting to know each other. You are learning more and more about this person by spending most of your days talking or texting.” Most people want to be sure of others’ personalities, “and that is why the talking stage happens before you make the relationship official.”

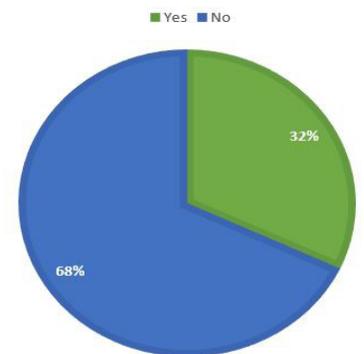
Our generation uses “talking” in place of dating, as a way to relate to the opposite sex. Once we feel we have related enough, we move into what we define as a relationship—the sacred place where we go on dates to continue to get to know each other.

So how do we meet these people we’re “talking” to? The obvious ways are in person, at school, at work, out and about doing shared activities. Or, in the technology era, we hop on the web to visit dating apps like Tinder.

32 percent of people have

used a dating website or app. Tinder is the most used dating app among college students, and OkCupid is the second. These apps and websites are mostly used for chatting with some-

HAVE YOU USED A DATING APP?



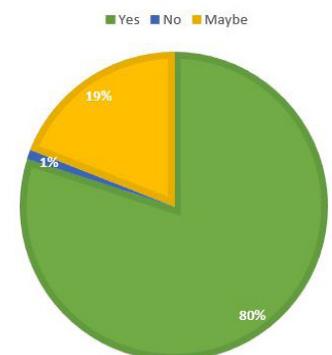
one new and trying to find long-term partners but also hookups.

A majority of those polled look at both appearance and common interests on dating apps and websites. Do you swipe right?

If you do swipe right, and you’re looking for that special someone to spend your life with, what qualities are most important? The answer is not what you’d think.

Our responders rated honesty and trust as the most important qualities in a long-term partner, followed by a good sense of humor

DO YOU PLAN ON GETTING MARRIED?



and being caring and respectful.

Other, less important, qualities were ambition, physical attractiveness, intelligence, and similar interests.

In the end, 80 percent of our responders still intend to get married one day, 19 percent are undecided, and only one percent said that that shit’s not for them. Here’s to Disney for convincing us that Happily-Ever-After is out there.

*This is part one in a two part series.*

# How To Shop Green While Saving Green

By Nikki Pena

Between essays, exams, homework, and lectures, it's easy to forget that you're a human with dietetic needs. A trip to the supermarket is usually traded for a walk to the vending machine between classes or a trip to McDonald's.

That is why I've created this guide, specially made for college students, by a college student, to show you that it's possible to eat good, local food on a budget.

Most of my research was done in the Greensburg area. **Why Buy Local and Organic?**

Before I start, it's important that you know why you should care specifically about food. Organically produced food is grown with natural-pesticide methods and all-natural, nutrient-rich manure that does not contain nitrogen and phosphorus, which pollute soil and produce greenhouse gases.

Because of that, these foods are richer in antioxidants, which remove free radicals—or daily pollution—from your body. Chemical pesticides build up in your body and, over time, burden your liver and kidneys.

You are also supporting a movement that helps farmers in



Granola, nuts and beans at various prices. Because they don't have packaging, these can be sold for cheaper prices.

your area make a living, along with helping your local economy thrive.

While all of that makes eating better worthwhile, the taste is unrivalled.

There's nothing like eating a cucumber without the bitter chemi-

cal flavor in its vitamin-rich skin, the smell of a sun-warmed tomato roughed up by specks of dirt, or a perfectly ripe peach, picked right off the tree, dripping with each bite.

Now that you have some background knowledge, you're ready to get started.



Nature's Way can be expensive, but they have killer sales on a variety of items every month.

## Snack Smart

If you need a snack, think nuts—not the honey-roasted ones out of the vending machine, so step away. You can get nuts by the pound at Nature's Way, for prices ranging from \$3.99 to \$9.99, or for the same price range at Giant Eagle.

Any kind of nut is high in protein, has beneficial nutrients, and will keep you full and focused until class lets out. A handful will do you fine, but try not to use plastic snack bags.

Trail mix with a bit of chocolate, dried fruit, and nuts is also a good snack. Make sure that the fruit is not coated with excess sugar, or skip the trouble and make your own.

## Eat at Home More Often.

You can save almost 25 dollars a week if you don't order takeout or dine out. It's more eco-friendly, because there's no waste from the takeout containers. Those fast-food runs may seem cheap at the time, but it all adds up. And it's turning you into a blob.

This will require you to go grocery shopping. Find a time every week that works best for you, and shop for that week.

## When You Shop, Use Reusable Bags.

They're very inexpensive, about a dollar or two at any grocery store. You can find them in abundance

at thrift stores, too, for even less.

## Spend the Least Amount of Money on Alcohol as Possible.

If you must, support local microbreweries and craft breweries. They're pricier, but usually have beers that are higher in alcohol percentage, and are meant

## Buy in Bulk.

Preferably, do it at the beginning of the semester. That way, if you don't have time to shop, there's always a backup.

Love your ramen? Dr. McDougall makes an alternative to Maruchan's ramen noodles—the Big Soup Cup. It has a third as much sodium and a wide variety of flavors.

The noodles are baked, not fried or dehydrated with salts, making you feel less bloated but more full. You can get individual containers of these for \$2.29 at Nature's Way (or buy a six-pack online for \$11.94). Sometimes, they run on sale at Nature's Way for \$1.29.

## Support Local Farms.

Schramm Farms & Orchards is located about 25 minutes from campus. This is a great place to buy fresh, cheap produce all year round. Fruits and vegetables are harvested just hours before they are set out for sale. Again, a great alternative to farmer's markets. It's also a fun destination to visit with friends.

Just recently, Schramm's started selling Arrowhead wine and sometimes having wine tastings, on Saturday afternoons. Keep posted on their twitter feed and website.

## Purchase Produce from a Farm-



The rustic layout, along with softer lighting, makes this an ideal shopping place.

Share the costs with your college friends by splitting up the work of preparing a meal. Choose a recipe, make a list, and split the costs. Then, split up the cooking and cleaning. Eat together every week, if possible.

It's a fun, money-saving way to bond with your friends. Also, it leaves you more time for much needed studying or sleep.

## er's Market.

Since the produce is straight from the source, you get it for much less than in a grocery store. Food is also picked at its ripest, meaning that it will have the best flavor that it could possibly have. These go on from May until the end of October.

If you don't have a car,

*Continued on page 7*

# Yak Bak

## When It Comes To Yik Yak, Anonymity, Not Technology, Is The Problem

Anonymity on the internet is a right and a privilege. It's something we take for granted, and sometimes forget what it means. Being anonymous isn't about being able to put other people down without them knowing it's you. It's not boasting about something you like or did. It's about being taken at your word. It's being completely equal to the people who are reading it, and it's their reading that gives the words power. There are no genders unless stat-

ed. No religions. No starting point besides a blank page and an idea.

That's the idealist way of looking at it. In reality, anonymity on the internet allows for women-hating, intolerant people to spew whatever small-minded ideas plop themselves in their heads. Women now know what is being said about them, what people are thinking about them. Their flaws and faults and everything they already know about themselves that isn't perfect. Now

they know everyone else knows.

Then there's paranoia. Was the yak talking about the girl with the flat ass and fat face aimed at you? Is that how the rest of the campus sees you? Your friends? Are they your friends or are they the ones posting?

The easy thing to say is that if you don't want to feel this way, don't look at the app. But why should you be limited in what you view because of what someone else says? You tell yourself you'll ignore it

and stand tall, but still the words are pasted on the inside of your eyelids.

But then there's the majority of posts, where people talk about the classes they hate and how bad the food is on campus. People say funny things about funny people and funny circumstances. Yik Yak is a funny app.

Except when it's not.



# How To Buy Records in Pittsburgh

By Christy Walters

Has the revival of record players gotten you excited? Are you scrounging through local record stores searching for older vinyl, like “Metal Health” by Quiet Riot, or modern tunes, like Taylor Swift’s “Red?”

With so many options avail-



able, how can you be sure where to find the best deals and those hidden must-haves for your collection?

Follow these tips to get the most out of your Pittsburgh record-shopping experience.

## 1.) Location is Everything

Are you looking to get the full record-store experience, or are you looking to do some quick browsing on your lunch hour?

Pittsburgh and its surrounding suburbs offer many options for record shopping. Here are some of them:

**Jerry’s Records**, at 2136 Murray Ave., in Pittsburgh’s Squirrel Hill, has a vast selection of records from numerous genres, including: rock, pop, metal, country, jazz, classical, and soul, to name a few. It carries albums, as well as twelve-inch singles and 45s. All records from Jerry’s are used and are screened and inspected, before they are sold. Typical prices range from one dollar to 10 dollars, depending on the rarity and condition of the record. Jerry’s also has a bargain-basement sale on the weekends. Prices in the bargain basement are usually around one dollar.

Karissa Duke, a West Virginia native, drives an hour just to visit Jerry’s.

“It’s the best record store I have been to!” said Duke in her Facebook review. “Every em-

ployee is friendly, knowledgeable and willing to help. At first it was difficult finding records, but don’t hesitate to ask for help. Once you catch on, the pattern is easy.”

**Dave’s Music Mine**, at 1210 E Carson St., in the South Side, has a nice-sized collection of new and used records. New albums are sealed in plastic and cover multiple genres, including: rock, pop, metal, alternative, and country. New vinyl starts at 20 dollars and can be more expensive depending on the rarity of the album. Most new albums are priced around 20 dollars. The basement and back half of Dave’s offer used vinyl and some 45s from multiple genres. Most used albums are priced around three dollars.

David B., a Yelp reviewer from Pittsburgh, highly recommends a visit to Dave’s.

“Great store, friendly staff, good selection and reasonable prices,” David wrote. “We are lucky to have such a treasure in Pittsburgh where we can go in and browse their bins.”

**Sound Cat Records**, at 4526 Liberty Avenue in Bloomfield, has a smaller selection of records than both Jerry’s and Dave’s. Sound Cat carries mostly new alternative-genre records. It also carries rock and other genres, but it predominately carries alternative vinyl. The



new albums are sealed in plastic and are priced around twenty-three dollars. Some records are more expensive based on their rarity.

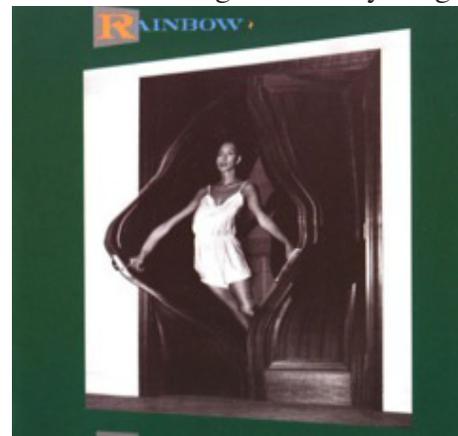
Hayden Keefer, a college student from Moon Township, had nothing but praise for Sound Cat Records.

“Easily the best collection of new records in the city,” Keefer

said in his Facebook review. “The owner and employees are great and I cannot wait to go back!”

Other Locations in Pittsburgh offer good record selections as well. **Urban Outfitters** in South Side Works, **Hot Topic**, **The Exchange**, **Half Price Books**, and select **CD Warehouse** locations stock vinyl.

Albums at **Urban Outfitters** are new and are mostly rock, pop, and alternative genres. They range



in price from twenty to thirty dollars.

**Hot Topic** locations carry new vinyl, mostly in rock, metal, and alternative genres. Their albums also range in price from \$20 to \$30.

**Half Price Books** stores and select **CD Warehouse** locations carry used vinyl. They span several genres and usually range in price from one dollar to ten dollars depending on the rarity and condition of the record.

**The Exchange** locations carry both new and used vinyl. Used records range in price from one dollar to ten dollars, and new vinyl starts at thirteen dollars.

## 2.) Hot Topic vs. Record Stores

Independent record stores can have more to offer you than retail stores, in terms of variety and informed staff.

According to Adam Social, creator of pittpunk.org, Pittsburgh’s independent record stores offer a wider selection of music while also directly supporting the owners.

“I noticed while rifling through their record selection that Hot Topic only seems to carry records from bands who appear on the cover of *Alternative Press*. That makes for an extremely limited (and

musically narrow) record selection.

If you are looking for convenience, a stop in Hot Topic while you’re at the mall or a quick visit to Half Price Books will suit you fine, but if you want expert advice or a bigger selection, you should make a trip to one of the specialty stores.

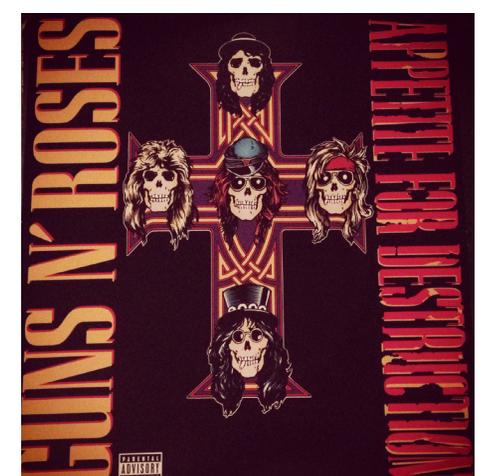
## 3.) “Money Changes Everything”

When shopping for records, costs can add up quickly, especially if you’re shopping for new vinyl. Set a price limit for yourself before you start browsing. Tell yourself that, “I’m only going to spend thirty five dollars on records today,” or something to that effect. Give yourself a two-or-three dollar cushion to account for tax. Some of the independent record-store-owners may even give you a discount at the register if you’re buying multiple records.

## 4.) Check It Out

When you buy new records, they come sealed in plastic sleeves. They have never been played before, so, barring damage during shipment, they will be fully functional when you get them home.

When buying used records, especially from a place that doesn’t inspect their albums before re-sale, you have to take the record out of



its sleeve and give it a once-over. Look for stains, scratches, nicks, and most importantly, bending, bowing, or bumps. You don’t want to get your “Bent Out of Shape” album, by Rainbow, home only to find out it lives up to its name, literally.

Jerry’s and Dave’s both have listening stations to test your records before purchase.

## 5.) Judge an Album By Its Cover

Continued on page 3

## Bobcats Face Off Against Pitt Johnstown Rivals

By PJ Dumnich, Christy Walters, and Shannon Sankey

Following a tough couple of weekends, which included losses against Penn State Altoona and Carnegie Mellon University, the Pitt-Greensburg Bobcats felt they had something to prove.

“We knew that we were off our game and needed to get it back,” said offenseman Nathan Winebrenner. “We went into the weekend with our minds set to come out with two wins, especially after the overtime loss to CMU.”

With this in mind, on Friday, October 24, the Pitt-Greensburg Bobcats faced off against their rivals, the Pitt-Johnstown Icecats (UPJ). The Bobcats entered the game as the underdogs.

Forward Dan Merz set the tone with an unassisted goal at 0:12. Despite this quick strike, UPJ managed to answer with



Dan Merz, Celebrating a goal against UPJ -courtesy of Meagan Bailey

a goal at 1:26 into the period.

With six minutes left in the first period, forward Anthony Maroadi answered UPJ’s frequent shots with a goal assisted by Nico Vecchio, who responded with his own goal a couple of minutes later.

At the end of the first, UPG was up four-to-one.

UPJ drew first blood in the second, with a goal at 2:30, after killing their two minor penalties at the start of the period.

Goals were traded back

and forth in the second. UPG goals were scored by Vecchio, Dante Youhon, Zach Frantik, and Maroadi. UPG capitalized on two powerplays at the end of the period to make the score eight-to-five.

UPJ held on to the momentum with an early goal in the third.

Merz found a way to score an unassisted shorthanded goal, his second of the night, with 15:45 left in the period.

A five-minute major penalty resulted in the ejection of a UPJ player.

UPG took advantage of the extended powerplay with Youhon’s second goal of the night, assisted by Maroadi. Youhon quickly scored another goal for his first-hat trick as a Bobcat.

UPG finished the night with a score of eleven-to-six. Goalie Ryan Palonis stopped 51 of 57 shots on the night.

### How To Shop Green While Saving Green

Continued from page 5

going to the farmer’s market every week could be a great adventure with friends. Pitch in for gas, blast some tunes, and have fun! **When the Farmer’s Market Is Over, Go to the Grocery Store and Purchase What’s in Season.**

You get in-season produce at a good price because of abundance, and it is usually fresher because it can be obtained close by.

Here’s a list of fruits and vegetables that are available at this time of the year in PA: apples, winter squashes (spaghetti squashes, butternut squashes, pumpkins), sweet peppers, pears, mushrooms, leeks, kale, celeries, cranberries, cauliflower, cabbage, beets and Brussels sprouts. **Get Started.**

Author and sustainable-food advocate Anna Lappe once said, “Every time you spend money, you’re casting a vote for the kind of world you want.” Would you rather have a world where food is engineered like car parts or grown and crafted with care? I think you know the answer.

### How To Buy Records in Pittsburgh

Continued from page 7

Half the fun of record shopping is looking at the cool album art. In the days before iTunes previews, Spotify live album streams, and constant media coverage, album art was used as a way to draw listeners in.

If you are under your price limit and see a really cool cover that you can’t pass up, go ahead and pick it up. It’ll make you smile when you’re browsing your collection at home.

#### 6.) If It’s On Your Must-Have List and You See It, But It

Good record shoppers have a list of must-have albums that they’re always on the hunt for. Whether it is a mental list, saved to a Pinterest board, or written on a scrap of paper that you shove in your wallet, everyone has a dream list.

If you see a record on your list while you’re shopping, and it’s in your price range, buy it. If you think that you will regret leaving the store without it, that’s a sure indicator that it should come home with you.

Just don’t splurge too much. No record is worth having to miss a tuition or car payment.

### Missed Connections

A way for you to reach out to someone, even if you don’t know their name.

Cute girl that was sitting in front of me, I wondered what you would look like bald.

To the guy who sat behind me at the red light, I waited through the green because you’re an ass.

Cute guy I held the door for in the library, I wish I could know you.

To everyone who doesn’t park in their assigned parking lots, it’s not that hard.

### Have a question for A?

Scan the QR code below or go to our website at InsiderUPG.com to submit



### Have a Missed Connection?

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