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Just a Figment of the Imagination?

by Erin O'Connor
News writer

That sensation of having previously experienced, heard or seen a situation before, as you live your everyday life you feel as if you have already done this. As if you had dreamt it, your intellect tells you this has already occurred, yet you cannot help but wonder why it occurs.

According to Arthur Funkhouser, author of *Three Types Déjà Vu*, there are three main types of déjà vu: déjà vecu (already experienced), déjà senti (already felt) and déjà visité (already visited). These three forms of déjà vu are most commonly cited to what one's experience feels like.

Physics teacher Mike Sklom described the different forms of déjà vu as, "Feelings are actual similar environments or experiences, or even a previous dream." For centuries, psychologists and scientists have theorized and studied the concept of déjà vu. A concept dealing with the brain, consciousness and one's self, déjà vu is difficult to study due to its spontaneity.

Sklom says déjà vu is, "A person noticing an environment a split second after your brain actually noticed those things on its own." Since our brain is not always fully aware of the world around us, we may not always be paying full attention. According to his theory, all three forms of déjà vu would be applicable.

Déjà vecu: Often times when people claim to experience déjà vu, it feels as if they have already experienced the situation. Senior Abbey Tyrell says, "In middle school, every time I would walk down the hallway where the health room was, I would experience déjà vu." Researchers at St. Louis University define déjà vecu as an experience of a recollection relating to the timing of neurons. Often times people claim to have reoccurring déjà vu; this is the most common form of déjà vecu. Tyrell also said, "Even when I went back for spring fling, I experienced the same feeling." This form of déjà vu is said to last anywhere from a few seconds up to a minute and often times those who experience it can feel it may happen.

Déjà senti: Its exact definition, déjà senti literally means already seen. The feeling of already witnessing a situation one is in. For déjà senti the recollection of the event is often times through verbal situations they feel have already

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experienced. When listed on the list of top ten strangest phenomena, this type of déjà vu is only mental and rarely stays in the mind for long after it occurs.

Déjà visité: The least common form of déjà vu, déjà visité, translates to already visited. This occurs in a location the individual has never been before, yet still feels it to be oddly familiar. Junior Catie Crutchfield says she has experienced this type of déjà vu. "Once, when on vacation with a friend I entered the hotel and felt like I had already been there." The unknown knowledge of the new place left Crutchfield feeling confused. "I called my mom and asked her if we had ever been there before." Although it's the most uncommon form of déjà vu, those who experience it are none the less.

Although commonly said to be experienced throughout the world, the concept of déjà vu is more in depth than common knowledge allows it to be.

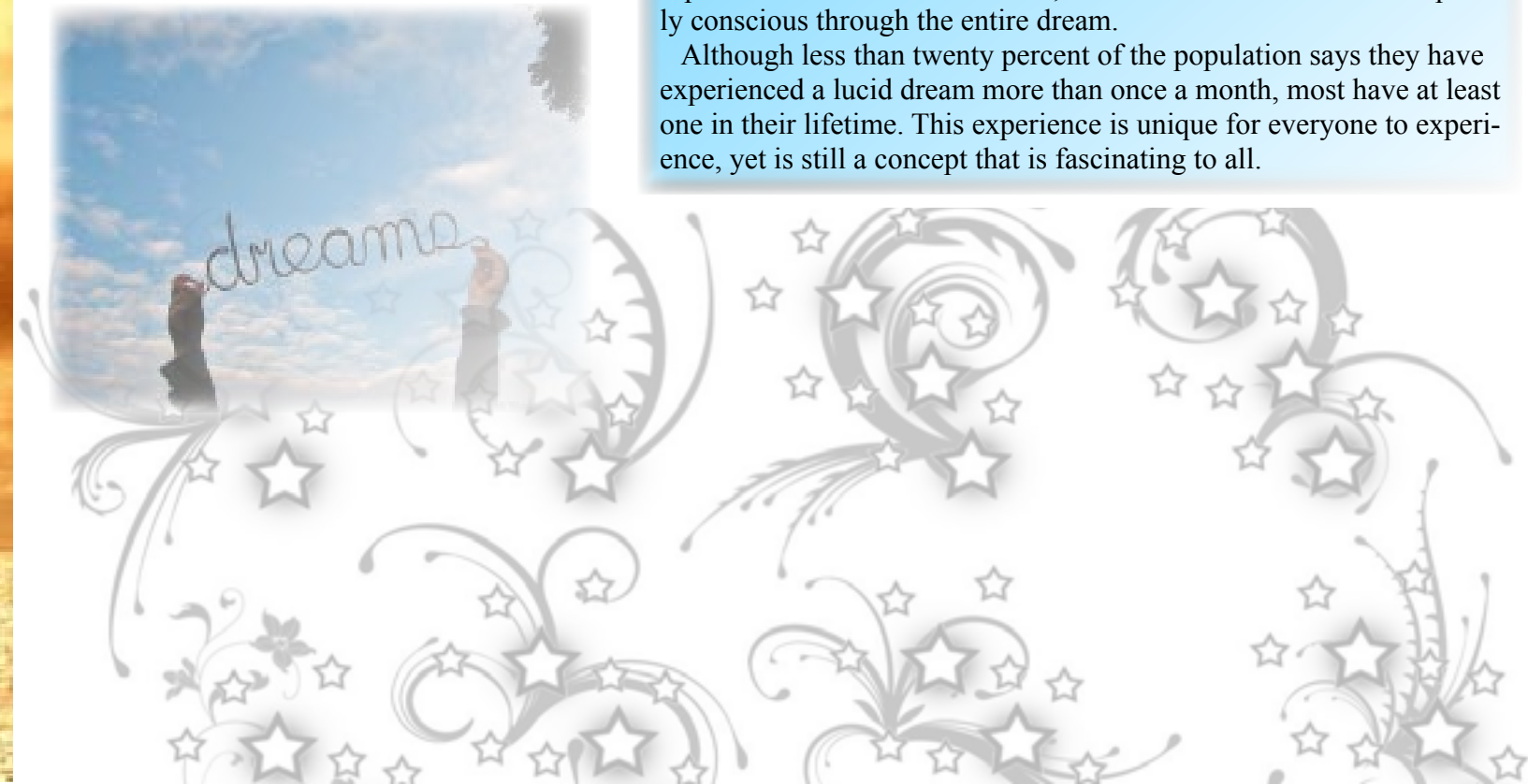
Lucid Dreams

As you're drifting off to sleep, your body returns to a calm and resting state. All individuals have dreams, but for some, these experiences seem as if they are actually occurring. During a lucid dream, the individual can control the actions, manipulating the situations and imagery of the dream. One is fully aware that he is dreaming, yet it can occur two ways: a dream-initiated lucid dream or a wake-initiated lucid dream.

Dream-initiated lucid dreams: These start off just as any dream would. Throughout the dream events will occur providing a beginning, middle and conclusion. At any point in the dream, it may become lucid. At this point, the dreamer will realize that he is dreaming, making the dream lucid. Often times in these dreams the dreams are reoccurring with themes and situations.

Wake-initiated lucid dreams: Feelings of lucid dreams may occur before the dreamer has even fallen asleep. Senior Samantha Reddy says she has experienced this form of lucid dream. "I can choose what she wants to happen in the dream, I can change the path I'm going to avoid a situation, or to stay alive." Once they fall asleep, they will immediately go into a dream-like state in which they can control the aspects of the dream. Sometimes, the dreamer even remains completely conscious through the entire dream.

Although less than twenty percent of the population says they have experienced a lucid dream more than once a month, most have at least one in their lifetime. This experience is unique for everyone to experience, yet is still a concept that is fascinating to all.



4 EDITORIALS

by Kelly Lyons
Editorials Editor

The “United” *States*

The news of Osama bin Laden’s death spread like wildfire the night he died. People all over America rejoiced; news channels featured footage of mobs of people celebrating late into the night. However, one question remains: is the death of someone, enemy or not, the only way to bring America together?

In modern day America, people continue to become less social with those outside of their group of friends and family or social networks. Friendliness between strangers seems like a thing of the past. But whenever some sort of positive military happenstance occurs, Americans decide it’s time to band together like a proper family.

But if Americans only decide to reinstate this sporadic feeling of camaraderie during tough times and dramatic celebrations, it really only is a false front.

Don’t get me wrong; I do not consider myself to be “un-American.” I’m proud to live in a country of such opportunity the majority of the time. I just don’t understand why it’s necessary to pretend that America is such a tight-knit culture when citizens only give each other the time of day during certain times in history.

Looking through America’s timeline, one can even pinpoint certain periods of history where people of the United States exhibit such love and kindness to each other. Most people who lived in the early 2000s remember how America came together for the traumatic experience of 9/11. And on the other hand, many people can vouch for the unity created by those opposed to past wars such as Vietnam and Iraq.

Although people have become united in America, sometimes during positive events and other times during tragedies, there is always one thing in common: hatred. What good is country pride if it’s always based on hate?

Americans are always overwhelmingly accepting of each other whenever they can commiserate over common experiences, but what about the rest of the time? There is no such thing as love based on hatred, which leads me to believe that the unity Americans occasionally decide to exhibit is false.

However, if Americans choose to stand united during events such as the death of Osama bin Laden, they need to take on this front at all times. An unknown author once said, “I mourn the loss of thousands of precious lives, but I will not rejoice the death of one, not even an enemy.” Love and unity should never be based on hatred, or even more disturbingly, death.



Photos courtesy of Google

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IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER

by Bridget Carr
Features writer

Heard of the gruesome tale of the man forced to cut his arm off? This recent well-known tragedy of Aron Ralston was put to screen in the award-winning film *127 hours*.

The movie starts off in an upbeat manner. Ralston goes through his daily routine of prepping for adventure. He then embarks upon one of his typical journeys: roughing through the desert by his lonesome, just him and the surrounding nature...without any means of communication.

As he treks along, his expedition remains pleasant as he encounters another pair of hikers and introduces them to some of his favorite locations in the desert.

The fun and joyous times end when they part ways. As he merrily descends a canyon, a loose boulder comes tumbling down and lodges his arm to the canyon wall, leaving him trapped in the narrow crevice. Clearly, this instantly put an end to his merriment.

This is where the 127 hours begin, thus inducing nail-biting to commence from the audience. Claustrophobics will be squirming at the imagination of being in such a circumstance.

Ralston’s initial efforts are hopeless, so he methodically develops a means of survival with what little essentials he carried. However, these supplies can only last him so long.

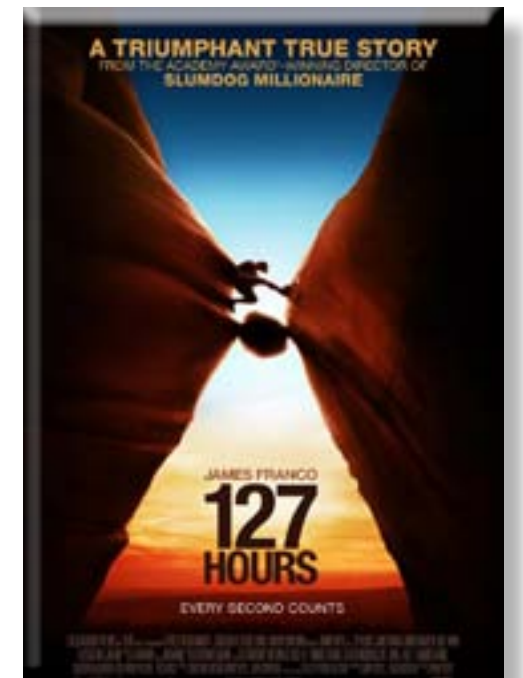
His attempts to carve away at or budge the rock are in vain, and he realizes that he must resort to cutting off his arm if he intends to escape.

Ralston documents his struggles while in the canyon on video camera, giving thorough description of the pain he endures. He also utilizes the camera to leave behind heartwarming goodbyes to his family in case he fails to make it out alive.

The true story of Ralston’s life-changing experience was given by the newly renowned actor, James Franco. His performance was realistic and captivating, placing viewers unwillingly and uncomfortably in his drastic situation.

I definitely wouldn’t recommend this movie to squeamish individuals, nor would I qualify it as an appropriate “family film.” While the adventure scenes in the beginning are cheery and scenic, the suspense that follows is quite ghastly.

If you’re up for learning the intricate details of Ralston’s unique voyage, I’d say this film would be a good one to look in to. Just prepare to grind your teeth in disturbance. After seeing this movie, you’ll be sure to cherish your freedom.



Photos courtesy of Google

6 FEATURES

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by Maddy George
Features writer

Baby Names



It's no secret that celebrities tend to come up with the craziest names for their little starlets. Throughout the years, it seems like celebs are simply trying to out-do each other when it comes to their baby's names.

Let's take a look at the Tom-Tom's top ten craziest celebrity baby names:

10. **Apple and Moses**- Daughter and son of actress Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin, Gwyneth said of the name choice on Oprah, "It sounded so sweet and it conjured such a lovely picture for me – you know, apples are so sweet and they're wholesome and it's biblical – and I just thought it sounded so lovely and ... clean! And I just thought, 'Perfect!'"

9. **Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily**- Daughter of British television writer, Paula Yates and Michael Hutchence.

8. **Poppy Honey and Daisy Boo**- Daughters of English chef Jamie Oliver and Jools Oliver.

7. **Harlow Winter Kate and Sparrow James Midnight**- Daughter and son of Nicole Richie (socialite and daughter of Lionel Richie) and Joel Madden (member of Good Charlotte).

6. **Denim Ky and Diezel Ky**- Sons of R&B singer Toni Braxton and Keri Lewis.

5. **Sage Moonblood and Seargeough**- Daughter and son of Sylvester Stallone and Sasha Czack (not to be confused with the other three daughters he has with Jennifer Flavin whose names also all start with S).

4. **Reignbeau and Freedom**- Daughter and son of *Pulp Fiction* actor Ving Rhames and Deborah Reed.

3. **Fifi Trixibelle, Peaches Honeyblossom and Little Pixie**- Daughters of Irish singer Bob Geldof and British television star Paula Yates.

2. **Diva Muffin and Moon Unit**- Daughters of Frank and Gail Zappa (whose sons' names are Dweezil and Ahmet Emuukha Rodan)

1. **Audio Science**- Topping in at number one, son of actress Shannyn Sossamon and children's book author Dallas Clayton.



Shannyn Sossamon with son Audio Science.

Photos courtesy of Google

Given the Benefit of the Doubt? Part 2

by Ian Stratta
Sports writer

There have been countless investigations on players accused of taking illegal benefits in past years. However, besides these investigations, the NCAA has not done much else to help stop the obvious problem - until now.

The NCAA has recently contemplated using a "pay for play" system that would allow students to gain money for playing a collegiate sport.

Some who support the change argue that since playing sports in college takes up most of that student athlete's time, an athlete has absolutely no time to find a job, much less retain it.

For example, college football can take up not only an athlete's entire summer and fall semester, but also late spring since NCAA football teams are having practices this early and even some schools have a "spring game" to determine their young players' value.

On the other hand, adversaries of the idea say that college players already get enough between full ride scholarships and on-campus fame. If it weren't for scholarships, some student athletes wouldn't be able to get into college they currently play for.

NCAA director of agents, gambling and amateurism Rachel Newman Baker has been trying to fight illegal communication between student athletes and agents for years now, but she still believes that changes can be made to keep college athletes happy without having to pay them.

In an interview by the official NCAA website (for full interview, website at bottom of article), Newman Baker was quoted saying, "From our standpoint, we believe the dialogue taking place will be extremely helpful and will lead to solutions. People are talking about this issue – which for a long time had been sort of the elephant in the room. It seemed as though everyone knew about agents and were concerned about addressing them, but people were timid to talk about it. Now, people are trying to figure out ways to vet the issues and deal with them. That dialogue also is good because the agent issue is not one that just a single group or organization can solve on its own. It will take collaboration among a variety of organizations to make a difference."

Lemont junior golf and lacrosse athlete Brian McMahon said, "I don't think they should be accepting any benefits because they are athletes and they should be held to higher standards."

However, an anonymous student athlete at Lemont has a different opinion on the subject: "[I would take illegal benefits] because people get offered a lot of money and sometimes the amount outweighs the risk."

With so many conflicting views on the subject, the NCAA has a hard decision on their hands to make in the upcoming years.

<http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/ncaa/resources/latest+news/2010+news+stories/july+latest+news/interview+with+ncaa+director+of+agent%2C+gambling+and+amateurism+activities>

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NHL Playoffs

by Ryan Peraino
Sports writer

Even though the Blackhawks have been knocked out of the playoffs, they still continue. There are many great second round matchups and some teams have already punched their tickets to the conference final.

Tampa Bay Lightning- They looked very impressive as they defeated the #1 seed Washington Capitals in a four game sweep. They have a great compliment of youth and experience on their team. They have a young Steven Stamkos who was second in the NHL with 45 goals this year. The team is led by captain Vincent Lecavalier and assistant captain Martin St. Louis. These two have the first and second most points scored this post season. Sean Bergenheim has also stepped up for the team scoring seven goals this post-season. Expect this team to make a far run in the post-season.

Boston Bruins vs. Philadelphia Flyers- This series is over at 4-0 in favor of Boston. This Boston team is more experienced and has learned from past mistakes. They're playing good hockey and dominating their games winning last Wednesday 5-1. They have a tough matchup in Tampa Bay coming up. Expect this upcoming series to be a tough battle.

San Jose Sharks vs. Detroit Red Wings- Detroit won 4-3 to put the series at 3-2 in favor of San Jose. All the games in this series have been decided by one goal. I don't see Detroit winning four games in a row and winning the series but I wouldn't be surprised if it happened. Detroit has a lot of playoff experience and they could mount a comeback. San Jose isn't playing good hockey as they blew a two goal lead in Game 5. With Detroit being at home for Game 6 expect them to win this and force a game 7. In the end I believe that San Jose will pull it together and advance to the conference final.

Vancouver Canucks vs. Nashville Predators- This is the best series in the second round of the playoffs. It features two of the best goalies in the NHL: Pekka Rinne and Roberto Luongo. Luongo has been known to choke in the playoffs and has never made it past the second round. Rinne is a good young goalie. The Canucks have a 3-2 lead in this series and I expect them to take the series in six games. I believe that whoever wins this series will be in the Stanley Cup Finals.

Tom-Tom Prediction:

Eastern Conference Final: Tampa Bay Lightning over Boston Bruins in five games.

Western Conference Final: Vancouver Canucks over San Jose Sharks in seven games.

Stanley Cup Final: Tampa Bay Lightning over Vancouver Canucks in six games.



NBA Playoffs

Wrap up

Gregg Husa
Sports writer

The NBA playoffs are when basketball becomes relevant to fans. The regular season goes by in a blur, and, once the playoffs begin, more and more talk becomes about the playoffs. And why not! A top seed has been upset, dream matchups that were being talked about before the season and the reigning MVP is still playing. So, here's a recap of what's happened so far:

Chicago v. Atlanta- After losing the first game in Chicago, the hometown Bulls seem like they have gotten everything together. Behind the great play of this year's league MVP Derrick Rose, the Bulls seem like the team to beat in the east. In game 4, the Bulls were hoping to take a 3-1 series lead back home. However, they weren't able to pull away as the Hawks, lead by the fantastic play of forward Josh Smith, beat the Bulls 100-88. The turning point came when Jamal Crawford appeared to have fouled Derrick Rose on a three-point attempt but the foul was whistled off. The Bulls never came back and are coming home with the series tied 2-2.

Miami v. Boston- NBA fans dreamt of this match up from the beginning of this season after LeBron James and Chris Bosh signed with the Miami Heat. The "Original Big 3" of Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen matched up with the "Big 3" of Miami, James, Bosh and Dwayne Wade. People believed that Miami lacked the role players to beat Boston, but they have since taken a 2-1 series lead. Boston has been here before and both teams expect a long, brutal series between these two teams.

Oklahoma City v. Memphis- The surprise of the NBA playoffs has been the Memphis Grizzlies. They beat the top seed in the Western Conference, San Antonio, and now have a 2-1 lead on the Thunder after an overtime win in game 3. Both teams are young and neither has a lot of playoff experience. But, in the end the Grizzlies will be overpowered by the play of both Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook.

Dallas v. Los Angeles- This is second round series that has finished as Dallas has defeated Los Angeles 4-0. The Lakers finally showed signs of aging as they continued to struggle from the field. Kobe Bryant tried to do everything himself and got little help from his teammates. The Mavericks made game 4 look like a pre-game shoot around, hitting 20 threes Sunday night to beat the Lakers 122-86. Dallas now awaits the winner of the Oklahoma City and Memphis series to see who they will play with a trip to the NBA finals on the line. The Lakers now appear to be in rebuild mode, as many players are getting old. But their first priority should be to hire a new coach, as Phil Jackson may retire from coaching.

With Dallas the only team in the conference finals, it's hard to predict what will happen in the other three series. The Bulls were the top dog in the East and will show the Hawks why and advance to the eastern finals where they will face (drum roll please) Miami! The Heat's big three is way better than Boston's and will keep their playoff hopes alive. With the Thunder and Grizzlies, Memphis's magic run will end as the Thunder will take on the Mavs.

In the conference finals, Dallas has failed too many times in the playoffs and will finally make their fans, and owner Mark Cuban, happy by making it. As for the Bulls and Heat, the "Big 3" will be too much for MVP Derrick Rose to handle as they will advance to face the Mavs in the finals.

Miami, in the beginning of the season, was thought to have needed some time to get used to each other. Dallas has been playing together for a few seasons, and will end up as this year's NBA champs.

Photo courtesy of Google

Photo courtesy of Google

