Hurricane Sandy

by: Kayla Smull
Editor-In-Chief

The days leading up to Halloween this year were all tricks and no treats as Hurricane Sandy swept in and ravaged the Mid-Atlantic region of the East coast.

On Sunday, Oct. 28, an email was sent out advising students with south campus parking tags to move their vehicles to north campus. Later that evening, shortly after 7 P.M., an e2campus alert was sent stating that the college would be closed on Monday Oct. 29 and Tuesday Oct. 30.

Not too much happened on campus Monday until right before 10 P.M. when the power went out on south campus. Most of the storm's damage to the Lehigh Valley occurred Monday night into Tuesday morning, which consisted of little rain but powerful winds up to 60 mph.

An e2campus alert announcing the college’s closure for Wednesday Oct. 31 was sent around 11 A.M. Tuesday morning. At 1 P.M., Director of Housing Chris Hunt held a meeting in the H.I.L.L. lobby to discuss options for south campus residents. Residents were given three options:

1) Leave campus if students could do so safely
2) Temporary stay on north campus with a friend or in an open dorm
3) Stay on south campus

On Wednesday morning, temperatures in Main and Clewell dropped below 65°, so residents in those buildings were evacuated. Around 2 P.M., an e2campus alert stated the college would be closed Thursday Nov 1. Around 2 A.M. Thursday morning, power was restored to south campus.

The majority of north campus had power throughout the storm, with the exception of some of the overflow houses. PPL Electric reported that nearly 400,000 customers in the Lehigh Valley lost power as a result of the storm. Despite the power outages and downed trees and power lines from the winds, damage to the Lehigh Valley was fairly minor.

On the other hand, New Jersey and New York were hit very badly. The Jersey Shore suffered the most damage and many of the attractions in Seaside Heights were destroyed. New York City also suffered a lot of damage, including severe damage to the city’s subway system.

Many organizations are funding relief efforts, such as The American Red Cross and The Salvation Army. Also, in the wake of the storm’s aftermath, the Hurricane Sandy Relief Foundation (HSRF) was established. All of these organizations are currently taking monetary and material donations to give to those affected by the storm.


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A Call for Bipartisanship
by: Nolan Warner
Reporter

In the wake of Election Day, with all the excitement and attack ads behind us, Americans are largely divided concerning the results. Liberals are pleased, with President Obama still in office and a democratic majority in the Senate. Conservatives, while disappointed to see Governor Romney defeated, can at least find comfort in the continued Republican possession of the House of Representatives. But many Americans, weary after two years of political gridlock under the same conditions, fear that the continued division in Washington may serve only to get in the way of much needed reform.

The fear that our leaders are unwilling to compromise is not unfounded. The last two years were characterized by bickering and dysfunction among them, while threats to the economic stability of the country, such as the looming fiscal cliff, crept ever closer. That particular threat, and many other problems facing the President and Congress, are deep structural issues. Reform must be comprehensive and swift – two words not often associated with the behavior of politicians in Washington. But it’s been done before, and can be done again, if our leaders are willing to change their tune.

Firstly, the President must appeal to the American people. Indeed, he spent much of the year doing so, an effort that paid off handsomely for him in the general election. President Obama’s base is loyal, which they more than proved with their turn out on November 6th. The real trick is reaching the independent and unaffiliated voters who gave him their votes. Presidents have made such efforts in a number of ways. FDR tried to connect to the public with his famous fireside chats, and succeeded. To his credit, President Obama has consistently made his case in online videos during his first term. If he is to overcome the muddied water of today’s political climate, however, the President has to find a more effective manner of touching base with average Americans.

Gay Marriage
by: Adam Rinaldi
Reporter

To me, the argument that gay marriage should never happen because marriage is defined as the joining of a man and a woman is ignorant. Government and Religion are not one in the same and the inability to separate political and religious beliefs is what I believe is keeping all of America from approving gay marriage.

Note that I said approving rather than accepting. Approving gay marriage is recognizing that it should be allowed because all American citizens should be given the same opportunities. Although I do not believe that the joining of two same sex people is the same as a man and a woman, it should not be parlayed into homosexual people becoming third class citizens.

I will admit I am biased. I know many homosexual people (my cousin and my best friend are homosexual) and I appreciate them as people, not as representatives of society's overused term of "gay." It is not a choice to be gay, just like it is not a choice to be Black, White, Latin, Asian, or any other ethnicity. I cannot imagine being in their place and not having their bond noticed.

Like many people, seeing acts of affection between homosexual couples is not something I like to see, which is why, as previously mentioned, approving is different than accepting. Approving gay marriage, in principle, is the right thing to do by our constitution. Accepting it is an entirely different aspect than being comfortable with seeing their affection.

I implore you all to open your minds and try to separate the right from their decision of who they would vote for in this election based on the nominee's ideas on the economy, the national deficit, immigration, and foreign policy. Even though many of the media outlets claimed that they were unable to foresee a winner until the elections were over, some analysts used statistics to forecast a favorable outcome for Obama.

For his second term, Obama plans on focusing on increasing the amount of manufacturing jobs, reaching his goal of cutting America's net oil imports in half by 2020, and expanding domestic energy production which will support over 600,000 jobs in the natural gas sector.

Along with creating new jobs, President Obama would like to continue investing in small business owners by cutting taxes and helping them to expand into overseas markets, as well as trying to cut the deficit by over $4 trillion.

Obama won over Romney with a popular vote of 50.73% to 47.61% and an electoral vote of 317.7% to 38.3%. The Democratic Party won over twenty-six states over the Republican twenty-four states.

Whether you celebrated the outcome of the elections with friends and family this year, or you were upset with another four years of Obama, the fact of the matter is the Democratic party triumphed in the White House for another four years.
Evolution of Football

by: Adam Rinaldi

Reporter

In my past articles, I berated the legislature of the NFL Board, not because I dislike the game but because I find flaws in their health procedures. These NFL players are fully aware of the demands, possible injury, and long-term repercussions on their lives. However, there are reasons why the game is so great, and why the NFL business has been so successful: evolution.

The story lines, the excitement of the big play, crazy plays that seemed impossible in previous years...all of these qualities and more culminate into the modern era NFL. But the future is an interesting thought as well.

In the early years of the NFL, the strategy was to run the ball heavily; this can we predict for the game in the future? In the last century, what drastic change happened in the game? If that drastic change happened in the last century, what can we predict for the game in the future? The forward pass was used sparingly. Flash-forward to present day and the forward pass is now a common occurrence. If that drastic change happened in the last century, what can we predict for the game in the future?

The NFL is a big business, and unlike in the past, it must change to stay relevant. The NFL is not just a game, it is a business. The NFL has to change to stay relevant. The NFL has to change to stay relevant.

The game is already no longer the rough and grind it out battle of brutes. It has been rumored that the approach will become less violent and more like basketball, where taller, faster, thinner athletes who can catch the ball will be in high demand.

I know it is far-fetched but what happens next is up in the air. Not even the greatest minds of football can predict the next big stage of the NFL.

Evolution of Football
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