The Importance of Adventure

By Mariah Elliot

I believe adventure is a very important part of life. An adventure can be as small as walking around the neighborhood, going on a scenic drive or it can be as big as standing on the edge of a river just to get the perfect picture, or climbing a seemingly end- less mountain. No matter what the adventure is, it is an important part of life because it helps a person discover a lot about them-selves as well as about the world. It challenges a person to do things they may have never done before. Adventure can lead a person to some of the incredible views of the world. It helps a person to stop and take the time to discover the true beauty that has al- ways been in the world but at times may seem as if it is not even there. Sometimes those views just may not seem worth the trek. Sometimes we don’t have the luxury of having an astonishing view right outside our windows. Sometimes we have to actively look for them. A beautiful view may be at See ADVENTURE page 5

Making the Most of It

By Ricque Antolin

My Summer was remark- ably interesting, to say the least. I don’t want to say this article is a rant on what I did during circa 2019-2020 but this is a rant on what I did during 2019-2020. Besides, who wouldn’t want to hop onto the bandwagon of shar- ing your life changes during this epidemic-pandemic-psychedelic- supercalifragilisticexpialidocious experience of quarantine?

I’m typing this article right now at my designated workplace for online classes called my desk. It’s sort of been my safe spot for the past Semester: I’ll log onto Blackboard and go to my Zoom meet- ing and at the end of the day when the work is done, I’ll log onto Dis- cord to play Among Us with my friends and remind myself that I still love them; Even when they lie to my face saying ‘they’re not Imposter’ when, clearly, I saw them vent. However, before the semester started, I wasn’t always at my desk. I was still inside the house, yes, but the difference be- tween now and then is, I was mov- ing around with the reassurance that I could go outside without worrying about forgetting a mask or catching a virus called Miss. Rona. The occasion anyone in my neighborhood would find me out- side is when I’m chasing down my dog after he ran away for the tenth time in one week. Usually, when he would run away, I’d stand outside and think ‘Stay out there then!’ but lately it’s been ‘Me too.’ Why? Because I had been stuck in my house for an entire year only going out for church and grocery shopping. I don’t know why I get so passive-aggressive about it be- cause that’s how I was living my See MY SUMMER page 10

The Love Letter

By Brandon Traini

On August 31, 2020 thirty- thousand students, myself in- cluded, received a love letter from the University of Alaska. Now normally most people would con- sider such a letter as an expression of sweet, if not sappy love. This letter, however, would prove to be an expression of pure chaos. The email and attached letter were written by student regent Cachet Garrett. For those not familiar, the position of student regent is one of the most important and critical jobs in the University. In fact, the student regent is a student them- selves, and is supposed to repre- sent the interests and concerns of the entire student body, working within the Board of Regents to do so. The position is so prestigious in fact, that the governor them- selves handpick the student regent amongst a small pool of qualified applicants.

Upon opening the email and clicking the attached file, I was greeted with an over 4,200 words, document which was the so-called “love letter” written by student re- gent Garrett. Before I attempt to analyze the letter, let me start by summarizing it the best I can. To put it bluntly, the letter is horrifying- ly bizarre. The tone and con- tent of the letter are so out of place that it reads less like the academic quality expected from an impor- tant university official, and more like a drunken manifesto. In my honest opinion, this is the type of literary work that would make any English major or professor run for the paper shredder. See LETTER page 10

Procrastination: Happens to Everyone!

By Angeli Kristovich

I’ve never been one to really think twice about doing too much in my life because for the longest time, I wasn’t living up to my full potential. So, when I began my college journey about a year and half ago, I wanted to do more than I ever have and see how it goes. It wasn’t too hard at first because I wasn’t working full time, so most of my time was spent doing college stuff. But now that time has flown by and I have gotten more stuff on my plate, I must say, while trying to juggle classes, a full time job, clubs that I am involved with on campus, a home life, and a puppy, it has been eye opening in the sense that I realized that I have horrible time management!

How did it come to this conclusion, you ask? Well, when I am doing homework, and I feel like I may have gotten a right answer I get so happy that I pick up my phone and start browsing Amazon as if I just finished my See PROCASTINATION page 10

COMMUNITY

There have been many changes going on throughout our commu- nity due to the current cir- cumstances of Covid-19. While these changes have been less than ideal, our dedication to finding new and innovative ways of living goes to show how resilient we are. One spe- cific area that has been drastically altered since the beginning of this pandemic is the health field. There are many new procedures that have been put into place for the safety of the patients, as well as the staff, and any- one who comes in contact with these people. Sani- tation is an even higher priority than it ever has been, masks must be worn (when practical) by staff and patients, temper- atures and screenings are being taken prior to hospital visits, there are very strict limitations on visi- tors, and so much more. All of these adaptations have been made in order to keep our community safe and to let Healthcare facilities continue to serve those in need. As helpful as these new protocols may be, these changes have not been easy on the faculty members and pa- tients alike.

Staff have had to adapt to the sudden changes happening around them almost instantaneously. As with all things, it can be extremely stress- ful to completely change the way you handle your work duties in such a See COMMUNITY page 11

Assignment...
Meet Ryan

Ryan McCrossin is currently a junior pursuing his bachelor’s degree in Accounting. He is also the Mat-Su College Student Government Secretary/Treasurer and this is his third year. He lives in Houston, Alaska and takes care of his mother and his brother. He has two dogs and four parakeets. In his free time, he enjoys listening to music, playing musical instruments, driving (when his car isn’t in the shop), spending time with his family, and cooking. This is also his third year on the Monitor as a writer.

Dear Audrey

By Angeli Kristovich

We all know that the Mat-Su College library is a magical place. There is so much history, beauty, and knowledge all crammed into a small space. That’s right, I’m talking about the people who work there. Audrey, Micah, Craig, and Gini are all such wonderful people, and they have been my rock when I needed help finding information for homework or listening to me whine about homework.

I recently found out the library crew has gotten a little smaller, though. Audrey “momma bear” Badger has left her home of nine years in the library and moved to student services. In a way I’m sad, but I’m also happy for her. I have worked in Student Services before and that job is so fun! It is the first stop for a college student, so it is extremely important for the new students to encounter someone who is happy to help and answer questions because we all know how scary it is when you first start college!

If I was a new student, I would be so thankful to get help from Audrey. She is literally the nicest person you will ever meet. It sucks though, because before COVID-19 happened, I would talk to her and sometimes get a hug. Hugs are so awesome, and she gives the best ones! Her hugs are like a perfect blend of mommymommy, grandma, best friend, safety, and Christmas time all in one. That’s exactly what it’s like.

She has the best sense of humor, and she’s super-duper smart!

I will miss seeing Audrey in the library but luckily, I only have to walk down the hallway to see her. However, it will be different because Micah won’t be nearby when I’m talking to her, which will be really different because we are like the three amigos, and we work well together when we are trying to work out my life’s problems together. Good thing Audrey is also going to continue working with the Mat-Su Monitor too. Because if she left the library AND stopped working with the Mat-Su Monitor, then I would cry.

So, if you are new, go to Student Services and say hi to Audrey. It will literally make your day. In fact, all the people who work in Student Services are the nicest people ever! Then after that, go say Hi to Micah, you will not regret meeting these people!

Then go to a Mat-Su monitor meeting and meet me because I’m cool too! We can all be happy and merry and you can see why I felt it necessary to write about how great these people are! Mat-Su College is the best!
Student Government in 2020

What happens when the community campus becomes the stay-at-home campus?

By Ryan McCrossin

This 2020-2021 school year will be my third year as both a student and Student Government Secretary/Treasurer for the Mat-Su College. I have been involved with student government since my middle school years, as I was interested in being involved with school. I’ve had a very fun time being in this position and was ready to embrace new challenges the position opened myself up for. I went to Juneau, I’ve spoken with you all who’ve come from out of state and out of country, I’ve been an advocate for student clubs (being in 4 of them at once sometimes hahaha), and it’s been nothing but great for me. Each year brings new surprises to the table as far as events, politics, and faces. I still remember leaving the Student Government office back in March of this year expecting to log back onto my computer a week later. We were planning on going to Juneau that academic year and we were talking about having at least one more big event before semesters’ end. It would have occurred if not for the announcement that Spring Break 2020 is going to last indefinitely… SURPRISE!

This created a massive obstacle. Half of everything we did was on campus, now it was closed to the public. Every class went online, Zoom was the new way of teaching college courses… yada yada yada. You all know the story, you lived through it. Due to campus being closed through the spring, there was not a whole lot to be done for us, unfortunately. On the bright side, at least Student Government will have more money to work with next year with the carry-over. It would have been a smooth transition, except for one thing. Due to Covid-19 and everything going digital, we were not prepared to have a spring election. The issue was that there are specific actions that must occur for an election to be held. One of these is preparing the flyers around campus… advertising applications… crap. Nobody would have seen the flyers, let alone read the info down and turn it in. And an election with no candidates (while easy for the Elections Board) is counterproductive. At that point, the only option was to extend the positions of President Angel Kristovich and Vice President Shane O’Quinn through Halloween of this year.

Student Government has had all their meetings through Zoom this year. Popping your head in, you will see students, staff and faculty laughing and passing action items like we were all in the same room as last fall. Between passing amendments to the Constitution, we laugh at Micah Muer’s messy room he green screens in or be a captive audience to my dogs Perseus and Mabel as they bark at passing cars. It is both easier and harder in some ways to have student government meet only online. We do have senators (or senator for that matter, shout out to Arin Tampke) that come to the office, but with as much of a lack of in-person classes as we have, there isn’t a good way to interact with students except through emails and through the website. Be honest, when was the last time you’ve checked your school email?

Another problem Student Government has faced is how do we plan events? We cannot have dances, concerts, or anything until the community campus allows. Even then, we would be limited to online events. Only ideas thrown around included E-sports and starting up more academic clubs, and we try to come up with something new each week. While I’m writing this there is this looming sense of cabin fever. Going out means the possibility of getting sick but staying in feels like you’re grounding yourself for something you didn’t do. I want to express thanks to those of you that attended the Journey events on behalf of the Student Government. We are working on stuff on our end and will get started as soon as the MSC election is over.

If you have any ideas for events you think MSC Student Government could pull off, email us at uaa_mscstudentgov@alaska.edu or call us at (907) 745-9759 and leave a message. We may not be on campus, but there is still a student body to govern. All we can do now is hope this plays out well, and I’m optimistic about it all.

Student Government has had all their meetings through Zoom this year.

The Mat-Su Monitor is the student newspaper of Mat-Su College. The Monitor aims to report college news and serve as a forum for student writing. The Monitor seeks submissions of news, editorials, and short fiction from all students, staff, and faculty of Mat-Su College. All students are invited to attend the Monitor’s weekly meetings. Details on participating in or submitting content to the Monitor can be found at https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor.

The Mat-Su Monitor is funded by the Mat-Su College Student Government Association and our advertisers. For information on advertising in the Monitor contact Micah Muer at mmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

The opinions expressed the Monitor article are solely those of its authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the college, its students and employees, or the wider University of Alaska system.
Free, live tutoring help from Mat-Su College Tutors

As of October 2020, Mat-Su College only offers online tutoring. Using a local tutor is a good option because they have a good idea of the curriculum here. The math tutor is available Monday through Wednesdays from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, and on Thursdays from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Writing tutors are available Monday through Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. You can sign up for your tutoring session here: https://www2.registerblast.com/matsu/Exam/List

Online options for homework help

Free, live tutoring help from Tutor.com

Thanks to funding from the State Library, Tutor.com Live Homework Help is available to all Alaska residents! This is a totally free service. There are tutors available from 8:00 AM to 2:00 AM every day of the week. Tutors can help with math, science, English, writing, reading, social studies, world languages, and much more. Tutors are available to help everyone from kindergarteners to college students. Tutors can even help non-students with things like citizenship tests, resume help, and tips for helping children with their homework.

You can interact with the Live Homework Help tutors in a few ways. The least interactive way is by using the “drop off” option. You can submit a math problem or paper. Then, when you have time, log back in to see what the tutors said. Otherwise you can work with tutors in real time by chatting or using a microphone. However you do it, you and the tutor can share a workspace so that you both see your paper or math problem.

To start using Live Homework Help, just go to https://lam.alaska.gov/sled/homework

Check the Learning Resource Center webpage for updates on tutor availability: https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/learning-resource-center

Other free, online learning resources

- Purdue OWL (https://owl.purdue.edu). A very useful guide to write papers in MLA or APA style, with examples of citations and paper layout.

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Play an important role on the Mat-Su College Campus. Being on a committee can help to enhance your career, give you a chance to give back to your community, and give you the opportunity to challenge yourself by helping to shape your society.

Current Mat-Su College Committees open to the student body:

- Board of Elections
- Concert Committee
- Constitution Committee
- Dance Committee
- Health and Wellness Committee
- Rules Committee
- Pizza Committee
- Planning Committee
- Finance Committee

Or join one of the student clubs. Clubs are a great place to meet like minded people, have fun, learn new things and relax. Many clubs are on pause during COVID-19, but some are still active, including the Mat-Su Monitor, the LGBTQ+ Club, and possibly others. See the college website for the latest details or email matsu.monitor@alaska.edu.

Joining a committee or club looks good on resumes as well as gives you a chance to connect with fellow students, staff and faculty. You owe it to yourself to try them out. If you don’t see a club that interests you, you can start one of your own. Student Government will fund you up to $300 to cover expenses. You can pick up a form at the Student Government office in JKB 114, near the café.

STUDENT RESOURCES
Ordering Food

By Angeli Kristovich

When I go through a drive-through, or I am ordering food at a restaurant, sometimes I am picky. I will find what I want on the menu and change all kinds of stuff up on it, and not even think twice about it. Well, I have recently started working at a pizza shop that my husband and I bought and I learned a little something about ordering food, and what a picky order can do to the flow of a dinner rush. This is not to say that being a picky eater is bad, it’s merely a peek through the stage curtain of a circus act we all know as, pizza.

I’m going to give an example of how a picky order reflects from the caller to the hostess, then to the cook, and sometimes the driver. When someone calls, and they have a friendly tone in their voice it can do wonders for the person taking their order. So, when they begin by saying, “okay, I want to order this, but I want to change it a little and I’m sorry!” At first, I think, “uh-huh, here we go”, but since the person was nice, I can remain calm and write the order down neatly, which helps the cook, and in turn, helps the entire flow of a rush because if anyone knows about making a mistake, it can sometimes have a ripple effect where things go haywire for a few minutes until the atmosphere’s chi is back at its normal vibration.

See, when someone thinks they are changing their order a lot, oftentimes they aren’t, but the way they word it can be chaotic and wordy. Whether the caller is being nice or mean will make a big difference for the person who is taking the order and play a huge part in their critical thinking abilities at the time of the order. Having good critical thinking skills allows the person to think critically about the order to make the order easy for the cook, and possibly bring the price down by entering stuff incorrectly and finding deals for you that you may have not been aware of. Also, when the order is easy to read, it can be prepared quickly because the cook doesn’t have to read a paragraph to get on with the show. And trust me, we want to get every single order right because God forbid we accidentally mess up an order and get a nasty review online (every restaurants’ nightmare).

I have had people call, and they are in a rush and maybe having an awful day, so they are treating me like I am garbage on the gas station ground. They begin by asking me how long it will be (before even telling me what they will be ordering), knowing that no answer will suffice. Then they order a huge order and add or change stuff about everything they order. As they are ordering, my handwriting is like chicken scratch because my blood pressure is elevated. The person is super rude, and I can’t be mean back to them because that’s not good customer service and I just want the call to be over with already! Then, amidst all that, the other phone rings (because we have two lines), and I need to put them on hold because I am still working with the mean person. When it’s all said and done, I tell the rude person their total, they get mad about the price, and hang up. After that, I bring the order slip back to the cook and have to explain to him what I wrote because it’s so chaotic.

In a situation like I just mentioned, yes it is chaotic, and yes it isn’t right of that person to be so mean, but after a couple of minutes goes by and the bad vibes are gone, I always realize that often when people are mean?!” But I don’t, I give them that “did our phone conversation mean nothing to you?! Was it THAT easy to be THAT mean?!” But I don’t, I give them their pizza and don’t say a word, so they can continue with their lives because it’s those types of people who make up the diverse humans that we are. We have nice ones and mean ones. If we didn’t have mean humans, we wouldn’t know what nice was, so I want to say thank you to all those rude people out there. You make the nice ones stand out, and they make someone’s day shine a little brighter because of them.

You know, sometimes I feel kind of immature and tacky for being offended by hungry people, but I can’t help that I have feelings and I match energies with people. Sometimes I often feel like a parrot that mimics the vibes of the callers. If you are nice, I can feel it and the vibes of the callers. If you are nice, I can feel it and the vibes are great. But if you are mean, then things go wrong, and all of a sudden I forget where the buttons are in the computer which gives the impression to the already pissed off caller that I am even more incompetent than I thought.

See PIZZA page 10
FROM THE STUDIO

Painting - Andrea Anders (After van Gogh - Wheat Field and Cypresses)

Art painting - Rachel Carpenter

Sarah Clarke Week 7 Int. Dwg 2020
MESSAGE TO GAMERS AT MSC:

Are you interested in E-Sports?

Mat-Su College Student Government is in the works of starting up an e-sports group for college students. Do you want to be involved in the process?

ESTIMATED BEGINNING DATE: SPRING 2021

CONTACT US AT UAA_MSCSTUDENTGOV@ALASKA.EDU

Let’s go to the Club!

By Angeli Kristovich

Hello! My name is Angeli, and I am the current Student Government President here at Mat-Su College. I was supposed to be out of office last semester, but COVID-19 showed up and changed so much in such a little amount of time! We had to move the Student Government Elections to this semester (FALL 2020), so I volunteered to continue my term to see it through to the end. That way when the new President-Elect begins their term in office, they will have a little guidance from the one who preceded them, me!

So much has changed in the world since March, and it is great to see so many people sign up for classes this semester despite the chaos! College, and education in general, are gifts to yourself that you will have forever and no one can take it from you. It is truly amazing!

As you already know, classes are mostly online, so that has made the campus environment a different place! To be more specific, it has made it very difficult for student-run clubs to be active here on campus.

What are clubs?

Simply put, clubs are defined at Mat-Su College as 5 or more students who have an interest in something, so they form a club. They can choose to meet up weekly or biweekly, to be around other people with the same interests. A few examples of clubs are the Math Club, the Alaska Native Cultures Club, and the LGBTQ+ Club. All of those clubs were very active on campus before COVID-19. It would be so great to see other clubs startup, but after a day that is full of zoom classes, and on your computer doing homework, it is difficult to host another meeting and to get people to show up to it! I know this from experience! But maybe you can help get students involved!

Student Government Elections this semester

Although some people are just too busy with other stuff in life to get involved, there are also a lot of other people who don’t have much going on and want to have something to do! I know this because I was one of those people! That’s why I got involved with Student Government and the Alaska Native Cultures Club two years ago and I loved it. It was so fun being involved with planning events and getting people together! But now, with the safety guidelines in place, we need to think of safe ways to still have fun while we are in college.

Do you have creative ideas to start a new club amidst or new normal? Do you want to join the Student Government to work with others with ideas to engage students safely? A couple of ideas that I have heard of are holding a drive-in movie for students. See, it’s creative ideas like that, that will help us be able to keep our campus alive during this time when it seems so lonely! If you have any ideas for this semester that you think could spice up our daily grind of work, homework, and computer screens, let us know in Student Government, and we can work towards making that happen!

When we, in Student Government say that we are here for you, we mean it! So whether you have ideas for safe gatherings, ideas for enhancing student life, or you just want to be involved, I encourage you to join in on a Student Government meeting. You can brainstorm with us while we try to navigate these uncertain waters safely, while also trying to have a good time! If you are interested in anything I talked about or you just want to come to a meeting, email me at amkristovich@alaska.edu and I will send you the Zoom link invite. Student Government meets Wednesdays at noon via Zoom. We hope to see you there!
Thoughts on Tony Hawk Pro Skater 1 & 2 Remake


By Arin Tampke

No Straight Roads – a musical journey ridden with potholes.

Musical adventure No Straight Roads certainly got my foot tapping, albeit more due to frustration than the game’s admittedly catchy tunes. Set in the music-obsessed metropolis of Vinyl City, No Straight Roads sees you play as two wannabe rock stars fighting against the dictatorship of NSR records, which not only mediates the city’s musical tastes but also controls its power supply. The story picks up with rock bandmates Mayday and Zuke trying out for the Lights Up Auditions, a televised musical show not unlike American Idol. Despite their excellent performance, the judges of No Straight Roads – the label producing the show – tell them that the age of rock is over and that EDM is the new punk, metal, rock and hip-hop has all but died out, and almost all of them have some unique quality to them. The first 3 THPS games were revolutionary in the extreme sports genre released alongside the snowboarding powerhouse SSX. THPS 4 had added new features and a loose story which led to the Tony Hawk Underground games (THUG), which then continued to manifest into intriguing and fun game later on: Tony Hawk’s American Wasteland (THAW), Tony Hawk’s Project 8 (TH8), and Tony Hawk’s Proving Ground (THPG). It is around this point where many believed the franchise to drop off, as the studio behind the games Neversoft closed.

Robomodo was a developer who made classics such as Tony Hawk’s Ride and Shred, which could only be played with a Wii remote and a fake skate board. Robomodo also developed the first remake of the first two games (THPS HD), and THPS5. These games all performed miserably. With this in mind, I was hesitant when I found out they were going to do a second remake. There were some good things that I saw which did lead me to pre-order the game: the developers were Vicarious Visions (portred Guitar Hero 3–6 for the Nintendo Wii as well as the Crash Bandi- coot N. Sane Trilogy) and Bee- nos (who developed Crash Team Racing Nitro-Fueled). “Okay, good, this means that there are two companies with heads put on correctly.” In addition, a lot of the same bands agreed to be licensed for the remake to be included in the soundtrack, 22 of them in fact. This means they have money to spend on making the game better.

This is a definite change over THPS HD’s measly 5 songs from the original 25 songs across both soundtracks. They also said they would include online multiplayer. This is a massive deal because playing online is more popular in 2020 than it was in 1999 for a decent number of reasons. At this point, I was hooked. I got the pre-order for $40 (which is a great price for a AAA game) and waited patiently for the game to open to the public.

The game plays very well. The game’s graphics are updated so well that the game seems to run at a far higher framerate. There are little changes to the mechanics or physics, and all of the goals and characters are there with extras included (well, except Private Carrera, but they do have a character customization mode that makes each unique). The level has 10 objectives and a 2 minute timer in which to complete them. Some levels can be finished in these 2 minutes. Some levels are extremely difficult and would rely on you going over the time limit by being in a combo when the timer hits zero. All of the levels, including THPS2’s Chopper Drop and Skate Heaven, make a return and allow you to play to your heart’s content. The game plays like THPS3 in terms of tricks and abilities. One of these includes the “revert” move. After performing a trick off a ramp, you can turn your body and board around 180 degrees (“reverting”) to continue your combo. You can then perform a manual – balancing on two wheels instead of four – after a revert and do other grind, flip, or grab tricks until either your four wheels or your back/face touch the pavement. For you THPS vets out there. They also removed the “Big Drop” actions in the remake, which even I think I’m too weak to perform an action before landing a big jump. I’m happy about that too.

Something else they added are challenges that are outside of the level’s objectives. These include speed runs, finding secrets in each level, performing a specific trick on a specific gap, performing a specific trick on a ramp, collecting multiple gaps, getting stall points for each character, and so on. Each challenge has experience points associated and will bring you closer to the max level of 100. Reaching level 100 is a long and time-consuming process. I still haven’t done it! But with a total of over 700+ challenges across the 21 (22 including your custom- ized character) skaters, there is a lot of stuff to do in the game a long haul as far as getting everything completed. Some can be a bit much, such as 10 cumulative hours in a manual or 100,000 cumulative grab tricks, but there is enough replay ability whether I’m just playing the game by myself, split-screen, or online that it doesn’t matter.

Another one of my favorite parts of the Tony Hawk franchise is the music in the games. I would argue that about half of my music taste was formed because of the licensed soundtracks. THPS 1 and 2 presents 53 songs, including almost the entire soundtracks from the original 2 games. The 3 songs that couldn’t make it were Unseen’s “Committeed” (which kills me immensely as a noise rock fan), The High and Mighty’s “Fitch for a Ditch” (which kills me immensely as a hip-hop fan), and Alleylife’s “Out with the Old” (which… I can live without please don’t yell at me). A lot of artists that made a pleasant return include Primus, Rage Against the Machine, Dead Kennedys, Manic Street Preachers, and Suicidal Tendencies to name a few. And yes, “Superman” by Goldfinger is in there. But they even added some new musicians to the mix as well and added some bands I will have playing even outside the game. Some of my favorites include: Screaming Females, Strung Out, Destroy Boys, A Tribe Called Quest, Billy Talent, Roughi<SUB>0</SUB>, Sublime, and Viagra Boys. The variety of punk, metal, rock and hip-hop is shocking and allows for the most surprising of new games for me.

And to finish this piece off, I also want to state that there is THPS 3 DLC coming for the game, which is super exciting as this was the game that got me started. Perhaps this will lead to remakes of all the games (yes, even THPS5 which came out in 2015) and create a new generation of players of the series. I am optimistic of the series’ projection and look forward to seeing what is to come from Beeno, Vicarious Visions, and the Birdman himself.

No Straight Roads

No Straight Roads certainly got my foot tapping, albeit more due to frustration than the game’s admittedly catchy tunes. Set in the music-obsessed metropolis of Vinyl City, No Straight Roads sees you play as two wannabe rock stars fighting against the dictatorship of NSR records, which not only mediates the city’s musical tastes but also controls its power supply. The story begins when the two main characters, Mayday and Zuke, are trying out for the Lights Up Auditions, a televised musical show. No Straight Roads is set in a fictional city called Vinyl City, which is a dazzling neon sprawl divided into multiple districts, from the kawaii-colors and anime billboards of Akusuka, to the leafy territories of Natura. These districts are controlled by powerful pop stars who have a say in the city’s life, including Zuke’s cool and reserved demeanor, and it’s fascinating to see how the two interact with each other.

These battles are themed around different musical genres. In Akusuka, you take on an entirely digital K-pop star created and controlled by a group of geeky teens. In the Tron-like Metro District, meanwhile, you square off against a cybernetic monster whose chrome avatars are repurposed mobile robots. From an audio-visual perspective, these encounters are wonderfully designed. The vibrant and imaginative way the music and visuals interact is memorable. The accompanying soundtrack is fantastic too, cleverly fusing a wide range of styles.

It’s a classical underworld story through and through, and No Straight Roads tells it with such energy and zest. All that can’t help but become enamored with this strange musical world. Mayday’s extremely hyper personality contrasts well with Zuke’s cool and reserved demeanor, and it’s fascinating to see how the two interact with each other. Galvanized, Mayday and Zuke try out for the Lights Up Auditions, a televised musical show. No Straight Roads certainly got my foot tapping, albeit more due to frustration than the game’s admittedly catchy tunes. Set in the music-obsessed metropolis of Vinyl City, No Straight Roads sees you play as two wannabe rock stars fighting against the dictatorship of NSR records, which not only mediates the city’s musical tastes but also controls its power supply. The story begins when the two main characters, Mayday and Zuke, are trying out for the Lights Up Auditions, a televised musical show.
ome mistakes. But, we always
human, and we have made
remake an order, but we are
restaurant has had to
about, they have to be remade,
are in the oven get forgotten
crazy order slip, the pizzas that
apart the order to simplify it for
mentioned before, I can write
orders a huge order, changes a
when a nice person calls and

I'm sensitive.

The best food comes from a
restaurant where the people
are treated with respect and
the atmosphere is friendly. We
strive to make the service fast
can only go as fast as the
food will cook. We don't want
you to have to wait any longer
than you should have to. And
if you ever order from us, you
will most likely be ordering
from me, so be nice because
I'm sensitive.

Procrastination contd. from page 1
entire assignment and I “deserve”
a break. It’s crazy I tell ya. And
even in the moment as I am picking
up my phone, I have a moment of
hesitation which is my conscience
telling me that I don’t need to be
shopping online. Like, first of all,
I’m broke. So, what am I shopping
Browsing is the ultimate time waster
that has plagued my progress ever
since I can remember.

I am one of the lucky millions
of people on this earth who struggle with something called
“High-functioning Procrastination Disorder.” I just made that up, but
I think it could be a thing. It’s like
when you have too much on your
plate, but you get a lot done and
try your best at everything you
do, despite the fact that you get
easily sidetracked. Yes, that is me.
I will say though, that lately it has
been even more of a struggle since
classes became all online. See,
usually, when classes are in person,
I am able to get put back on track
by being reminded of what I need to
do next either from my peers while
walking in the hallways, or from my
professors during lecture. But now,
I have no reminders, it’s just me
and my procrastination making the best
of this world.

I have a plan that I am putting
into effect as we speak, though.
I got myself a planner, and I am
checking Black Board more often. I
also had a long talk with myself and
asked myself what I want to do in
life and if browsing for stuff I can’t
afford on Amazon is really the right
choice when I am doing homework.
I reluctantly replied to myself, “no.”
So, let’s hope I make it through this
semester intact.

My Summer continued from page 1
life before quarantine happened,
but now I have an excuse to be
passive-aggressive. So, when my
aunt told me to “pack your bags, we’re going to Fairbanks!” I was
a mix of “I don’t want to leave my bed” and “Finally a reason to get
out of bed.”

I can’t lie, I was more of the
latter only because I’m a sucker
for long drives. I was able to use
my 5+ hour driving playlists! We
made a couple of pit stops and I
got some amazing pictures, but
our ending was Fairbanks, and
it did not disappoint. We were
blessed enough to get a room
with a bad A/C, so we were
upgraded to a room with the
same price as our previous one.
The hotel bed had me thinking
“I don’t want to leave my bed”
because the bedsheets felt like
Heaven and “Finally a reason to
get out of bed” because I was
somewhere new! No more staring
at the artificial light screen that

Pizzaparented from page 3
they already believed! Haha!

On the other hand though,
when a nice person calls and
orders a huge order, changes a
bunch of stuff up, is happy and
thankful for the nice service, it
can make a huge difference. As
mentioned before, I can write
the order more clearly and pick
apart the order to simplify it for
the cook to be easily read, and
the flow doesn’t get a messed
up. Because when the cook
gets confused looking at a
crazy order slip, the pizzas that
are in the oven get forgotten
about and if they are forgotten
about, they have to be remade,
then I have to make the call to
the person that they will be
receiving two pizzas because
there’s was left in the oven for
too long!

See, someone might be
worried to say that sometimes
their restaurant has had to
remake an order, but we are human,
and we have made some mistakes. But, we always
make those mistakes right and
people appreciate that about us!
No matter what, when people
get a pizza from us, they will be
table to tell right away that
the people involved in making our
customer food care about what they
are doing. Our ingredients are
fresh, we make our dough in-
house, and it is fabulous. The
customer service that you will
receive is classy and our food
and service is tangible proof that
we are here for you, the
customer.

So, next time you or someone
you know is ordering food, I
suggest that they order nicely.

Letter continued from page 1
Regent Garrett starts her ram
ble by acknowledging “You prob-
ably ain’t even gonna get another
letter like this… unless I send
you another this year.” And yes,
she did purposely include those
exact spellings. After pointing
out the… uniqueness of the let-
ter herself, the first part of the
document details a long-winded
introduction by the student re-
gen. Often, she goes off on vari-
ous tangents, all while making
a variety of grammatical errors,
and includes the occasional self-
aggrandizing statement. Such
statements for example include
but are not limited to “I am un-
breakable”, “I am stronger than
I ever knew”, and “In fact I was
made for this”. Later she goes
on to even boldly campaign for
her own re-election efforts say-
ing, “If you wish, you may send
your senators and representatives
personal recommendation to
confirm me in 2021 as your
student regent.”

Throughout the lengthy doc-
ument, regent Garrett goes off
on various tangents, often need-
ing little reason to do so. On
the third page she is quoted talking
about her studies of tantra say-
ing “(which is NOT about sex,
people, this is a misguided belief
many people have but it is not
without reason)”. Disapproving
as that may be, I fail to see how
tantric sex relates to the average
UA student. Furthermore, on the
fifth page of the document while
discussing the extremely sensi-
tive and emotional topic of sui-
cide the student regent pro-
claims and requests in all capital
letters “NO MORE SUICIDING”, as
if that statement would solve the
issue.

However, in my opinion the
most outlandish statement by the
student regent regarded criticism
of the university. Here she writes
“It is at this point which I must
express the urgency of ceasing
ANY negative talk around our
beloved university system.” Here
we have the student regent, an
official that is supposed to repre-
sent student interests in the UA
system tell the student body, to
stop all critically evaluating the
university. To begin, I will point out
the sheer irony of that statement
in and off itself. Regent Garrett’s
letter, whose topics range from
casually bulldozing over the top
ic of suicide, to tantric sex, un-
doubtedly has only caused more
controversy for the University of
Alaska.

Secondly, this statement comes at a time when Alaska’s university system faces unpre-
cedented budget cuts, and hard
choices that will ultimately affect the quality of education students
receive. Yet, if student regent
Garrett is to be believed, we are
supposed to weather budget cuts,
loss of programs, and forced on-
line classes without complaint.
As a university student, it makes
me horrified to think that these
are the thoughts of an individual
on how to best serve the roughly
35,000 students spread across
19 campuses in the uni-
versity system.

Overall, as a student at the
University of Alaska, I find Reg-
ent Garrett’s letter very trou-
bling to say the least. The doc-
ument’s controversial statements
make me question the regent’s reasoning to send such a letter openly.
Not only do I find her words in
bad taste, but it has made me lose
faith in someone who is supposed
to represent others as well as my-
self. As university students, we
must ask ourselves if this is the
individual we want to represent
and communicate our best inter-
ests to the Board of Regents dur-
ning these important times.
as you dodge attacks, and this matter isn't helped by the lack of an enemy lock-on feature to help land your blows. Sometimes bits and pieces of the environments can unintentionally obscure part of your view, too, making an already less than ideal camera set up even more frustrating. Most of the time it's okay, the camera is never bad enough to make No Straight Roads unplayable, but there's simply no excuse for such camera problems to crop up in a game released in modern times. Further issues then arise as the repetition begins to set in. Before most boss battles, you're first tasked with going through an ‘approach’ to the venue that next to nothing to the overall experience. These approaches consist of you enduring five or all experience. These approaches except a few guest artists ensure that there's plenty of depth and variety to the tracks on display.

Conclusion: No Straight Roads isn't a bad game at all, but it's one that consistently falls short of the tremendous potential that it often hints at. The world, characters, music, and overall idea of its gameplay are ripe for a groundbreaking beat 'em up game, but this, unfortunately, is just a so-so one. Performance problems, camera issues, and repetitive gameplay are all factors that hold this one back from greatness, but these issues are often balanced out by the spectacular boss fights, excellent soundtrack, and charming writing. We'd recommend this one to beat 'em up fans looking for an interesting new entry in the genre, but with the big caveat that you consider this release's flaws before taking the plunge. It's certainly a worthwhile experience, but one that will likely disappoint if you come into it with the wrong expectations.
To schedule an appointment for: Academic Advising, Financial Aid, or Career Assessments contact Student Services at 907.745.9762 or visit matsu.alaska.edu

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