The Councillor

November 2002 | News Magazine of the Commonwealth | Monthly Publication

GOP Controls U.S., Pennsylvania House and Senate

By: Ryan Melling

In the aftermath of a disastrous national election to the Democratic Party, Pennsylvania is one of the few sore spots for President George Bush and the Republican leadership.

Although much of the nation voted for Republicans in an apparent show of support for Bush's war on terrorism and possible invasion of Iraq, Pennsylvania dethroned its current GOP gubernatorial seat as it voted in Ed Rendell to Harrisburg. Supported by just under 1,900,000 voters, Rendell fended off Mike Fisher by almost 300,000 votes.

This race is one of three pick-ups for the Democrats in state gubernatorial races. As predicted, Rendell fared well in the more populated, traditional liberal areas of the state, including 84% of the votes coming from the Philadelphia area. The seat is being vacated by current Governor Mark Schweiker.

With a platform of education reform and focus on the economy, Rendell claimed victory in a state plagued with a budget deficit and will, according to campaign pledges, work with local politicians to remedy a potential serious situation.

Rendell's victory seems bittersweet to many in the state Democratic Party, however, as Republicans were able to not only hold onto their monopoly in the state House and Senate, but actually pick up a couple seats. This is expected to force the Governor's office to give up a lot in order to get his initiatives passed.

Democrats also picked up an important seat in the United States House of Representatives as Tim Holden defeated George W. Gekas in the 17th House District. Both Holden and Gekas were incumbents thrown together in a dog fight by the state's redistricting committee. While Gekas reined for most of the night, when all was said and done, Holden won by a 51% to 49% count. The race was considered up for grabs by both major parties.

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Left: *Protesters marched the Capitol at the nation-wide October 26th Rally against an attack on Iraq in Washington D.C. (Photo by Steve Ryan)*

THON Kicks Off

Family Reunion Carnival a Success

By: Candy McGill

On Sunday, November 3 the members of CCSG THON committees united to create a carnival booth entertaining the Four Diamonds Families at the annual Family Reunion Carnival.

This year's Carnival theme "Over the Rainbow" inspired the CCSG committee to set up a fish pong game in front of a rainbow backdrop. Prizes from a "pot of gold" were given to each child who participated.

Each child had as many chances as needed to throw ping-pong balls into rainbow colored plastic cups filled with Swedish Fish candies. The CCSG THON Committee and members of Central Staff assisted each child while cheering them on in support.

"I had a blast playing with the kids, and it was great to see their smiling faces," said Michele MacLaren, a programming member of CCSG's committee.

MacLaren and a co-committee member, Cat Nguyen, found ways to get the children excited about the game. They started a competition similar to the basketball game of "P.I.G" but instead used the word "T.H.O.N." to determine the winning team. High fives, words of congratulations and huge smiles were the result of the duo's teamwork.

According to CCSG THON Director Tara Minchin, the booth was a major success this year. In emails addressed to the committee from Richel Perretti, CCSG Advisor, and Mike Cooper, CCSG President, the booth has been the best in CCSG history. Throughout the carnival's four-hour time span, kids were playing the game non-stop. A few even lingered to help man the station.

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Three Faiths for a Holiday Season

By: Ryan Melling

As the end of semester approaches for students across the Penn State University system, people will be celebrating their holiday in a wide verity of solemn remembrances and jubilant celebrations.

Christmas, Hanukah, and Ramadan are the three common religious days for three of the most popular religions. In the weeks to come, let us all celebrate what we choose, while respecting those of our neighbors. It is important to understand and accept holidays of all different faiths.

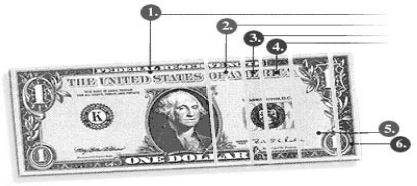
Christianity is the most widely practiced religion in the United States. The day after Halloween, a transformation occurs in the hearts and souls of businesses and cities. Huge signs reporting a "Christmas Sale" pop up on TV screens across the nation. Old bearded men wearing red body suits ride around in sleighs pulled by reindeer. Even houses join the festivities. Motley lights of all color and shape appear on gutters and windows, and in some southern states, palm trees are decorated to look like a flaming power pole.

That Christmas that most people celebrate now is only a hint at what is the original festival. Christians believe that over 2000 years ago, a child, the savior was born in a manger. This child was the Son of God and born to the Virgin Mary. This child grew up to be sinless, and upon his death

Cont'd on page 5

Penn State Bookstore

High prices, low buy-backs and donations to the Commonwealth



By: Joe Curigliano

Midterms are over and everyone has paid off their tuition, their assorted fees, and the dreaded cost of books. But don't fear, as how our tuition has been explained many times through, I will explain the mystery behind the pricing of books before the Spring Semester comes and a whole new load of bills piles up.

I met with Mr. Steve Falke, regional manager of the Penn State Book Store. Our conversation revealed a lot of the misconceptions between students and the Book Store. The following are a few of those misunderstandings as well as how we as students can work at maximizing our money at the Penn State Book Store.

We have all had the sticker shock, "oh my, $253.68 for this book that I probably won't open at all in class." Here is where one of the old high school trends catches up to us in college.

Never before have we as students paid for our own. Also, many times the teacher would cover material from page 1 to the last page, assigning those tedious little homework assignments at the end of every chapter, and so on. Now teachers have become professors and the amount of material covered has become more specific.

Unless your professor wrote the book for your class, a student will probably not cover a page-by-page approach to the text (of course exceptions apply). That usually is where students feel the pain of the pocketbook. Sure the cool thing is we all get these great books to prop up our miscellaneous items later in life, but a few hundred dollars now means eating well for the next few months.

Now if you are thinking that prices vary from Location to Location, Mr. Falke said that the pricing template is the same throughout the Commonwealth, including University Park. He wants students to realize the Book Store is not out to take student's money. Most of the Book Stores' profits do not come from selling books.

Falke also explained the buy-back process in which most students feel cheated. He explains that if the professor is going to use the same textbook next semester, then the Book Store will pay back 50% of the original selling price. When the professor does not let the Book Store know if the text is going to be reused, the buy back price goes to the national average, which is 20%-35% on the dollar.

Now Falke points out that when he buys back books, then resells them, he only makes the average 25%. That is the same as if he sold new texts every semester. Most retail stores sell their inventory at a 50% margin; the Penn State Book Store sells its books at only 25%. Falke says that buybacks are what he wants to do the most. He said, "It is one of the few times both the Book Store and the Students make out on the deal."

One thing that students may find interesting is that the Penn State Book Store does not decide what books to sell. It is actually up to the professors to decide what books are going to be in their classrooms.

Student can only ask the professors to make sure they turn in their book requests early to the

For a $50 Text Book

1. **Publisher:** $33.50, 67%
2. **Author:** $4.50, 9%
3. **Freight Company:** $1.25, 2.5%
4. **Revenue** given to college or university for academic programs, student activities, capital improvements, systems automation, and/or reduction of school operating expenses: $4.50, 9%
5. **Bookstore Employee Salaries:** $5.00, 10%
6. **Earnings** and other direct expenses including taxes, equiqment, maintenance, repairs, supplies, etc.: $1.25, 2.5%

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The Councillor Staff:

Editor:	Elizabeth Eisenhart	exe131@psu.edu
Asst. Editor:	Candice McGill	cmm385@psu.edu
Advertising Director:	Michele Armstrong	mea143@psu.edu

Head Writers:

Kevin Waltz	kaw214@psu.edu
Amira Johnson	acj120@psu.edu
Mike Ward	mpw147@psu.edu
Ryan Melling	rpm178@psu.edu
Andy Doran	ajd213@psu.edu
Cindy Huang	ckh111@psu.edu
Mikael Stangl	mws224@psu.edu
Steve catanese	scc155@psu.edu

CCSG Office Information

Address 229 HUB-Robeson Center, University Park, PA 16802
Telephone (814) 863-0697
Fax (814) 864-6874

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Mont Alto's SGA Sponsored 2002 Semi-Formal Winterball

Saturday December 7th, 2002 @ Penn State Mont Alto
Time: 8p.m. to 12a.m.
Place: Mont Alto's MPR
Price: $8 single/ $12 couple
If Interested Contact Erica Schwartz at **els182@psu.edu**

Harrisburg's Canning: a Success

By: Parul Luthra & Chrissy Meck

"THON?! What in the world is that? I thought to myself when the topic was first broached. Not thinking much of it, I hummed the bars of Sisqo's chart topping *Thong Song* under my breath.

Today I am humming the tune of a new song. The Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon at Penn State Capital College has taken a more energetic role in the largest student coordinated philanthropy initiative. Enthusiasm is infectious which is being spread by Thon Chair Christine Meck, a sophomore English major.

The first canning weekend, was a challenge having never solicited money for such an organization. There was some trepidation. Would we be successful, would people care and donate, or were we going to be laughed out of town?

It was a cold, rainy day, perfect for canning! Sorry, that was definitely sarcastic. But we had made a commitment and we were going to fulfill it come rain or shine, plus it was for the kids.

We arrived at Wal-Mart at approximately 9:30 am and were shortly joined by our own Nittany Lion, a senior accounting major, Michael Lamb. Mimicking the Nittany Lion's friendly and enthusiastic personality he enthralled the wide-eyed children and sparked Penn State Pride in the adults, which allowed them to open their wallets a bit wider. One little girl proclaimed her excitement when she hugged the "Giant Scooby Doo" (it was the Nittany Lion)! We had a lot of laughs along with tons of surprises.

At one point we were approached by a Four Diamonds mom who graciously thanked us for our efforts and dedication to the foundation. After meeting her, we were even more motivated to raise money. Another motivator was a woman by the name of Leila. After a bout of shopping at Wal-Mart, Leila came out with two carts filled to the brim. I approached her with a smile and the can of course, she asked me to watch her carts while she ran to get her car and hit the bank for some cash. Upon her return we started chatting and she began counting a stack of twenty dollar bills, she hands them to me and says,

"Here's two." I gulped and said in cracked voice, "Two hundred!" She calmly smiled and said, "Yep." I hugged and thanked her profusely never having been the recipient of such a self-less gesture. Her generosity gave us wings and we forgot all about our frost bitten feet and chilly fingertips.

Being philanthropists we decided to appeal to the enthusiasm of the children when they saw the lion. We bought a Polaroid camera, rather convenient since we were in front of the Wal-Mart. The pictures geared up the customers who then became more relaxed and more willing to give.

An exuberant Penn State alum exclaimed to have been going to Penn State football games since in vitro! The first canning weekend turned out to be one filled with warmth and generosity demonstrated by many.

So a small suggestion to Sisqo to change the catch phrase from, "Thong…Thong…Thong…to Thon….Thon…Thon…Thon!"

Why is it important for change of assignment students to attend the Housing Fair in January?

*Greater opportunity to get the housing that you prefer
*A lot of realtors will be in one place at one time, as opposed to making appointments to meet with them individually
*You will get introduced to the campus and have the opportunity to get acquainted with your future surroundings
*On campus housing is difficult to get at University Park, you need to be aware of other options
*You will meet other change of assignment students who are moving to University Park from Commonwealth Locations
*There will be FREE STUFF!!

The 18th Annual Penn State University Housing Fair in Alumni Hall of University Park's HUB-Robeson Center:
Friday, January 24th 2003 9am – 4pm
Saturday, January 25th 2003 9am – 3pm

*Check with the Student Affairs Office at your campus for more information and if transportation will be provided.

Behrend's Lion Entertainment Board Keeps the Fun Coming

By: Douglas Smith

Within the past month the LEB has had a plethora of events with many more in the works. Recently five members of the group attended the NACA conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania to recruit entertainment for the Behrend community for the spring semester. The trip was very successful with several bands and comedians being booked to put on a great show at the college. A magician is even in the works for the second annual Psychic Fair sometime in the spring semester.

The shows of the past month have been incredible. The LEB's showing of *Spiderman* brought in a huge crowd due in small part to the amazing publicity with posters, candy, and window paintings advertising the event. Other movies included *MIB II* and *The Bourne Identity*. Recently many of the films for the spring semester have been chosen with a consistent action or thriller theme.

A few novelty acts have had a chance to be experienced by students at Behrend. A multi media booth featuring students making their own CDs of a few songs was a big hit. Many of the talented students at Behrend showed their stuff in this technical feature. Indoor laser tag and inflatable items like a bungee wall will visit Behrend in the month of November.

Bands have also made their mark at Behrend. The biggest show in the past month was Punchline, a punk band from Pittsburgh. A free show by The Shindig and a show with A Week In July ended October with a bang.

Comedian Tom Cotter stole the show during the weekend following fall break. Cotter has been featured on Comedy Central and had folks at Bruno's Café rolling in their seats. The future comic lineup is projected to have Michael Collins, Justin McKinney, and Billy Burr who is currently on Comedy Central's USO Comedy Tour.

A reunion show by Brownie Mary, the movies *Signs* and *XXX*, and a couple more comedians help bring this semester to a conclusion with much more on the way.

Top 10 Reasons Mont Alto is the BEST Penn State Campus

10. Mont Alto has Foresters!!!
9. Mont Alto's Sports Program is unmatched in the CCAC:
Women's Volleyball '02 CCAC Champions
Men's Basketball '02 CCAC Champions
Women's Softball '02 CCAC Champions
Men's Golf '00 & '01 CCAC Champions
8. Mont Alto offers the opportunity to wield an axe on the Woodsmen Team
7. Mont Alto will be trading 200 trees with France in the next year
6. Mont Alto is surrounded by a National Forest; making it the most beautiful campus
5. Mont Alto has a dedicated and supportive faculty and staff
4. Mont Alto has the highest percentage of diversity in its student body than any other Penn State Campus
3. Mont Alto will be celebrating its centennial in '03
2. Mont Alto has the best-looking SGA
1. Mont Alto is home to the oldest building in the Penn State system: Wiestling Hall

Spring Semester: A New Beginning

By: Frank Payne

Spring semester, a time of many new beginnings. It is a time to commence new classes, get involved in different activities, start new friendships, renew old friendships, and begin the new season. For many of us, the beginning of Spring semester has a much different feel. It feels new and exciting but with all the familiar aspects from the previous semester. The beginning of Spring semester is definitely a time of many opportunities.

Your classes should definitely be the focal point of your college life. However, there are many other important aspects that are sometimes forgotten. For first-year students coming back for their second semester, this is a great time to get involved and find out what your campus has to offer. Your college career will be what you make it. If you want it to be boring and monotonous, it will be. If you want it to be busy, dynamic, and fun, it will be. During my two years as a Penn State student I have experienced both lifestyles. While the involved lifestyle is much busier and more challenging, it is definitely the most fun and rewarding.

Going hand-in-hand with getting involved is creating new friendships. Participating in clubs and activities that seem like fun to you is the best way to meet students with similar interests. College is the absolute best opportunity to meet new people, and that opportunity is getting smaller by the day.

I would encourage all students, returning and new, to view the beginning of this semester as an opportunity to expand their horizons. So, get out there and get involved, meet new people, and have a great time!

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Shenango

By: Terry Johnson

Charity Ball
"An Elegant Affair"

Penn State-Shenango, located in a quaint and picturesque section of downtown Sharon, recently held its Annual Charity Ball. Attracting students and a few of Shenango's faculty and staff members, the elegant event may perceivably become the highlight of Penn State Shenango's social calendar. While raising money for charity, the elegant affair provided a memorable evening of dancing and dinning for friends, lovers, and those attending the Ball alone. While the gowns worn by some of the women attending the Ball were very chic, all the women attending the Charity Ball radiated with charm. The gentlemen attending the Ball were debonair, dashing, and handsome in their fashionable attire. Shenango's SGA leadership did an excellent job in planning the smallest detail of their Annual Charity Ball.

Planning for the Charity Ball, held on 19 October, began with the Shenango Campus SGA leaders tirelessly putting arrangements in place over many months. As President of the Student Government Association, Miss Becky Ramp and the other SGA leaders originally planned to hold their Annual Charity Ball at the Vocal Group Hall of Fame on East State Street in Sharon, Pennsylvania. A week or so before the event was to take place the SGA leaders decided to move the Charity Ball to the exquisite Radisson Hotel in West Middlesex, Pennsylvania.

Congratulations to Penn State-Shenango's Student Government Association. President Becky Ramp and Shenango's extremely capable SGA leaders who are arguably among the best and brightest leaders within The Pennsylvania State University system. The Shenango Campus is fortunate indeed.

November 4, 2002 Monday
"Persona-Cards"

Now's your chance to get your own personal, custom-made greeting card for that special person in your life...and it's free. Shenango students are invited to come to the Student Union from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. and take advantage of a great opportunity to design professional looking, custom-made, personal greeting cards for a birthday, an anniversary, Christmas, Valentine's day, etc. "...and it's free!"

November 6
Strive to Survive (Part 3)

Many of clubs on the Shenango campus have put together a survivor team to participate in "Strive to Survive." The teams each consist of five members, competing for great prizes. The fundraiser contest is a way for Shenango's students to have fun, win prizes, and raise money for the Dance Marathon. Participating Clubs can also win a grand prize of $100, which will be applied toward the participating Club's budget. The fundraiser contests have been taking place every Wednesday at noon. Become a Shenango campus "survivor!" Have fun, win prizes, and raise money for the Dance Marathon at the same time. Let's help the kids and have fun doing it.

November 9
Penn State-Shenango's Basketball and Cheerleading Clubs

Of the many clubs at Penn State-Shenango, the Basketball Club provides something in which the entire campus—students, faculty, and staffs—may participate. The first game will be held at the Penn State-Beaver Campus on Saturday, November 9, 2002, at 1:00 P.M; God help Beaver. It is my opinion that the Beaver Campus will lose big time. I mean, come on, everybody knows that Penn State-Shenango is THE best in all that they do—toot, toot; when it comes to competition we blow our own horn. As wet is associated with water, with the founding of a basketball comes the founding of a cheerleading club. Cheer Shenango's basketball team to victory by join the Penn State-Shenango Cheerleading Club. Your cheerleading will pump up Shenango's team as they pound Beaver into the ground.

November 13
Date Auction - Chinese Auction

Penn State-Shenango's Student Government Association (SGA) is presenting Shenango's Third Annual Date Auction on Wednesday, November 13, at the Shenango Campus between 12:00 and 1:00 P.M in the Student Union. For a brief moment, the auction will entice Shenango students with the temptation to throw dignity and self-respect to the wind as they come boldly to the student union to buy themselves a date. Shenango's SGA leaders will even provide lunch for all participants so that students may use their own lunch money to pay for their dates. Hey, Shenango students, you DO NOT want to miss this event! At noon on Wednesday, November 13, go directly to the Student Union and bid on that special person who will become the date of your choice! You and your date will meet on December 12, at Ten Pan Alley to participate in the largest group-date ever arranged by Shenango's SGA. This event, one of the biggest fundraisers for the Dance Marathon, presents another wonderful opportunity for the students of the Shenango Campus to have lots of fun with a date of their choice, and to boot, it is free of charge. Shenango's students may also volunteer to be auctioned off! However, this is not for the fainthearted. The proceeds from this event will go to help kids at Hershey Medical Center. At the same time, Shenango students may also participate in a Chinese Auction and place their tickets in a drawing to try their luck at winning a prize of their choice! As usual, this and other fun events at the Shenango campus are made possible by the Student Government Association of Penn State-Shenango.

November 14
Final Student Mixer for Fall Semester

Get to know your fellow students and meet officers of student clubs and organizations. Free refreshments will be provided. This will be the last student mixer for the remainder of the fall semester. As usual, this and other fun events at the Shenango campus are made possible by the Student Government Association of Penn State-Shenango.

November 23
Join the Christmas Parade, Get a free Santa Hat

Join Penn State-Shenango students in Hermitage, Pennsylvania's "Light up the Night Parade." We will hold the parade on Saturday, November 23, at 5:30 P.M. You may join us by riding the float and passing out goodies. You may also help decorate the float. If interested, please sign up at Sharon Hall in room 204.

November 27, 2002
Ski Trip Sign-up Deadline

The deadline to sign up for the ski trip at Holiday Valley is Wednesday, November 27. The trip is a wonderful opportunity for students, faculty, staff, family members, and friends to have fun over the Christmas break. If interested, sign up in the Student Affairs Office in Sharon Hall, room 210 before the deadline. Life tickets are $28, ski rental is $19, and snowboard rental is $27. All checks should be made out to Penn State-Shenango SGA. For more information, email Matt Dixon at mad233@psu.edu.

December 6 & 7, 2002
Mini Dance Marathon

The mini dance marathon is a fundraiser for Thon. Watch for details on this new fundraiser for THON. Replicated after the Penn State Dance Marathon 2003, which will be held at University Park in February, all proceeds from Shenango's own Mini Dance Marathon will benefit the Four Diamonds Fund, and children with cancer.

December 12, 2002
Bowling Bash

If you participated in the Date Auction and "won" a date, you and your date can have fun by attending the "Bowling Bash." All winners and their dates are eligible to spend an all-expense-paid evening at Tin Pan Alley in beautiful Hermitage, Pennsylvania where they will enjoy good food, companionship, and bowling!

Entertaining Events at Mont Alto

By: Angel Buterbaugh

Hidden deep in the woods of southern Pennsylvania lies the campus of Penn State Mont Alto. Despite the size, Mont Alto is able to offer it's students many opportunities to expand their overall college experience. These include a diverse array of events comprised of entertaining blues & reggae bands, interactive shows featuring comedians, magicians, and hypnotists; club-organized dances, and various trips throughout the year to nearby attractions. Some noteworthy events planned for the remainder of the Fall 2002 semester are as follows:

Dinner Theatre: "Mumford Manor Murder Mystery" - Enjoy dinner and participate in a show filled with intrigue and excitement! Cost:$10.00: November 7, 2002 - 7:00p.m. MAC

"Casanova Dance" - Celebrating peace, unity, and harmony! November 8, 2002 - 9:00p.m. to 2:00a.m. MPR, Sponsored by Poetic Vision

"Dixie Power Trio" - A New Orleans band performing a wide range of Cajun, Rock & Roll, Honky-Tonk, Street Parade, and Jazz music. November 14, 2002 - 8:00p.m. MSC

"Money Tree Game Show" - With a chance at a Grand Prize worth $500.00 cash! November 19, 2002 - 9:00p.m. MSC

Meredith LeVande - Coffeehouse performer who's debut album was featured on the T.V. show "Dawson's Creek". November 20, 2002 - 8:30p.m. MSC

John Rush - Singer/ Songwriter entertaining across America, returning to the Mont Alto campus. December 4, 2002 - 5:00p.m. MSC

New York City Bus Trip - Penn State Mont Alto students and faculty/staff will be dropped off at Macy's in downtown Manhattan, and given the day to shop and explore this extraordinary city! Cost: $10.00 for students; $25.00 for faculty/staff. December 14, 2002 - Buses leave Mont Alto at 6:00a.m.

As the Student Activities Council chair, I like to see students attending college at Mont Alto surrounded with as much culture and entertainment as we have to offer.

As the Fall 2002 semester quickly comes to an end, it is important to focus your attention towards academics, finals,

[redacted]

York

November:
6: Musician Chinua Hawke @ 12 in Lion's Den
7: Executive Board meeting @ 12p
Men b-ball vs. Penn College @ 7p
8: Senators meeting @ 12p in SGA office
Salsa lessons @ 6p
Caucus Meeting
9: Project Connections: pro gram to give high schoolers guidance from 11-2 in Conference Center
11: SGA meeting @ 12p
Womens b-ball @ Luzerne 7p
13: Paul Plays It All @ 12p Lion's Den
Womens b-ball vs. M. Alto 6p
14: Executive Board @ 12p
15: Constitution Review Board Committee @ 12p
16: Alumni Reacquaintance Day 10-2
Womens b-ball @ Phila CC 1p
18: SGA meeting @ 12p
19: Womens b-ball vs. Manor CC 6p
20: Personacards 11-3
THON Date Auction @ 12p Lion's Den
21: Womens b-ball vs. Northampton 7:30p
22: Senators @ 12p
23: 1st Annual PSY trip: New York City
Womens b-ball vs. HACC 1p
25: SGA meeting @ 12p
26: Lion Ambassador meeting @ 12p
Mens b-ball @ Wilkes-Barre 7p
Womens b-ball @ delaware 6p

December:
5: Advisory Board Meeting
13: Last day of classes
Club Amnesia Dance Party: Tropical theme 9p-1a

New Kensington

November 15, Movie Night - ***The Sum of All Fears*** - The movie on the big screen in our theatre at 8 p.m.

November 21, 22 & 23 - CampusTheatre Production - Wizard of Oz - The students of PSU are presenting *The Wizard of Oz* as a play, open to the public.

November 26 - Lion Leadership Challenge - This is a training seminar for whomever wishes to participate. We learn skills in leadership, teambuilding and other essentials needed for the workforce and the real world. It is offered every two weeks for twelve weeks. Must attend four out of six to receive an officialcertificate.

December 5 - Lion Leadership Challenge

December 6 - Battle of the Bands – A battle with local bands in a contest to entertain the crowd and win prizes in the process.

December 9 - Movie Day - Holiday Movies - this will be a variety of holiday movies shown in the TV Lounge rather than the theatre. The event will run all day with a numerous selection of movies rather than just one movie and one show time.

December 13 - PSNK 2nd Annual Blue and White Winter Formal Bash - This is a huge dance sponsored by SGA. The girls wear gowns and the guys wear suits. We send out formal invitations, including, faculty, staff, students and other local campuses. There is a buffet style dinner and an evening of dancing. It is held at the Palace Inn in Monroeville.

Penn State Students Join Rally against Attack



Rally demonstraters gathered at the Constitutional Gardens in D.C. for the nation-wide anti-war march (photo by Steve Ryan)

By: Elizabeth Eisenhart

Early Saturday, Oct. 26, at 6:30 a.m., 250 Penn State students, faculty and community members at the University Park campus loaded onto 5 buses parked on College Avenue and drove to Washington D.C. for the nation-wide anti-war demonstration.

Over 100,000 people gathered at the Constitutional Gardens in D.C. for a rally and march around the White House. Another rally took place at the same time in San Francisco, in many cities throughout the world, as well as other U.S. cities; making this the largest demonstration since Vietnam, rally organizers said. Speakers included Susan Sarandon, Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, and former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark.

"If we attack Iraq preemptively, unilaterally, we kill many innocent people just to kill Saddam, then occupy Iraq, then control oil," said Jackson.

Penn State students became dots in a sea of many Saturday, as the span of protestors reached beyond the Constitutional Gardens and pushed out to Constitution Avenue and along the reflection pond between the Washington and Lincoln Memorials.

Jackson urged the demonstrators to vote and get a regime change in congress. He spoke to a crowd of diverse Americans, different colors and ages, backgrounds and religious affiliation.

"We must trust democracy, build a new peace movement. Americans do not want a war, trust democracy," said Jackson.

To an erupting crowd, he said that Saddam is not coming to attack the United States, but that jobs were falling, poverty and tuition are rising, and the economy is failing.

Former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark spoke after Jackson, focusing on the wrongs committed in Iraq and the need to end U.S. sanctions that have been killing the children of Iraq, everyday, since 1991.

"We are destroying international law and the United Nations," he said. "If we do not stop this now we will find we will live in chaos for the rest of our lives. Who knows what we are giving to the next generation?"

Clark also supported a regime change to begin at home as the crimes committed against Iraq are high crimes, "impeachable offenses" and that an attack on Iraq would be genocide.

"We need to liberate this country from militarization. Corporations run the congress and elect our senators," he said.

Groups from around the nation gathered in a grassroots movement to end the war on Iraq in all forms, from sanctions to bombing, and the attacks President Bush is now seeking.

Protestors chanted along the streets of DC, calling to Bush and representatives to end the war: "1, 2, 3, 4, we don't want your oil war. Five, six, seven, eight, no more violence no more hate."

At Penn State's University Park the movement was also grassroots as organizers started with low publicized teach-ins about Iraq and mass emails from student leaders from the Muslim Student Association and PeaceWorks, among many others.

Dr. Sam Richards, a sociology professor at Penn State, sent out a mass email that caught the attention on one student, who came to the rally.

"Personally I felt that I had to. Some things are too important. It's something your spirit or soul forces you to do. I didn't even question it. And I got to meet a lot of cool and interesting people. A lot of diversity for once," said student demonstrator Jeff Rodisen.

Student Supports Bush, an Attack on Iraq

By: Andy Doran

It is a most interesting time to be an American, politically. Since September 2000, we've seen the most controversial election ever, a powerful company screw those who hold stock in it and eventually get taken to trial (Enron), the threat of nuclear bombs, a pair of disillusioned twits terrorize the Washington D.C. area, David Berkowitz writing letters to FOX NEWS, and that whole 9/11 thing. If I were the cynical type, which I am, I'd say it's been a fun ride these last few years.

Even more fun? Why, that would be watching the way George Dubbya Bush has handled everything that has been thrown at him. See, I am not the stereotypical college student, and by that I mean a die-hard liberal who questions anything and everything the government ever does, because it's "cool". Because "that's what college is all about." That's a bunch of crap. I call it like I see it, and I think George Dubbya has done a fine job weathering the storm that has been brought upon him.

I think we were extremely lucky that George W. Bush was in office when 9/11 hit. One of the knocks on Bush was that he'd be too eager to start lobbing bombs at people, and perhaps rightly so. Most figured he'd be too hotheaded and would stir the shit, something we didn't need. But then 9/11 happened and most Americans wanted revenge, no matter the scale.

They looked to the leader of the country for guidance and what did they see? Not a man who was sweating bullets, going grey and gaining fifty pounds, like Al Gore most assuredly would have. No, the American public looked to the president and saw a stubborn, aggressive, trigger happy Texan who stood his ground and demanded that all Al-Qaeda members be turned over or the shit was going to hit the fan. Suddenly one of the knocks against him was a strength for him: the American people wanted retribution and the right guy was in office.

I say be glad George Dubbya won the election, be glad things turned out the way they did. Instead of a spineless puppet in office, who may be more polished in terms of speaking and public appeal, we have a real person. Bush isn't perfect, and that's some of his appeal. Whereas Slick Willy was smoother than a car salesman and twice as shady when he spoke, Bush sometimes stumbles over his words. He sometimes talks too fast, or at the wrong moment. He bites his lip when he makes mistakes in his speeches. He's real, he's human and he's not afraid to show it…certainly a welcome change from Slick Willy, as said before.

Now that the 9/11 scare has been safely over for at least six months, and we think most of Al-Qaeda has been bombed back into the Stone Age, the birds of prey are coming out again. Criticizing Bush for his dealings with Iraq, for putting too much money toward the military, for just about every move he makes. People are complaining at him because Bush is about to send troops to finally take out Saddam Hussein, something we should have done ten years ago.

The fear is that he's sending our troops into a set up, where they will be attacked with Saddam's chemical and biological weapons. To that I say, have faith in your government. Have faith in the people who run this country, if for no other reason than by deliberately sending soldier's to die…he ain't getting re-elected. In your most cynical state, believe that Bush will not send his soldiers to die because it'd be a huge PR fiasco. Afterall, being cynical is way more fun.

War on Iraq – The Facts

By: Cindy Huang

To declare war or keep peace? That seems to be the question on the Bush Administration these days.

According to President Bush, Iraq is a threat to the nation because of the nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons he retains. "Weapons of mass destruction," as the media likes to call it, and Saddam Hussein isn't afraid to use it. Another threat is his questionable link to the Al-Qaida terrorist group and his dictatorship over his country. In recent events, his letting go of all Iraqi prisoners is believed to be a political ploy, according to Secretary of State Colin Powell on ABC's "This Week."

But is it right to drive head on into war so quickly? President Bush already gained support from Congress for him to use military forces to disarm Iraq if necessary. Israel agreed to support the United States for possible war on Iraq, training soldiers for urban warfare and conducting secret surveillance missions in the western Iraqi desert, and allowing the United States to place combat supplies in Israel.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's rules of engagement must meet these requirements: Necessity, Achievable, Worth, Unrestricted, and Honest. In an issue of *USA Today*, October 16, 2002, Newt Gingrich agrees all of "Rumsfeld's Rules" have been met, and the question shouldn't be "Should we replace Saddam?" but "Should we wait until Saddam gives biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons to terrorists?"

The U.N. declared Iraq of being in "material breach" for years. A draft calls for a weapons inspection to report problems encountered to the Security Council, and from there, the council will determine the next step.

The United States and United Nations have agreement from France and other skeptical countries on November 5, about disarming Iraq's weapons whether by force or not. The United States continues to threaten use of military action if Iraq refuses to cooperate.

And the Winner is… A look at Pennsylvania's 2002 Election

By: Evangeline Miller

"Ding" the curtain pulls aside and another voter steps away from the polls. As a poll watcher, I took down names all day of registered voters that came to the polls. It was a busy day at many schools, firehouses and municipal buildings around our nation.

Considering all the media hype on how excruciatingly close the election between Mike Fisher and Ed Rendell was going to be, the results suggested otherwise. Some say that the third time is a charm and in the case of Rendell versus Fisher perhaps it was the circumstance.

Rendell pushed ahead winning the election with a 53% vote and Fisher trailing behind with a mere 44% vote. Perhaps what was even more surprising about the mid-term elections was the race between Democrats Tim Holden and George Gekas. The votes between the two candidates were so extremely close and official results were not in until early in the morning on November 6, 2002. The final tallies read that Holden had claimed 51% of the over the 49% that Gekas had gotten.

In Berks County, all the representatives that previously held office reclaimed their positions for the next two years. In District 128, which is where Penn State Berks Lehigh Valley College is located, republican Samuel Rohrer won synonymously with 618 votes or 62%. His opponent Ryan Wynings lost to him with only 38% of the votes.

Wynings ran a tough campaign considering that Rohrer has been in office for years. Rohrer will be in office for another two years along with Dante Santoni, Paul Semmel, Sheila Miller, Dennis Leh and David Argall.

It was interesting to see the results of the election especially being that I was a poll watcher for the Republican Party. Involving yourself in politics can be eye-opening and lead to great opportunities. When I reported back to Republican headquarters the phones were busy and registered voters who had not yet voted were being called.

Voting is an exercise that we are fortunate enough to be able to participate in.

Ramadan, Hanukah and Christmas all celebrated during Holiday Season

Cont'd From page 1

on the cross, saved the eternal souls of believers.

Because the Messiah did shed his blood for the blood of those to come, Christians celebrate his birth. Typically, gifts are given, as a symbolic gesture to the three Wise Men who traveled to give their respects to the Christ Child in the form of frankincense, gold, and myrrh.

Jews across the world are busy celebrating Hanukah in mid-December. This "Festival of Lights" is a popular celebration composed of giving small gifts and giving alms to the poor. The lighting of the menorah is the spiritual culmination of Hanukah. Every day, an additional candle is lit, until by the last day, all nine candles illuminate the room.

The lighting of each candle represents how long a single canister of oil found amongst the ruins their destroyed temple in Jerusalem lasted. The canister lasted 8 days and is seen as a miracle.

Hanukah stems from a military victory by the Jews over their oppressor at the time, Syria. As a way of giving thanks to God, Jews returned to the holy city of Jerusalem and dedicated the temple to him. The word Hanukah means dedication, and Jews use the celebration to dedicate their lives to Him and to their family. While it isn't the most popular holiday for the religion of Judaism, most people would agree that the spirit of comradeship and friendship reaffirmed improves their communities and their lives.

A third major celebration observed by over one billion people worldwide is Ramadan, which began Nov 6 and lasts thirty days or until the sighting of the new moon. Muslims hold the ninth month of the Islamic calendar to be sacred as during the ninth month, the Prophet Muhammad was blessed with the first of many revelations from Allah, or God. Of the five pillars of Islam, the fourth is fasting, according to the Shia faith; it is second in the Sunni sect.

The five pillars are closely related to the Ten Commandments in Christianity or Judaism. Muslims use this month to observe the practice of fasting. From dawn to dusk, no food or drink may be consumed; individuals abstain from smoking, sex, and also wearing perfume.

"The reason of fasting is the cleansing of oneself. You realize who you are and exactly what your purpose is in the world," explained Penn State Berks student, Murtaza Jaffer. "The purpose is to come closer to Allah, seek the forgiveness of sins, and it is a reminder not to be dependent on worldly things."

Evening prayers and a breaking of fast occurs after dark, allowing food until dawn. At the conclusion of the month long fast, Muslims celebrate Eid-el-fitr or the "Day of Giving" in various ways depending on culture. Muslims rejoice with morning prayers at the mosque, giving to the poor, or feasting with family.

Whether one chooses to celebrate one of these, or none at all, as members of the human race, we must respect others who differ. In this season of peace, we can only hope that peace indeed prevails. So to Penn State…. happy Hanukah, merry Christmas, and may Allah grant you a good destiny.

THON Kicks Off

Cont'd from page 1

The children's assistance was greatly appreciated, although not really needed. While the interaction provided quality time for the committee to bond with THON kids, so many students from several campuses traveled for the event that the booth was constantly crowded. This was a definite plus for all members running around the White Building gymnasium retrieving runaway ping-pong balls.

In addition to the games, arts and crafts, and face painting, the Morale Captains performed the Line Dance from 2001 and 2002 several times. The Overall committees were introduced, as well as this years THON logo.

The unveiling took place at the end of the afternoon. This year's logo is a silhouette of a child blowing bubbles. Also incorporated in the design is the theme, "Hope Surrounds Us."

THON is the largest student run philanthropy in the world. Proceeds go towards research at the Hershey Medical Center and benefits families of the Four Diamonds Fund.

For more information and to get involved in your campuses committee, contact the THON Chairperson via the Student Government Association.

2002 Election

Cont'd from page 1

While the Republican breeze that seemed circumambient in America infiltrated Pennsylvania's political races, Democrats are looking forward to the presidential elections in two years. One question remains though, Will that breeze die in the doldrums of politics, or will it strengthen into a full fledged hurricane?

*Note: (R) Senator Arlen Specter's term expires in 2004.

(R) Senator Rick Santorum's term expires in 2006.

Ask Candy

Q. How do I avoid overloading and stressing out during finals week?

A. A topic heavily researched for people who don't have the time to read the info: STRESS MANAGEMENT.

This topic is something everyone deals with on a regular basis, but is heightened even more during the dreaded finals period. Time is short, studying for tests is LONG and drawn out!

The important thing to remember during your finals stress is to stay focused. I've found that this helps a lot, and as soon as I find myself even complaining about how much work I have to do, the stress levels increase dramatically. And I mean DRAMAtically.

I was told once at a sports management session to take a break every half hour. Get up, get away from the books and do something- other than watch television. During finals week, television is the devil. It sucks you in and won't let you go.

I have tried this half hour breaking method, and I found it helpful in the sense that I wasn't going crazy sitting in one place for so long; but I had a hard time starting and stopping every half hour. It was too short of a period for me to concentrate and give enough effort. It was fun, though, finding creative ways to take my break. Races through dorm hallways are always amusing.

Okay, now down to the actual researched facts to help you.

First, your daily diet can increase your stress level without you even knowing it! The chemicals put into your body greatly affect your performance. At test time as well as all the preparation time leading up to the big day.

Sugar rich foods are good for a short term burst of energy, but will not last you through an intense study session. Be sure to "clean your plate" like mom always told you to- this means protein and vegetables, too!

Another energy booster, caffeine, can actually start to have reverse effects on your body. If you depend on multiple cups of coffee to get you through your day, try weaning yourself off of it.

This holds true for nicotine as well. According to an article from Mindtools.com, studies show that after the initial period of not smoking, quitters feel much more relaxed. If you smoke, try checking your pulse before and after you have a cigarette- Mindtools says there is a big difference.

So quitting smoking during finals week is pretty much close to impossible, I know, but try lighting less. Tendency during stressed periods is to smoke more. The nicotine does have a reverse effect, so watch your daily count, you'll thank yourself during the test.

Secondly, the environment that you are studying in can increase or decrease the effectiveness of your work. Personally, I have a hard time focusing if my desk is a mess. Take some time to straighten up or clean. It's a way of straightening out the thoughts in your head as well.

Noise, furniture, lighting and temperature also play key factors in your work. In order to do well, you need to be comfortable. Not enough to fall asleep, but enough to stay focused. Make sure the music isn't too loud, or the lights are too low.

Time management will also help you get organized and stress-free. If you're feeling overwhelmed and about to drown in the pile of books you need to read before your test in three hours, make a list.

Lists are very helpful in putting tasks in order of importance. Jot down everything that needs to be done and then put numbers next to them according to what needs to be completed first. Marking off items gives you a sense of accomplishment in addition to organization!

Exercise, too, is very important to your mental health. Now I know, it's one of the easiest things to put off because there is so much to do. I am guilty of this. In reality though, all of the studies on stress management say exercise helps.

Physical activity improves blood flow to the brain, bringing extra sugars and oxygen helpful during periods of intense concentration. By exercising, you not only work your muscles, but relax them as well. Most of the relaxing comes from the stretching.

Penn State's University Health Services has a website describing a 5-Minute Stretch Break. According to the site, http://www.sa.psu.edu/uhs/stretchbreak.htm, stretching is in order after sitting at a computer, being in the same reading position too long, or your eyes are getting weary from concentrating too long.

Check out the site for some tips for stretching your neck, wrists, shoulders and back. These areas are where a lot of tension builds, needing to be relaxed as often as possible! The site also suggests taking a few deep breaths every once in a while between stretching sessions.

Penn State has many student benefiting services. In addition to UHS, look to the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at your campus. This helps with group meetings geared to coping with stress and added pressures of being a college student.

While CAPS is usually run by a clinical social worker, your RA is also an excellent source of assistance. They know where to guide you in the right direction at your particular campus!

That being said, remember to take breaks, eat healthy, and exercise! Best of luck in your upcoming exams!

Questions? Email Candy at cmm385@psu.edu

Penn State Bookstore, over pricing for a reason

Cont'd from page 1

Book Store so that the Book Store has plenty of time to check which books they can buy back from us and which ones they are going to need printed. The more time the Book Store has, the lower the prices can be. Also, the professors are the ones that submit the booklists with either "necessary" or "recommended" next to the titles. That means it is up to the professors to decide how often and how much of the book is going to be used in class.

The Penn State Book Store is also trying to give back to the students. It gives annual scholarships to students as well as donates money to the Locations to help student life. The Book Store plans on giving over $12 million in scholarships to students. Some examples of the donations are: new theater lights for Beaver, renovation for a union building at Altoona, volleyball court at McKeesport, athletic fields at Behrend, many others all over the Commonwealth. The Book Store also donates a lot towards THON and tries to support student activities throughout the entire Commonwealth.

If students want more information about the bookstore in general or how the bookstore operates check out their website at www.psu.bkstore.com. There is a lot of information can be explained in greater detail, just like the diagram of textbook pricing.

The C O U N C I L L O R

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Know Thyself

The evolution of the Negro from Colored to Black to African American to African

Socrates said the most important thing in life is to know yourself. Hosea prophesied, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"* (Hosea 4:6, NKJ). A healthy way to begin to know yourself is to read many kinds of books.

I recently read a short essay entitled '*The Creation of the Negro*,' from Anthony T. Browder's book "*From the Browder File*." His essay so moved me; I decided to use it, almost its entirety, to introduce his work to the students of Penn State University to hopefully create a forum for discussion. I should also add that I invited Mr. Browder to Lecture at Penn State-Shenango on 2/4/2003. He graciously accepted my invitation.

Browder, a cultural historian, begins his essay by reminding us that the way a group collectively responds to a name, particularly if they did not choose the name, determines the degree of our self worth, and can have devastating effects on their lives. Perhaps Browder was quoting from Tanya Schneider's thought provoking essay entitled "*The N Word*."

Ms. Schneider wrote "The name that a people call themselves must provide them with an understanding of their history by connecting them to a land mass, a language, a culture, a religion, a philosophy and so on. There is no such place as N E G R O L A N D , COLOREDLAND, or BLACKLAND and there's no ethnic group in Africa that calls itself Negro or its language negro. We [*African Americans*] are the descendants of our AFRICAN ancestors....PERIOD! Identification with one's past HISTORY is an important step towards mental liberation" (Internet article at http://www.daveyd.com/nword.html).

Asian Americans come from Asia and have pride in their Asian culture. Europeans come from Europe and have pride in European accomplishments. Negroes, Browder puns, come from Negro-land—a mythical country with an uncertain past and a more uncertain future. Since Negro-land is a myth, Browder asks where the myth of the Negro originated. Understanding the definition of that word and its origin is key to understanding what a Negro is.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to enslave Africans, and the first to call them Negroes. When the Spanish became involved in the slave trade, they used the word Negro to describe Africans. Negro is an adjective that means black in Portuguese and Spanish. However, since 1444, and the beginning of the slave trade, the word Negro became a count noun and the legitimate name of a newly enslaved people.

Both the Portuguese and Spanish derived their languages from Latin, which have their origins in classical Greece. In most European languages, the word black was typically associated with aspects of death. They derived the word death from the Greek word 'necro,' which means dead, and is similar, in sound and meaning, to the word Negro. Throughout European history, Europeans commonly used the words necro and Negro to reference the physical, spiritual, and mental death of a person, place, or thing.

Historically, when the Greeks first traveled to Africa, 2,500 years ago, the Egyptian civilization was already ancient. The Great Pyramid was over 3,000 years old and the Sphinx was even older. Writing, science, medicine, and religion were already a part of the Egyptian civilization and had reached their zeniths.

The Greeks came to Africa as students to sit at the feet of the masters and to discover what Africans already knew. Browder posits that Egyptians, like other Africans, understood that life existed beyond the grave. Their ancestral worship was a way of acknowledging the lives of the people who had come before them, and their ability to offer guidance and direction to the living. Egyptians designed temples as places where thy honored their ancestors, and their holidays (Holy Days) were the days designated to do so.

The Egyptians had hundreds of temples and Holy Days for ancestral worship. They had a preoccupation with life and celebrated their loved ones legacy. Inaccurately however, the Greeks thought these Africans had a preoccupation with death and they regarded ancestral worship as 'necromancy,' or *communication with the dead*. Since the root-word necro means dead, another word for necromancy is magic—that *Old Black Magic* practiced in ancient Africa.

Browder further posits that when the Greeks returned to Europe, they took their distorted beliefs with them and the word Negro ultimately evolved out of this misunderstanding.

Less than 300 years after the first Greeks came to Egypt as students, their descendants returned as conquerors. They destroyed the cities, temples, and libraries of the Egyptians and claimed African knowledge as their own.

Not only was the African legacy stolen, the wholesale theft of the African people soon followed. With the birth of the slave trade and the creation of the Negro, it became necessary to dehumanize Africans and devalue their rich historical worth as a people in order to ensure their value as slaves. What Africans once regarded as a color and physical condition, millions of domesticated Africans now residing in America regard as an appropriate state of mind.

Tanya Schneider strongly contended that "European (White) people manufactured the word "Negro" during the slave trade. In addition, the term 'Negro' on the other hand is introduced to obscure the Africaness of the classical P H A R A O N I C CIVILIZATIONS. These Eurocentric determinations alienate and distort the historical achievements of African people. Numerous scholars have fallen into the intellectual trap when writing about African people by referring to them as Negroes or semi-negroes. This is a weak attempt at separating Africans of today (Africans worldwide), with AFRICANS of yesterday (Egyptian-Africans and other great African civilizations)" (Internet article at http://www.daveyd.com/nword.html).

As long as African Americans remain ignorant of their past, they will remain a Negro—a race of dead people with a dead history and no hope for resurrection, a tripartite death of the body, mind (or soul) and spirit of the African people.

The laws of this feudal period strictly forbid Negro slaves to learn to read or write. Such knowledge was the key to liberation and so the policymakers placed it firmly out of reach. As he so-called Negroes became educated, however, they sought to redefine themselves.

The evolution of the Negro from colored, to black, to African American, to African represents a progression of self-consciousness. As a free people, we have a responsibility to educate our children and ourselves and rediscover our true African identities. "The sooner we understand that," Browder insists, "…the sooner we will be able to say 'thank God we are an African people.'" The key to unlocking tomorrow's doors is to *know thyself*. Anthony T. Browder will be lecturing at Penn State-Shenango during black history month on February 4, 2003.

Terry Johnson
Public Relations Chair
Shenango Campus
Tljsr127@hotmail.com

Gay Marriages: Rendell, Society's Take

By: Kevin Waltz

Every election year I find myself looking over candidates wondering which ones are the best to choose. As with everyone, I look at each nominee with an objective mindset, looking to see who has the values that best reflect my own. I was watching political debates over the last month and one issue that continues to maintain a presence is domestic partner benefits and marriage for same sex couples. It is apparent, even among our leaders, that homosexuality is far from the status of acceptability seeing as the opinions mentioned were rather general and vague.

Homosexuals continually have to endure criticism and scrutiny from the public regarding their rights. Many believe that gay men and women do not deserve the same rights and benefits of other "normal" couples for reasons that most certainly extend beyond the idea of procreation.

Much of what is passed in congress is considered to be Christian law. These laws were set up at the birth of our country to reflect those in England. The problem with this is that Church and State are supposed to be separated. Unfortunately, most of the population continues to be homophobic. If I had heard one good argument for why gays should not have the same rights and a heterosexual couple, then fine, I would let this alone. But the fact is, there are no good reasons for the position that many people hold, except to say that they are homophobic.

For a gay person to sit and listen to a politician say that they would never agree to let gays marry because he "doesn't agree with it" is essentially difficult. What is there not to agree with? What reason could there be besides to say that they are homophobic?

New Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell emphasized the fact that he would pass a state bill to let gays in government positions have the option to carry domestic partner benefits. But why limit it to government officials? Shouldn't all homosexuals have the same options when it comes to benefits? Why would Rendell not enforce smaller companies to offer these benefits?

All in all, I believe Rendell uses the gay community to get their votes. I believe that Rendell, much like Mike Fisher, disagrees with the lifestyle. With a statement like "I don't agree with it (gay marriage)," he is saying that he doesn't support the gay community. And if he doesn't agree with the gay community, then why should we support him?

Marriage is perhaps one of the most controversial topics in politics today. With the separation of Church and State that is supposed to exist, we still see religion pushing its way into politics. **Why shouldn't a gay couple be allowed to marry? Why shouldn't a gay couple be able to attain the rights that heterosexual married people do?** Why shouldn't gay couples get that tax break? Why shouldn't a gay couple be able to guarantee their partner's security after one of them dies? Why shouldn't a gay person be able to visit their partner in the hospital during the "family- only" hours?

I have thought about this for hours and hours, and the only real reason I could think of why a gay couple should not be able to marry is in the instance where procreation is in the picture. But wait, plenty of heterosexual couples marry and never produce any offspring. Plenty of elderly couples, too old to procreate, marry, and never have children.

Does this mean that we should block those marriages? I can see how that would go over. It would be condemned. It would be vetoed in a split second. Well, if this segment of the population can marry, then why can't a gay couple marry? What is the difference beyond their equipment? Most elderly couples and some younger couples end up marrying for companionship. Isn't that the reason for marriage? It is the same reason why gay couples want to marry. By denying gay couples the right to marry, we are being hypocritical.

All in all, what is the difference between homophobia and racism? Ultimately, not too much except for the fact that these day, homophobia is more widely spread. Not only that, but it is widely accepted.

People complain that gays constantly complain of having "special" rights. Much to the contrary, gays want to have *equal* rights. They want to have the same rights that every other citizen wants to have. They want to have the same rights that a woman has. Women don't have "special" rights, they have laws out there to protect them in a dangerous world, and gays should have no less.

Is it right for a gay person to walk out of a nightclub or bar and have the threat of being attacked exist? No. Much like a person attacking an African American for the color of their skin, attacking a gay person is no different.

Rendell stated that he believes that many homosexual unions are as strong as, if not stronger than, heterosexual unions. If this is his honest thought on the matter, then why is he contradicting himself? Is this country ever going to accept homosexuality as a norm?

Many people say they don't have a problem with gays, but it is these same people who go around using terms associated with homosexuals in demeaning way. Sure, the world is full of contractions, but this just doesn't make sense anymore. Can someone please explain it to me, because I can't figure it out.

D I D Y O U K N O W ?

Temple gets $6,230
Pitt gets $5,030
Penn State gets $3,460

It's true. Penn State's appropriation per student is the lowest in the Commonwealth. Lower than Pitt, Lower than Temple. Lower than 14 other universities in the State System of Higher Education. And lower than every other public institution in the Big Ten.

Steve U-Hauls it to Notre Dame, the Mecca of College Football

By: Steve Catanese

You see, what makes this article interesting is that I'm a powerful, unique, charisma infested, enigmatic character, one whom goes from place to place, leaving only defeated foes and broken hearts in his wake, the 007 of suburban Western Pennsylvania, if you will.

I'm a fan of athletics associated with the University of Pittsburgh.

I go to just about as many Panther football games as I can possibly attend, only missing four home games since 1998. This doesn't mean I hate or root against Penn State, it's quite the opposite, but I just can't shake loose my loyalty to Pitt.

After watching the Panthers dismantle the Toledo Rockets, myself and a friend of mine brainstormed together and came up with a brilliant deduction: It would be really cool to go see Pitt play a football game at Notre Dame. I initially considered it to be something of a joke, but when he came to me and told me that he had nabbed us a couple tickets off of E-Bay for 85 bucks apiece, the joke turned into a serious affair. I was now officially going to the Mecca of College football, Notre Dame stadium.

So I reached into my pocket book, my fathers pocket book, my grandmother's pocket book (keep your thoughts to yourself, she offered) and my checking account to come up with cash. We checked on the Wednesday before leaving and found out our Bus Tickets would be another $80 a pop, not too shabby for a round tripper… after looking up those prices, everything went downhill in a hurry.

We neglected to buy our tickets early so, instead of getting the $80 early bird ticket price, we were given the usual price on the Thursday we ordered them: $180. Ouch to say the least. But we were fine with it, that's all we needed, our bus tickets and our game tickets. So at 2:30 AM Saturday morning, we set out of Oakland, headed for the Greyhound Bus station in downtown Pittsburgh and awaited our bus's arrival at 3:30AM. Unfortunately, as 3:30AM rolled around our bus had not arrived.

At 4:00AM the bus still had not arrived. Finally at 4:27AM (yes, I remember specifically) the bus arrived. We were none too happy of this, however, considering our bus tickets got us in South Bend with just two hours to get from the Airport/Bus Station to the game so now we were pushing it at only having an hour. However, somehow our bus driver must have used some Batman-esque Power Button or sprouted wings on the side of our Bus because we ended up arriving at our lone stop before South Bend, Cleveland, 15 minutes early.

Giddy doesn't describe how my compatriot Mike and I felt. But then a little more bad news occurred, Bus delays were rampant at Cleveland and Bus's scheduled to arrive at 5:00AM still hadn't arrived and ours was due at 6:45 so we were in for a wait. Finally, at 9:00AM a bus had arrived… not ours.

We were informed that our Bus wouldn't be arriving until around noon giving us little, if any, chance of making the game. Long story short, me, Mike and a random kid from the Philadelphia area we had just met pitched in $350 and rented a U-Haul truck. We drove from Cleveland to South Bend Indiana in a U-Haul. Actually it was a Budget rental, but it was the type of truck that you associate with U-Haul, so I was just giving a little bit of clarification in my description there.

We put the pedal to the medal, Ludacris style, and rolled down the highway going 70mph. The unfortunate fact of this was that the fellow driving didn't exactly have his license at the time due to some disciplinary action. Mike was feeling a bit under the weather, we'll say, at the time and I, myself, failed my drivers license test three times before passing so I was no where skilled enough to drive an 18-foot Box Truck. Luck was on our side during the ride to the game, however, and we arrived two hours before kick off and got in our seats 30 minutes before the game even started.

The game and the atmosphere were, naturally, the highlights of the trip. My Panthers lost, but definately outplayed a far-superior program with a higher ranked team. Though it was a loss, it was a satisfying loss due to an excellent effort. We entered our shuttle bus on the way back to our rental truck with smiles on our faces. Those smiles quickly vanished as the shuttle bus blew a tire and I was forced to walk two miles back to the parking lot, a major pain considering the crap I'd gone through so far.

Our two heroes then returned to their transportation minus one thing, the anonymous lad who had driven us from Cleveland to South Bend. He decided it would be a better idea to tell us he'd meet us there after the game and not show up then to actually show up and meet us. So I was given the daunting task of driving this box car, as it became dark, and started to rain… and our windshield wiper broke.

A very-very long story cut to just long, I somehow made it back home with a $100 deposit fee from Budget, all of my clothes, a broken camera, some major B.O. and a cold I had for a week. Ah yes, it was one of the greatest weekends of my life and I hope I can experience something along it's lines again.

Mont Alto Unites on 9/11

By: Jessica Albany

Everyone can think back to that tragic day that left all Americans astonished. September 11th impacted everyone all over the world. However, I want to show the impact and pride September 11th had on our little world of Mont Alto.

Around this time last year everyone was hysterical. Some did not understand why the Twin Towers and Pentagon were hit? How and why could someone do this to others? As the word traveled, everyone was shocked. Why us? What did we ever do? Who is doing this to us? Then the truth began to be revealed.

As I look back to September 11, 2001, I remember how all of the Mont Alto campus came together. We came together not only to support our country as a whole, but those in need that lost a brother, a father, a mother, or anyone else close to them.

As September 11th snuck up on us once again this year, everyone had that gut feeling that something might happen again. So again Mont Alto came together as one.

It all began September 11, 2002; all of our student body as well as faculty and staff came together at 8:46 am (the time of the first plane hit the World Trade Center a year ago).

There was a campus-wide moment of silence. Followed by the Chambersburg VFW Honor Guard, which performed the flag raising ceremony and a 21-gun salute in memory of the victims of September11th.

Later that day was the Memorial Garden Dedication. Dr. John Stewart honored us with some hopeful remarks; as well as, Angel Buterbaugh, the SGA SAC Chair, reciting a wonderful poem to unite us as 'One'.

Ending the memorial was the unveiling of the plaque, which was presented by the Forestry Club, who had planted the memorial garden last year in memory of Sept.11th.

Times have been tough for all of us after the tragic events of September 11th, but here at Mont Alto we have all stuck together to support each other. I would like to conclude with something I heard Angel Buterbaugh say that day at the Memorial Garden "We are all one, WE ARE PENN STATE."

A Reflection on the Past

Erica Schwartz

My 22nd birthday is right around the corner and I've come to the realization that I'm old. I feel like it was just yesterday that I was learning how to do algebra and went to my first high school dance. I'm going to take you down memory lane and make you smile as you remember what it was like when you were fifteen.

We listened to the music of M.C. Hammer and of course had to have the hammer pants or we were not cool. Vanilla Ice melted us all but now Eminem hits the hot spot. High school dances played the electric slide, which is still a classic, but now the Cha-Cha reigns supreme; everyone knows it and everyone dances to it no matter their abilities. I know that I was critiqued on how perfect I rolled the bottom of my jeans into a French roll, now boot cut will do just fine.

My girlfriends mean the world to me, we all love talking to each other and keeping in touch. Now talking to them over AIM and not so much over the phone. We still talk about outfits that we just bought at the mall and what boys we think are cute. We still giggle when a hot guy walks by and instead of going over to each other's houses to play, we go out to the bars. We enjoy ordering Margarita's instead of Shirley Temples.

Watching T.V. has gone from Saved by the Bell and 90210 to every Thursday night Friends. In order to get a hold of our friends to let them know that they are missing the show, we no longer give them a page instead we give them a call on a cell phone that is small enough to fit in their pocket.

When all the girls are watching American Idol instead of Star Search, the guys move aside their NES and grab the controls to their Play Station 2. Now most guys prefer their trucks to the dirt bikes they used to have. We take pride in our dorm rooms like we once did with our rooms at home. Outfitting our residence with Penn State football ticket stubs and pictures from the latest party, no more does Teen Magazine posters of Luke Perry and Paula Abdul hang on our walls.

Aging is something you can never delay or deny. If you embrace this time, rather than push it aside, you will ultimately benefit. Take the opportunities of the present and future and remember to never live in the past, but at the same time never let go of that kid inside.

"It's the kid inside of us that keeps us from going crazy" - Scrubs



Winter Break: What, Where, and When

By Kevin Waltz

ERIE

Heinz Lechner, an Austrian photographer has been photographing icons for the last 20 years. He takes his portraits and makes them into works of art by tearing and layering the images to create something entirely unique. He has photographed the likes of Federico Fellini, Ornette Coleman, Simon Wiesenthal and the Dalai Lama among others.

Peggy Brace, a prominent art figure in Erie, will be showcasing many recent drawings and paintings. Brace has taught art to many adults and children, and this exhibit gives viewers the opportunity to see local talent at its best. Brace specializes in a realistic style that has won her numerous local and nation awards.

Gallery Hours are from Tuesday to Saturday 11-5, and Sunday 1-5. Admission is $2 for adults, $1 for senior citizens and students. But if you go on a Wednesday, admission is free.

After a visit to the art gallery, catch the Lake Erie Ballet presentation of *The Nutcracker.* Besides being a great place to take a date, the show will undoubtedly put you in the mood for the holiday season. The show runs Saturday and Sunday, December 21 and 22, at the Warner Theatre and tickets only run students $16.

And if art and theater is not exactly your cup of tea, experience wildlife at the Eire Zoo. Open year round, the zoo covers 15 acres and will only cost you $5.50. Located at 423 West 38th Street, the zoo is open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on holidays when it is closed.

ALLENTOWN

While in the Lehigh Valley, make a trip to the Banana Factory, a community arts center and gallery featuring many local artists. Located along 3rd street in South Bethlehem, the Banana Factory is within walking distance of Lehigh University. Beginning December 6 and running through January 12, you can catch the Banana Factory Artists Annual, which showcases 24 of the studio's artists. The showcase will represent many types of styles including painting, photography, sculpture, and mixed media. The Banana Factory is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

While in Bethlehem, wander around the Christmas City, visiting shops and restaurants. Make sure to check out the Moravian Bookstore, which is the oldest bookstore in the country. As well as having a nice collection of books, the store also offers a lot of memorabilia, candy, and coffee. A staple to the Lehigh Valley, it is not to be missed.

If in Allentown, check out the Allentown Art Museum. There you can always catch a glance at Frank Lloyd Wright's private library or see one of Keith Haring's paintings. The Allentown Art Museum has numerous collections of European and American art, textiles, and a collection of prints and drawings. The Museum is open on Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA

The largest city in Pennsylvania is full of events and things to do. The Philadelphia Museum of Art, 26th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, is showcasing work by Giorgio de Chirico, renowned for his mysterious painting of city squares and statues is running through January 3.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Broad and Cherry Streets, is exhibiting Edwin Dickinson: Dreams and Realities. An early 1900's American artist, Dickinson has painted landscapes, self-portraits, and nudes.

As far as concerts go, Philadelphia is never without them. If you can get out of classes on December 6, Guns N' Roses are playing the First Union Center. Aerosmith will take the stage at the center on December 19. Both concerts still have tickets available.

While looking for tickets for those concerts, pick up some for one of the 76ers games and a ticket to see Disney on Ice Princess Classics with you little sister or cousin.

If you are not a native of Philly and you still want to check it out, many like South Street for its eclectic style and people. Or, while in the city, check out Eastern State Pen. The one-time maximum-security prison is open to the public for tours. The circular designed prison was used for a scene in the Bruce Willis and Brad Pitt film *12 Monkeys*.

Remember that Philadelphia has Pennsylvania's largest zoo, so check that out too.

Where to go, what to do in Pittsburgh

By: Vera Spina

There is a lot going on in and around the city over break, from about November 21st to January 10th.

Visit Downtown (or Dahntahn as Pittsburghers call it) on Friday, November 22nd for Light up Night, when the city comes alive with Christmas lights and decorations. If lights are your thing, go to the Celebration of Lights at Hartwood Acres the display runs November 9th – January 13th. A decorative neighborhood that goes all out for the holiday season: moving characters, fantastic light displays, and all the extras.

For Steelers fans out there, there are 4 home games; November 24 vs. Cincinnati, December 8th vs. Houston, December 15th vs. Carolina and the last game of the season is December 29th vs. Baltimore.

The Pittsburgh Penguins Student Rush Program is a great way to see a Pens game at a pretty cheap price. Go to Gate 8 at Mellon Arena at least one hour before game time, 2 tickets may be purchased per valid student ID, tickets are $20 each and you must pay in cash. The deal is that you get the best available tickets in the arena. And trust me, I got a $20 ticket one night and I was in the $65 seats. It was awesome, and if you have never been to a Penguins game, this is the way to do it.

There are a few other things, the new Hard Rock Café opened in late summer, if you haven't been there yet stop by. It is in Station Square, by Buca de Beppo – a great family style Italian restaurant. Station Square is a cool place to visit. It is where the Gateway Clipper docks as well as where you can catch the Duquesne Incline and head up Mt. Washington. Mt. Washington is a great place to go at night; you get a great view of the city, although it can be a little cold.

Not to be forgotten, Pittsburgh's new and improved Waterfront. Try Dave and Busters, its Chuck E Cheese's for big kids! Also at the Waterfront is Lowes Theaters, if you plan on seeing a movie over break, see it there. Also brand-new at the Waterfront is Rock Bottom, a micro-brewery, all beer is made on the premises. And of course, the shopping at the Waterfront is great!

If you get a chance, take a walk down Carson Street in the Southside. The Southside is really a unique place; it's shoved between Station Square and the Birmingham Bridge. If you are at the University of Pittsburgh or Duquesne University just take the Birmingham Bridge over to the Southside.

And, of course, it is impossible to spend any amount of time in Pittsburgh with out visiting Primanti Bros. I recommend the one in the Strip District; it is the original and the most authentic. My favorite is the roast beef and cheese, if you have never had a Primanti's sandwich you have to try one!

Concerts:

*November 22nd – Guns n Roses, Mellon Arena *December 4th – Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, Mellon Arena *January 10th – Rolling Stones, Mellon Arena

Theater:

*November 16th – 24th – Cinderella, Benedum Theater *November 7th – *December 8th – Driving Miss Daisy, O'Reilly Theater

Winter Music, Albums, Review

By: Kevin Waltz

Tori Amos, *Scarlet's Walk*

Amos is back with her first album of self-written material since 1999's *To Venus and Back*. Last year's *Strange Little Girls* was an album of cover songs written by male artists. *Walk* is Amos' post Sept. 11 reaction to America. Native American in heritage, many songs address the essence of freedom and the struggles Natives went through during the formation of the United States. Far from anti-American, the album revolves around a central figure (Scarlet), who travels around the country in search of the essence of freedom and what it actually means in today's world.

Beck, *Sea Change*

Introspective and moody, Beck wrote the songs for this album in just two days, following a devastating break-up. Touted as the best record of his career, *Sea Change* offers up a change from typical Beck material. Gone are the electro-inspired tunes from *Midnite Vultures*. They are replaced with down tempo instrumentation and strings. Beck stated it best when he said, "it's kind of a week in the life of a heartbreak." No kidding.

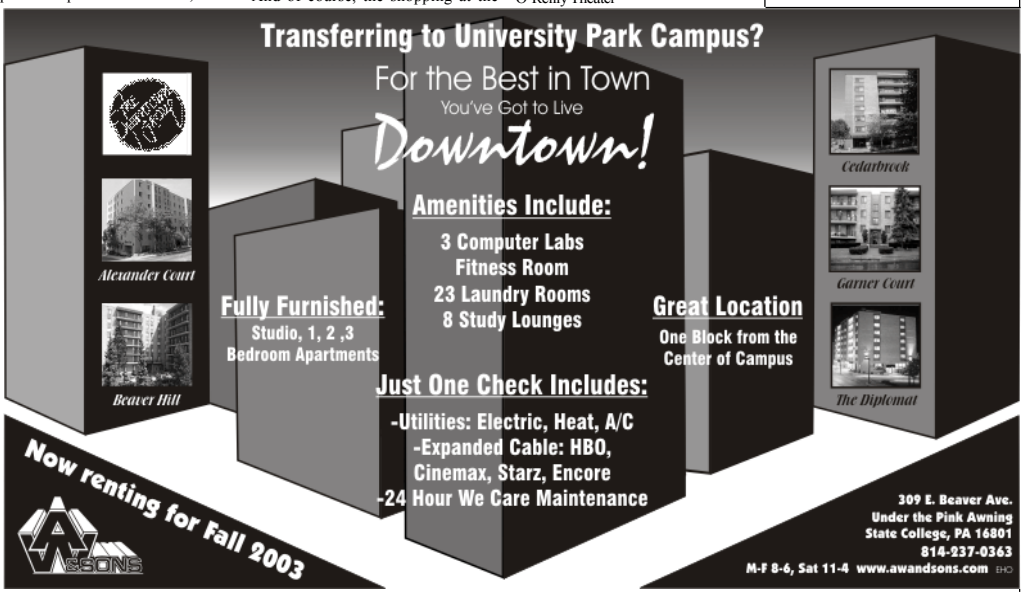
Coldplay, *A Rush of Blood to the Head*

With their lush melodies and melancholy lyrics, it's a wonder that this British band has not become the biggest band of the year. Reminiscent of Radiohead's *The Bends* and *OK Computer*, Coldplay has one of the best albums of the year. Radio is catching on, but buy this album for yourself and everyone for Christmas. It will be in your CD player forever.

Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott, *Still Untitled*

Elliot is ready to rock again. Always being one to change her sound into something completely different, this time around not only is her sound different, but her look is different too. Her new toned body is only the beginning. Working with

Cont'd on Page 9



Fall Music, Winter Buys

From page 8

Timbaland, Elliot crafted new songs that combine a new electro funk style with old-skool samples and loops. With the release of this record, Elliot should continue to dominate her title of Queen of Hip-Hop.

Eminem, *8-Mile Soundtrack*

When a new Eminem record hits the street, look for it to dominate the charts. He hasn't failed yet, and the soundtrack to his new movie is already making major waves. The first single *Lose Yourself,* (one of four tracks he contributed to the soundtrack) is the number one single in the country and the album is poised to hit number one too. His track record is evident and despite his often-violent anti-woman/gay lyrics, his music has continued to garner praise. However, one has to wonder if and when a backlash on Eminem will occur. He has proved his status in the music industry, but over saturation is not always the best thing.

Peter Gabriel, *Up*

In his first album in over 10 years, Gabriel returns with the consistency of his two-letter titles (*So, Us* are previous album titles). Musically, Gabriel extends his ideas he crafted for the Aussie film *Rabbit Proof Fence*, which was released last year. In fact, one of the songs appears on both the soundtrack and new record. Be warned, this is not the Gabriel of *In Your Eyes*. This is dark stuff, full of droning and distortion. An artistic album, Gabriel's musically style continues to become more and more haunting as it becomes evident just how much of a musical genius he really is.

Lil' Kim, *Still Untitled*

Christina, move over, this is the real dirty girl. Kim continues on her journey of raunchy conquests that make the prude listener squirm in their seat. But this time it's not just all about sex. The new record will deal with a lot of the pain she has dealt with over the years. Kim continues her collaborative relationship with Dr. Dre and newcomer Scott Storch, who has worked recently with Snoop Dogg and Pink. Expect a rough street sound.

Jennifer Lopez, *This Is Me…Then*

Lopez has the public on her side. The critics are in the other corner, waiting to knock this package out. Despite being sandbagged by critics, Lopez's last record, *J-Lo*, sold millions of records and she had hit after hit single. While taking a more active role in the songwriting this time around, don't look for the critics to lessen their attacks. Nevertheless, the first single, *Jenny From The Block,* is already a radio hit and anticipation is high from the public. Lopez will further her career into pop stratosphere if this is a hit.

Santana, *Shaman*

The follow-up to 1999's *Supernatural* has a lot of pressure to perform well. Unfortunately, expecting this record to sell as many as his last is asking too much. *Supernatural* is a classic Santana record and this could be considered to be part two. His collaboration with Michelle Branch is garnering a lot of airplay, but critics are already dismissing the effort. My suggestion is to buy it and listen without comparing it to *Supernatural.* Santana is an extremely talented songwriter and his music should be appreciated more so than it is.

TLC, *3-D*

After Lisa "Left-Eye" Lopez died in a tragic accident this past year, many believed that this record would never see the light of day. But, here it is, and we are eager to here Lopez speaking to us from the grave. Perhaps a bit morbid, people will be attracted to this record for that reason. But TLC is also the best-selling female group (two or more members) in history. With this album their fist since 1999's *Fanmail, 3-D* was recorded in its entirety before Lopez died. The result may be the biggest album of the year.

Penguins Start Season Strong

By: Michael Stangl

Both the Pittsburgh Penguins and Mario Lemieux have started the 2002 season off on a good note. As of November 5, the Penguins were ranked fourth in the Eastern Conference, and Lemieux was leading the NHL in points.

Lemieux, star player and owner of the Pens, is in good company. His line mates Alexei Kovalev and Aleksey Morozov are both in the top ten NHL point leaders. This line of Lemieux, Morozov and Kovalev as a unit has scored 24 of the team's 35 goals. During an interview with NHL.com Lemieux said, "Our line is doing pretty well, helping the team win some games."

The Pens have won eight and tied two of their 11 games while outscoring their opponents 40-33. More offense was on the way en route of Martin Straka's return to the ice after a long injury stricken off season. "He (Straka) is a big part of our game," Lemieux said in an NHL.com interview.

Straka's problems all began 11 games into the 2000-2001 season when he suffered a broken leg against the Florida Panthers. Four months later Straka returned to the ice only to fracture his orbital/sinus bone in the first period. He then returned four games later from the fracture to only re-injure his leg, causing Straka to miss the last 18 games of the season. Straka was sidelined for the first 11 games of this season recovering from an off-season back injury. Straka will return to play the Florida Panthers, the very team he suffered his first injury against, on Nov. 6. Straka set career highs with 68 assists and 95 points and was tied for fourth in the league in points during a healthy 1999-2000 season.

Mario Lemieux was on fire in the first month of NHL play, scoring 6 goals and had an amazing 17 assists. For his effort, Lemieux was named the NHL Player of the Month for October. This was the 14th time Lemieux has received such honors in his legendary career.

The Pens made some key moves in the off-season including the re-signing of forward Alexei Kovalev, and the release of forward Robert Lang and defenseman Jeff Toms. But the Pens have also given opportunity to some forgotten talents in the form of 1993 Entry Draft first round (first overall) draft pick Alexandre Daigle.

Daigle played 495 games with 241 (100 goals, 141 assists) points in the NHL before retiring after the 1999-2000 season. The Pens signed Daigle on Oct. 4 to a contract, and he played his first game in a Penguin uniform in the Oct.10 lost to the Toronto Maple Leafs. This was his first NHL game since April. 9, 2000 as a New York Ranger. So far this season Daigle has notched four points (one goal, three assists) for the Penguins.

"We feel we can compete against anyone in the league," Lemieux said in an NHL.com interview. Compete is exactly what the Pens will have to do in the Eastern Conference among teams such as the Philadelphia Flyer's, Montreal Canadiens and the defending Stanley Cup Champion Carolina Hurricanes, all of which the Pens will face in November.

Little Girls in Big Boxes

"When a person thinks of figure skating or gymnastics they think of prepubescent girls smiling on podiums in sequin costumes or leotards. Both sports showcase beauty and talent but behind the smiling faces, little girls were suffering at the expense of their coaches, parents, and the obsession with becoming an Olympic champion."

By: Amira Johnson

Sports fans that read? Yes, there are some die-hard sports fans (myself included), who not only love to watch sports but **read** about sports.

Well, this issue I would like to brief you all on a book that probably hasn't been read by the male population. Joan Ryan's "Little Girls in Pretty Boxes". Now, before you males turn the page to read something else, it wouldn't hurt to learn something about a sport that has been around longer the NFL.

When a person thinks of figure skating or gymnastics they think of prepubescent girls smiling on podiums in sequin costumes or leotards. Both sports showcase beauty and talent but behind the smiling faces, little girls were suffering at the expense of their coaches, parents, and the obsession with becoming an Olympic champion. That is true, but people rarely know or understand how these girls get to this point. It involves eating disorders, mental, and physical abuse from coaches and even parents. Ryan's book is a learning tool for anyone who wants to know what really happens in the world of figure skating.

"I'd probably die," was what figure skater Tiffany Chin said, then 17 at the 1985 U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Chin constantly lived and trained in a world where winning was everything.

"I didn't feel happiness. I felt relief. Which was disappointing," said Chin after she retired from figure skating months before the 1988 Olympics. Chin told reporters her injured legs led her to early retirement but in reality she left because she no longer could tolerate the pressure from her mother.

Chin later recalled skaters who had gone through nervous breakdowns and psychological imbalances. Main reason for the abuse in figure skating and gymnastics is the pressure of the coaches to produce winners. Coaches are trying to produce star athletes before the reach puberty. This forces women to go through drastic techniques to stay thin and win.

Elite gymnast Christy Henrich lost her battle with anorexia in 1993 due to multiple organ failure. After missing the 1988 Olympic Team by .118, a judge told her that she would never make the team unless she lost weight. From that point on Christy became obsessed with her weight. That obsession led her to her death.

There are many other examples of eating disorders in Ryan's book that are very shocking. There are stories of skaters who had to cap their teeth because the acid they were vomiting was eroding their teeth. After competitions skaters and gymnasts would binge and purge.

People don't realize that at times skaters and gymnasts are driven to eating disorders by the rigorous training methods involved with these sports. Ryan recounts interviews with athletes who say they trained hard until their hands bled, took at least eight Advil's a day, or took cortisone shots to numb the pain of training. Even the NCAA has regulations that restrict athletes from training a certain amount of hours a week. Federations and committees need to implement guidelines for these athletes who are running their bodies ragged.

Athletes not only train hard for their coaches but for themselves. Money also plays a role in the amount of abuse female athletes bodies take. Figure skaters receive stipends for competing at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships and the Olympics that includes at least $15,000. Skaters are also paid less for competing in other international competitions, corporate sponsored events, and exhibitions. This money barely covers the training expenses. The average elite skater spends $75,000 a year on expenses. Skaters don't see real paychecks unless they win an Olympic medal and are paid for endorsements.

Ryan's book reveals that Peggy Fleming and Dorothy Hamill are still living off the endorsements they made decades ago. I could go on and on with the accounts of abuse that athletes endure to remain thin and beautiful to judges, coaches, and fans. "Little Girls in Pretty Boxes" is an eye opener for sports fans. Some of these young girls train harder than football or hockey players. I loved this book, because it taught me so much about what young women are willing to do to their. Some of their motives were to please there family, coaches, or friends but many of them suffered the same fate.

Former ice dancer Susie Wynne jokingly once said, "Hair and weight are everything in this sport." Let's hope for every little girls sake that this attitude about the "ideal" image changes.

Tarnstrom Key in Penguins Surprising Start

By: Steve Catanese

A month after my overly optimistic analysis of the Penguin's chances heading into the season, I feel pretty darn good. The Pens possess a 7-2-2 record as I write this article with Martin Straka scheduled to return to the line up this very night. Mario Lemieux is credited with the success of the Pittsburgh Penguins so far, and rightly so.

He is, after all, leading the NHL in scoring and seems to be the fuel able to light Aleksey Morozov's fire. Others would say that the resurgence of Johan Hedberg as a premiere NHL goalie, posting a .927 save percentage is the true key.

I, personally, tend to think that the emergence of Dick Tarnstrom has been the key.

Tarnstrom is a European Import to the NHL entering his 2nd season of NHL competition. Last season the 27-year-old defenseman played 62 games with the New York Islanders, recording 3 goals and 16 assists for the Isles. Considering it was his first tour of duty in the NHL, those numbers are very strong for a defenseman only playing in 62 out of 82 games.

The problem with Tarnstrom was his –12 Plus/Minus rating. However, it's believed by man, including me, that Tarnstrom's -12 rating was a direct result of him adjusting to the NHL game, the smaller rinks, the bigger bodies, things of that nature that aren't found in European hockey. After last season ended, Tarnstrom was put on waivers by the New York Islanders and snatched off of waivers by the Penguins soon after.

After sitting out the season opener for the Penguins, he had a goal and two assists in the following game, a 6-0 win over the New York Rangers. In all, he has 2 goals and 9 assists on the season for 11 points, 8 of which have come on the power play. He has shown that he possesses a rocket for a snapshot and an increased presence in the defensive zone, this has lead to his improved +4 rating.

Of course, this doesn't mean that his numbers couldn't go down hill at all this season, but Tarnstrom has shown himself to be, at the very least, a competent NHL defenseman. If he keeps up his current pace, or at least plays near his current level, he has provided the Penguins with a top defenseman for a very modest price, a lucky break that Pittsburgh could use many more of.

PENN STATE FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

***As of Nov. 6th**

By: Andy Doran

Week four:

The hopes of an undefeated season went down the drain, courtesy of the vastly underrated Iowa Hawkeyes. The potent combo of running back Fred Russell (142 yards rushing on 35 carries, 1 TD) and versatile quarterback Brad Banks (18 of 30 for 261 yards, 4 TDs), who also was the gunner on the kickoff coverage team, ran over, through and around the opportunistic, but not very tough, Lion defense to the tune of a 35-13 score with 7:03 left in the third quarter. It was at that point that I left the stadium, feeling thoroughly embarrassed to be a fan, and I retreated to my parking lot tailgate camp where I indulged in ice cold Yuengling and red hot sausage sandwiches.

I have never felt stupider in my life.

Over the next quarter and a half, the Nittany Lions put on an aerial display unlike any I can remember and valiantly battled back, lead by unshakeable sophomore quarterback Zack Mills.

Mills threw for a school record 399 yards, completing 23 of 44 passes, with 4 TDs and his first two interceptions of the season. However, Mills may have started a legend with his performance in the fourth quarter, starting the fireworks off with a 36 year screen pass to Larry Johnson, which the workhorse senior running back took in for the score. Suddenly, Beaver Stadium was charged with energy and so was the defense, which had played horribly up to that point.

They got the ball back at around midfield for the offense, and then it was Tony Johnson's turn. Mills lobbed a perfectly placed 44 yard bomb to the junior wideout, who caught it in stride and took that in for a score with 3:51 left to play.

Chris Ganter ran in the two-point conversion off a fake kick, and suddenly the Lions were within a touchdown. With one Johnson left to throw to, the Lions got the ball back and Mills drove them 64 yards, culminating in a touchdown pass to Bryant Johnson deep in the corner of the endzone. The kick was good, the score was tied and to overtime we went.

Alas, there were no miracles left in the arm of Mills that day, although he damn sure put up a fight. After Iowa scored a touchdown in overtime, which the Lions had to match to stay alive, Mills threw a pass to the left sideline that the referee's ruled was out of bounds although replays showed it was clearly in. The Lions could not convert and indeed lost the game, a 42-35 overtime shootout.

Accolades to Mills aside, the Nittany Lions played an awful game for the first forty-five minutes. The defense was shoddy at best and there was no offensive rhythm. Even special teams went wrong, as after a touchdown the Hawkeyes blocked the extra point and ran it back for two points in one of the strangest plays I've ever seen.

Overall, the team was lethargic for three quarters and then played like world-beaters in the fourth. Still, a 0-1 start in Big Ten play. They had better get their game in gear before the big dogs of the conference come to play.

Same blame was thrown at the officials for missing such an obvious call, and even JoePa got on his horse and ran after the officials, in a highlight sure to be played on Sportscenter hundreds of times over.

Week five:

After weighing down the offense in the first few weeks of the season, the defense erupted to dominate the Wisconsin Badgers and lead the Nittany Lions to a 34-31 victory, at Camp Randall Stadium. Badger signal caller Brooks Bollinger was sacked 7 times and was pressured all day, as All-American defensive tackle Jimmy Kennedy, the Senator, lead the way with four sacks all by himself.

Aiding Kennedy in his mission were Michael "PS" Haynes, who continues to impress as a stellar defensive end and linebacker Gino Capone, who is continuing in the tradition of great linebackers at PSU. As a unit, the defense limited Wisconsin to 309 total yard and 92 yards rushing, far below their usual average.

On offense, Larry Johnson lead the way with 111 yards on the ground and 2TDs rushing, including a 24 yards burst up the middle late in the second quarter. Zack Mills scored the other touchdown on the ground, picking up a Paul Jefferson fumble at the goal line and diving in for the score, continuing to prove that it's sometimes better to be lucky than good.

Mills completed 21 passes to eight different receivers for 287 yards, and had one pass picked off and returned for a Badger touchdown. Tony Johnson caught five passes for 62 yards, and on a down note starting tight end Casey Williams left with an injury.

This moves the Nittany Lions to 4-1 overall and 1-1 in the Big Ten, as they take down a good Wisconsin team in their house.

Just as important, the defensive line finally had the breakout game it was looking for, terrorizing QB Bollinger and limiting RB Anthony Davis to 46 yards on 11 carries. A formidable defensive front is a useful weapon to have in the rough and tumble Big Ten, and it seems that luckily for Penn State, theirs is just starting to click at the right time.

Week six:

Two losses, two bad calls by the officiating crew. Something is rotten in Denmark. The Nittany Lions dropped another tough one, 27-24 at the Big House in Michigan, once again losing in overtime. This game was the epitome of back and forth, as both teams stormed out after being deadlocked at 7 at halftime and traded the lead four times, until a Michigan TD with three minutes left to play tied the score at 21.

Zack Mills seemed to hit a roadblock in the fourth quarter, not having any impact after leading an 80 yard drive down the field and capping it off with a 19 yard TD toss to Bryant Johnson. After that, Mills was ineffective.

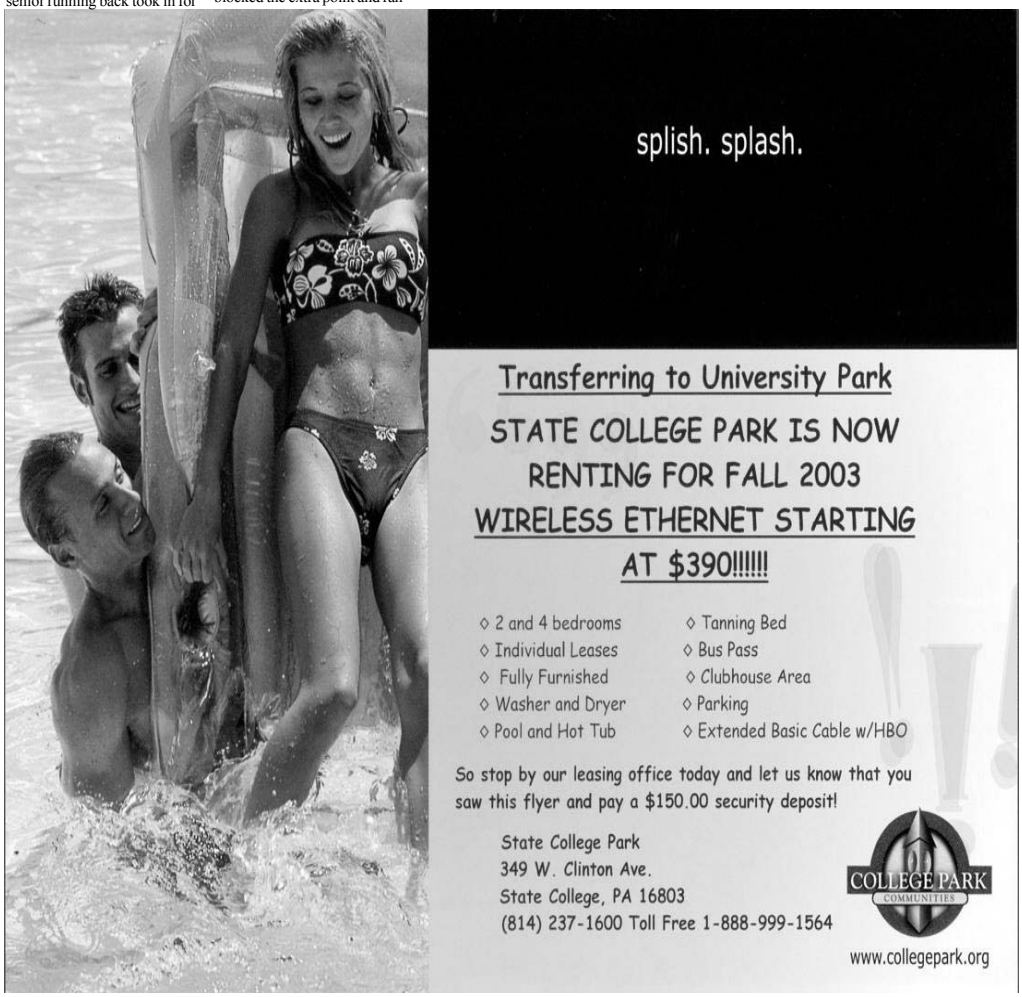
This week's latest game blowing calls came in the final three minutes of the game, as the Lions were furiously charging down the field for what would be a game winning field goal.

Mills dropped back and floated a pass to Tony Johnson along the sideline. Johnson went up over the defender and grabbed the pass, landing with both feet in bounds in an amazing display of athletic ability. Somehow, the ref's ruled that it was not a catch, leaving the Lions back at midfield instead of around the 20 yard line, where they belonged.

Joe Paterno ordered Mills to kneel on the ball for the remainder of the game, and the game headed into overtime. In the extra session, Robbie Gould kicked a field goal to give the Lions a three point lead, but on their drive the Wolverines' freshman running back Chris Perry tumbled in from three yards out to claim victory for Michigan.

An utterly horrible call, and one that could well have an impact on the season, as the Lions drop to 4-2 overall and 1-2 in the Big Ten.

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Angels Win First Title in Seven Game Thriller

By: Mike Ward

The Anaheim Angels and the San Francisco Giants made the baseball fans that were still watching forget all about the scandals of the year with an electrifying World Series we haven't seen the likes of since, well, last year's seven game Series. Unlike last year's World Series however, neither of these teams were supposed to be duking it out for the Major League Baseball crown.

From the beginning of the first all-wild card World Series, it was clear these left coast rivals were evenly matched. The Rally Monkey came up short in game 1 which was taken by San Francisco 4-3 thanks to home runs from Barry Bonds, Reggie Sanders, and a 2-run shot by J.T. Snow in the 6th inning which proved to be the game winner.

Anaheim struck back in game 2 in a wild game which featured both starting pitchers being removed before the end of the 3rd inning. Combined, Giants starter Russ Ortiz and Angels starter Kevin Appier gave up 12 runs in 3 2/3 innings. The hero of the game was Tim Salmon who hit two home runs including the game winner in the 8th inning against Felix Rodriguez. Barry Bonds hit a 485 foot home run in the 9th in the Giants' losing effort.

The Series then shifted to San Francisco, but the momentum stayed with Anaheim as their bats stayed hot, producing 10 runs to the Giants' 4 in their game 3 victory. Barry Bonds hit yet another home run, but was no match for the Halo's 16 hits.

The Angels' bats came back to the ground in game 4 as sanity was restored to the series in the Giants' 4 – 3 victory. San Francisco finally got a starter to go deep with Kirk "Woody" Rueter going 6 innings and giving up 3 runs. Offensively, the RBI's were evenly divided at one a piece between Rich Aurilia, Jeff Kent, Benito Santiago, and David Bell.

San Francisco maintained the momentum in game 5 clobbering Anaheim 16 – 4. At first, it appeared the Rally Monkey was about to do his work as he had all season for the Angels as Anaheim was rallying back from an initial 6 – 0 lead by the Giants. The Angels had pulled to within 2 when their National League counterparts busted out with 10 runs in 3 innings.

All momentum appeared with the Giants even as the series came back to Anaheim for game 6. San Francisco was up 5 – 0 in the 7th inning – a deficit which had never been overcome by a team facing elimination. Victory appeared at hand but the power of the Rally Monkey could not be undone. The offense of the American League champs was jump started by Scott Spiezio's 3 run homer in the 7th. Anaheim came all the way back in the 8th inning after a solo home run by Darin Erstad and a go-ahead 2 run double by Troy Glaus after a bobbled ball by Bonds in left field.

And so, baseball had its second seven game World Series in two years. The home team had won the last seven games in a row and the trend continued with no Rally Monkey needed as rookie John Lackey pitched Anaheim to a 4 – 1 victory to take the first championship ever in the 42 year history of the franchise. Taking MVP honors was Troy Glaus who homered a record 7 times (as did Bonds) along with a .344 batting average. It was a series for the ages, destined to go down in the annals of baseball history as a classic.

ESPN's Vice President and Senior Editor Speaks to Students

By: Amira Johnson

For any sports fanatic Monday night was an hour and half well spent.

ESPN Senior Vice President and Executive Editor John Walsh shared his experiences about ESPN in its pioneer days to journalism students in Kern Auditorium Nov. 4 at University Park. Walsh's speech entitled "How ESPN Keeps on Winning," highlighted over 20 years of ESPN. Walsh provided video examples of past ESPN specials and commercials to show how far the sports network has come over the years. Walsh's presentation followed a question and answer session.

"Since I began working at ESPN I have only had six unhappy months at work. I love every minute of it, I love the challenge," said Walsh when asked about what he loves about his job.

Walsh who characterizes himself as an albino with a white beard who resembles Santa Clause recalled how ESPN has evolved over the years to become a house hold name in today's pop culture society. The presentation had an intimate feeling and resembled a lecture due to the small turnout.

During the "ESPN 20th Anniversary Special" video former ESPN anchors shared memories of the first years of ESPN.

"It was pandemonium," said former ESPN anchor Bill Rasmussen.

In 1979 the only sports was from local channels that on average lasted three minutes. The founders of ESPN knew there should be a studio show but had no direction as where to go. In the early stages of SportsCenter the show dedicated the majority of its time on highlights.

ESPN's popularity increased after the network carried regular season college football and basketball games. Popular sports personalities Dick Vitale and Jim Simpson added credibility to the network. ESPN started to feature sports that weren't considered mainstream. Events like the World Frisbee Championships were aired along with tractor trailer races and roller ball. ESPN anchor Bob Ley said ESPN created "an art form" and summed up ESPN's philosophy buy stating, "you got the tape, we got the time."

Walsh commented that by 1988 ESPN had hundreds of satellites and hired a large staff of reporters including Jimmy Roberts, Andrea Kremer and Shelley Smith. Walsh emphasized that ESPN was a novel network because it provided sports coverage every night.

At this time SportsCenter changed by putting news worthy stories ahead of highlights. SportsCenter had extensive coverage of Pete Rose banning from Hall of Fame, Wayne Gretzky's trade to the Los Angeles Kings, Mike Tyson convicted of rape, Magic Johnson contracting HIV and the earthquake at the World Series.

Walsh showed a second video example of ESPN's signature style. Many ESPN anchors and reporters used catch phrases to accompany the nightly highlights. Chris Berman is well known for bestowing nicknames to various athletes. Many anchors use parody and metaphors while broadcasting to add entertainment.

Walsh attributed much of ESPN's success on advertising and commercials. In 1995 the network hired an advertising company to create commercials for the network. These commercials have been a staple for the network. Walsh showed some commercials that have never been seen on television.

Today ESPN has become one of the leaders of sports coverage but still competes with other facets of the media.

"Are competition isn't exactly FOX Sports or CNN. We are competing with the universe," said Walsh.

In 1993 ESPN launched ESPN2, which has over 83 million viewers. 1997 ESPN News created to compete with CNN and other 24-hour news networks. ESPN Magazine will soon celebrate its five-year anniversary and has over 1 million readers. ESPN now has over 500 affiliates and ESPN.com has 30-40 million page views a day.

Walsh ended his presentation with a production piece that paralleled the events of 9/11 with the heart transplant surgery of a former athlete. A former Buffalo Bills football player's heart almost never arrived on the day of his surgery on 9/11. The players' organ transplant vehicle was one of the last vehicles to cross to arrive into the city. Walsh called this piece "one of the most gripping storytelling ideas."

"I thought the use of the video examples was used well. I've never been a big fan of sports but the videos were very entertaining," said junior Sheena Milburn.

After the presentation Walsh advised aspiring sports journalists to "get a job where you get the most responsibility. Try to be hired by a boss who you respect and will teach you." He also emphasized networking within the media business.

Throughout his speech, Walsh emphasized how ESPN started out as a small network and has morphed into one of the most popular and watched networks on television. Not only does SportsCenter offer highlights but has become a network known for breaking newsworthy stories. Walsh attributes this to "we try to make the best decisions for our audience and we try to answer questions that sports fans would like to know."

Walsh concluded the question and answer session by providing advice for aspiring journalists. He tries to hire people with good critical minds, people who can deal with people and who know sports. Walsh added that experience isn't everything. He likes to hire people with good language and who understand the power of language. Walsh simply stated that "words are the universal language."

Penn State Icers Report

By: Michael Stangl

***As of Nov.5**

The American College Hockey Association's Division I Penn State Icers are at the tops of college hockey. The number one ranked Icers are three time ACHA National Champions through the 1999-2002 seasons, and the team would like this year to be no different.

Under returning starters such as Glenn Zuck and 2001 ACHA Player of the Year Neil Price, the team has begun their season by going undefeated through their first eight games and outscoring their opponents 62-18.

"What I'm learning about this team is that when it sets its mind to playing at a high level of intensity, it's a steamroller," Battista said in a Daily Collegian interview.

The 29-man roster includes over five players with 10 or more points thus far. "We're not a selfish group," Icer's Defenseman Josh Mandel told The Daily Collegian, "We don't care who scores."

The Icers are also averaging about 43 percent on the power play this year. In a Daily Collegian interview Battista said, "Many people say we have the top power play, or one of the top power plays."

Bill Downey, one of the Icers' top penalty killers, is also returning this season. In addition to ranking fourth in scoring on the team last season, he helped to lead the Icers to a record best 89.8% penalty kill percentage.

Four out of nine Icers who attended a USA Hockey Select Camp in early August have been selected to represent the Icers at the 2003 Winter World University Games, which will be held in Italy. Josh Mandel, Bill Downey, Curtiss Patrick and Neil Price will meet up with their 18 teammates in Illinois for four days of practice before heading to Tarvisio, Italy in mid-January.

Coach Joe Battista is also heading to Italy in January, not for a vacation, but as head coach of Team USA. "It is a great opportunity. . . and a once in a lifetime honor," he told The Daily Collegian.

The Icers face some tough opposition in this month's remaining six games of November's schedule. On Nov. 7, a rare Thursday night game, the Icers will face the eighth ranked Arizona Icecats. This is only the fourth time in the last twenty years that the Icecats have made the trip to Penn State. The Icers won their first championship, in 1984 with a win over the Arizona. The Icecats defeated Penn State in the following season to win their first and only championship.

December's schedule has ninth ranked Eastern Michigan traveling to University Park to face the defending champion Icers in a two game series. The Icers shutout Eastern Michigan in last season's two game series with a 5-0 win and a 4-0 win in the sweep.

Football Notebook

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Weekseven:

What do John Capelletti, Franco Harris, D.J. Dozier, Curt Warner, Blair Thomas, Ki-Jana Carter and Curtis Enis all have in common? They were all star ball carriers for the Nittany Lions over the years, but none of them ever had the kind of day Larry Johnson did. At least not while wearing the Blue and White.

The senior running back broke the shool record for rushing yards, collecting 257 yards on 23 carries, averaging an amazing 11 yards per carry, in just over one half of football as the Nittany Lions destroyed Northwestern on Homecoming weekend, 49-0 .

Zack Mills had a quiet day, throwing for 119 yards, 2 TDs and rushing for another, and the defense limited the visiting Wildcats to 191 total yards. But the day belonged to Johnson, who gained 191 yards in the first half. After barreling up the middle for one yard, "Grandmama" scampered up the left sideline for 59 yards, putting him six shy of the record.

On his next carry, Johnson scored from six yards out, breaking the record in spectacular fashion and sending the Beaver Stadium faithful into hysterics.

While certainly Northwestern is no juggernaut this year, the Lions needed to come out strong and play well against them after

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FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

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two dubious losses in the past three weeks. Penn State did just that, shutting out the Wildcats and exploding for 28 points in the second quarter, capped by a 40 yard touchdown pass to Tony Johnson with 0:04 left in the half. This was not so much a game as an exhibition, or a practice that counted. The Lions got all the kinks worked out in their offense and defense, and are now finally tuned for the big showdown at the Horseshoe against Ohio State, next week.

Week eight:

If Joe Paterno has a heart attack, I am almost positive that the God awful officiating in the past few Penn State games will be a major reason. The Nittany Lions lost a tough one to Ohio State 13-7, a defensive struggle that saw only one offensive touchdown all day. Zack Mills had by far his worst day as the starting QB, continuing his dry spell that started in the second half of the Michigan game as he completed 14 of 28 passes for a mere 98 yards with no TDs and was intercepted 3 times, with a fourth one dropped. Larry Johnson slightly out dueled OSU's freshman sensation running back Maurice Claret, gaining 66 yards on 16 carries to Claret's 39 yards on 15 carries.

The Lions scored on their first possession, with Larry Johnson punching it in from five yards out. The Buckeyes kicked a field goal in the second quarter to make it 7-3 at the half, and in the third quarter OSU took the lead on Chris Gamble's 40 yard interception return for a touchdown. Another field goal in the third quarter completed the scoring.

Still, the Lions had one last chance to win the game as they got the ball back on their 15 yard line. On fourth down, Mills dropped back and threw a slant to wide receiver Bryant Johnson, who had been shut down all day. Johnson would have caught the ball and been close to a first down, but the defensive back literally tackled Bryant in clear view of the officials, who threw no flag. Joe Paterno was outraged, I was outraged, even the announcers in the booth could not believe what an awful no-call it was. Ohio State got the ball back and ran out the clock, ending the game. The Lions are now 5-3 on the season and an atrocious 1-3 in Big Ten play.

Week nine:

In my preview of this year's football team, I said that Larry Johnson could have the kind of year that would make Joe Paterno kick himself in the pants for not giving Johnson more playing time earlier in his career. After yet another scintillating performance by the star senior, I would bet that Mrs. JoePa is finding some imprints of Nike sneakers on the back of JoePa's pants. Johnson ran the ball 31 times for 279 yards, breaking the record he set a mere two games. In doing so, he broke the 1,000 yard mark, becoming only the ninth runner in the storied history of PSU football to break that barrier. Johnson scored the games first touchdown on an amazing 84 yard run that showcased his power and speed, and had another 84 yard touchdown run called back by a penalty in the third quarter. The other touchdown was a three yard toss by Zack Mills to tight end Mike Lukac, who was about as wide open as a football player can possibly be. Robbie Gould chipped in with two field goals to complete the scoring.

Aside from the one man wrecking crew that Johnson has turned out to be, the defense once again held up its end of the deal, limiting the Illini to 75 yards rushing. Anwar Philips and Shawn Mayer had interceptions, and Mayer in particular is turning some heads within the conference as a premiere safety. Zack Mills is still in somewhat of a slump, completing 13 of 26 passes for 108 yards and one score. The usually deadly accurate Mills has been off the past few weeks, completing around fifty percent of his passes as opposed to the sixty six percent he was at in the beginning months. Still, winning is a great deodorant for menial problems, and when you've got a workhorse like Larry Johnson to hand off to, passing efficiency isn't that big a concern. The Lions are now 6-3 overall, making them Bowl eligible, and 2-3 in conference. Furthermore, they are making me look like the genius I truly am, as I predicted a finish between 10-2 and 8-4.

Ice Lions Report

***As of Nov. 5**

By: Michael Stangl

Everything seems to be going the ACHA Division II Ice Lions' way this season. The team is undefeated after 9 games, and is looking toward nationals in Anaheim, California to cap off a great start.

In the off-season the Ice Lions were fortunate enough to keep most of last years stars, while gaining a plethora of new talent. The Ice lions had 14 rookies join the team this off-season, ***"They're a great group of guys who have a good sense of the game, and are contributing to the team already," Ice Lion Forward Chris Stoehr said.***

With a good rookie turnout and only having lost 5 players from last year's squad, the Ice Lions have a strong roster. "We have tremendous depth which allows us to run four lines constantly, where as our opponents usually only run two lines. This helps in wearing them down throughout the course of the game," Stoehr said. Ryan Tocicki, former Division I Icer Forward, also joined the Ice Lion ranks in this off-season. "He (Tocicki) is a very talented player who brings a whole new dimension to our offense," Stoehr said.

The offense is led by the trio of Senior Ralph Stoehr, Junior Ryan Tocicki and Sophomore Chris Stoehr. As of Oct. 30 all three were ranked in the top 11 of Division II scorers in the country. Cousins Ralph and Chris have been playing on the same line since last season.

The defense is lead by Senior Assistant Captain Dave Jones, Junior Jordan Katz and Sophomore Jason Rusnic. So far the Defense has given up an average of just one goal a game, and has helped scoring with Jason Rusnic's, tops among Ice Lion defenseman, 12 points. As of Oct. 30 Senior Goalie Brian Gratz was among the elite in the ACHA with his 9.71 save percentage. "Gratz has been instrumental to our success. He is a solid goalie," Rusnic said.

The Ice Lions still have seven games left in the month of November. Included in these games is a very important meeting at home against first ranked State University of New York Stonybrook, and two games, one at home and one away, with third ranked New York University.

Eighteen games are the only thing between the Ice Lions and nationals, which at this point doesn't seem out of reach. "We have a legitimate shot at making it to nationals, but we like to take it one game at a time," Rusnic said.

