The Councillor

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All Mixed Up! Students attempt to unwind the Human Knot at the 2003 CCSG THON Retreat. (photo by Candy McGill)

THON Retreat a Success

By: Candy McGill

Approximately 75 students from all over the Commonwealth, two cold days, and one cabin- A perfect combo for the 2003 CCSG THON Retreat.

On January 18, the selected dancers and chairs from each campus THON committee spent the night at the Civil Engineering Lodge at Stone Valley Park. THON chair, Tara Minchin, and her committee of 11 University Park students planned a weekend of activities for the dancers to become acquainted with each other.

"You're going to depend on each other," she told the excited group of chosen dancers.

She explained that it is good to have a group of people you feel comfortable with while on the dance floor for the entire 48 hours of THON. Some campuses only have one floor pass, which leaves a lot of room for friends to be made within the dancers.

The dancers and committee members had a chance to make this acquaintance at the retreat through icebreakers, team building activities, and the infamous Trust-Walk.

Upon arrival, campus groups were split into several mixed groups. Here, they met and bonded with members from other campuses. After this the dancer couples reunited for the Trust Walk.

The Trust Walk taught the couple to depend on each other for direction. One dancer was blindfolded while his or her partner led them around the grounds. Couples were climbing over picnic tables, and under volleyball nets and limbo bars. There was a lot of laughing and luckily the partners worked well together and no one got hurt.

THON committee members were also able to make their own tie-dyed t-shirts to wear at THON, and posters to be hung during the 48 hour dance-a-thon.

See "THON" page 2



Students engage in outdoor, blindfolded, trust walk where they have to go under an array of obstacles including limbo. (photo by Candy McGill)

Winter Break in Las Vegas

"Every year my family and I venture to Las Vegas to bring in the New Year, but it seems like no matter how hard we try to have a good time our trip turns into a movie that resembles National Lampoon's Vacation."

By: Amira Johnson

While most Penn State students spent their break at some bowl game in Florida, I spent my time drooling at slot machines and roulette tables in Sin City. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Every year my family and I venture to Las Vegas to bring in the New Year, but it seems like no matter how hard we try to have a good time our trip turns into a movie that resembles National Lampoon's Vacation.

I knew there were going to be some complications when I found out that we had to fly Southwest Airlines. Now, I'm not trying to put down Southwest but they no longer serve in flight meals on flights.

I have never really been a big fan of airplane meals but a flight to Las Vegas from Virginia averages around 4.5 hours. I had to fight my hunger while on the flight; I was ready to turn into a member from the Donner Party.

After arriving in Las Vegas I was excited to throw my sweatshirt off and jump into my capris and t-shirt only to be disappointed in finding that the weather would be in the 40's or 50's. I knew it wasn't going to be in the 80's but my family and I are usually lucky with the weather and the temperature is usually at least in the mid 60's. Go figure.

After arriving at the hotel I was ready to get out and walk around but jet lag kicked in and the next thing I knew seven or eight hours passed and it was 9pm. The day was shot and I was tired as hell, not to mention very cranky. Instead of heading downstairs to get food my sister and I settled for over $50 in room service. I ate like I was a runaway slave.

I'm not usually one to complain but we usually stay in Vegas for seven nights, and to be honest, seven nights is a bit too long- especially if you don't turn 21 until February. I'll have a chance to lose all of my money when my family and I head back in July. Las Vegas is definitely turning into a family vacation spot with such hotels as Circus Circus and Treasure Island.

On New Year's Day my family and I watched Penn State play against Auburn at ESPN Sports Zone in New York, New York. We spent 30 minutes waiting in line because every college football fan from the west coast was getting ready to watch the Oklahoma Sooners play.

I of course was rooting for Penn State, and by the time the appetizers came Penn State had the lead. By the time my lunch came, Auburn players and coaches were celebrating their win. Tough day to be a Penn State football fan.

The day before my family and I headed back to Virginia we rented a car and went to the Fashion Outlets in Primm, Nevada. My credit card still hasn't recovered from that shopping

See "vacation" page 8

Dr. Thomas J. Rookey Named Shenango Executive Officer



By: Terry Johnson

Penn State Shenango, located on the extreme western border of Pennsylvania, approximately midway between Pittsburgh and Erie, has named Dr. Thomas J. Rookey as the Campus Executive Officer.

Dr. Rookey was the Director of the Dublin Campus of Middle Georgia College. He held senior academic administration positions at Medaille College in Buffalo, NY; the Venango Campus of Clarion University of Pennsylvania; and the Educational Improvement Center of Princeton, NJ.

Earning his baccalaureate degree in sociology from the State University College at Buffalo, Dr. Rookey continued to achieve his master of science in educational research from Bucknell University, and his doctorate in educational research and measurement from Lehigh University.

Dr. Rookey's background includes extensive experience in stimulating campus growth, securing grant funds, increasing enrollment, and expanding programs. Groups as diverse as the United Way, the Venango County Commissioners, the Chamber of Commerce, and the New Jersey Senate have recognized his leadership skills.

In addition to work on educational accreditation teams, he has been involved in organizations as varied as the community theater, the Salvation Army, the Youth Apprentice Board, and the County Planning Commission. His most recent publications have focused on recruitment, retention, and grants.

On behalf of our fellow students, the Student Government Association of the Shenango Campus extends a heartfelt welcome and congratulations to Dr. Rookey.



Vietnam Veterans protest a possible attack on Iraq in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 18th. For a pro-war editorial turn to page 11. (photo by Stephen Ryan)

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Penn State Lehigh Valley Students Give Back to the Community

By: Todd Dietrich

More than ten clubs and organizations at Penn State Lehigh Valley joined forces to create forty-three complete Thanksgiving dinners as part of their on-going commitment to community service. On Tuesday, November 26, complete Thanksgiving dinners with all the trimmings— turkey, stuffing, vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy, rolls, sweet potato pie, and juice— were delivered to three shelters in the Lehigh Valley.

"A strong commitment to community service has always been a major component of Penn State Lehigh Valley. The faculty and staff consider this a significant mode of learning, and our students are dedicated to supporting a progressive community," says Dr. Ann Williams, campus executive officer of Penn State Lehigh Valley.

The Thanksgiving dinner program is one of many community service projects sponsored by the various student groups at Penn State Lehigh Valley.

On December 4, students visited the Pediatric Ward of Lehigh Valley Hospital to spread some holiday cheer for the patients and their families. Most recently, students, faculty and staff visited the 6th Street Shelter in Allentown to paint, clean and organize for the Martin Luther King Day of Service.

Throughout the year students also participate in gift and clothing drives, and participate in the America Reads program throughout area elementary schools.

THON 2003: Hope Surrounds Us!

Cont'd from page 1

During the poster designing, dancers met their Moralers and had a chance to get to know each other. The Moralers are the main source of support for the dancers while on the floor, so it was important to the dancers success for them to bond.

Dancers and non-dancers were split into groups to go over strategy and helpful hints for a successful THON weekend. University Park committee members directed and gave hints from their previous experiences, while veteran campus chairs also spoke of negatives and positives from the past.

From this, the group formed their intercampus teams once again to participate in a round-robin style team building activity. The different stations included the human knot, the shrinking island, twister, and a few other unique events. The teams then participated in a very competitive game of "THON-epordy" answering questions relating to a multitude of THON categories.

The grand finale of the evening was the Skit Talent Show where each group created a performance to a given song. The general theme of each skit was an old hip-hop song. Groups boogied and strutted their stuff to M.C. Hammer, Sir Mix-A-Lot, and Kris Kross, among a few others.



Trust Walk: Part of the 2003 CCSG THON retreat included an obstacle course, outdoors and blindfolded! (photo by Candy McGill)

Before the united group went to bed, ice cream and egg-drop competition ended the evening's festivities.

Upon compilation of the campuses participation and spirit points earned, Hazelton was deemed winner of the most spirit points.

Overall, Tara and the committee were pleased with the outcome of the weekend and said they received positive feedback from several of the participating campuses.



Retreat members perform a skit to music. (photo by Candy McGill)

Martin Luther King Day Celebration

Penn State Shenango hosted actor Gregory Gibson Kenney from Educate Us Productions on Monday, January 20, as a record crowd gathered in the Student Union to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Kenney, a profession actor, portrayed both Martin Luther King Jr. and the narrator as the two shared a conversation about Dr. King's famous "I have a Dream" speech. Kennedy has performed in various feature films: *The Silence of the Lambs*, *The Jackson's: An American Dream*, and *The Wonder Boys*. He studied at the Pittsburgh Playhouse in association with Point Park College.

What's Happening at Mont Alto?

What exactly do we do out here in the woods? Well, the following is a list of our events for the Spring Semester. They are sponsored by Mont Alto's Campus Life or our very own SGA!

February

1st and 2nd — Diversity Retreat
12th — Soul Sounds (live performance and visual multimedia program)
15th — THON craft fair
17th — Triangulo (flute, cello, piano ensemble)
19th — "Ask the Author" Robert Anderson's book signing
21st-23rd — THON at University Park
21st — Nego Gato (Black History Month Drum Group)
22nd — Hagerstown Outlet bus trip
25th — Naturally 7 (Named the #1 Music Act by the NACA)
28th — The movie 8 Mile starring Eminem

March

4th — Barly Juice (Irish/Celtic music group)
19th — Girlyman (multicultural acoustic duo)
21st — The movie Die Another Day
22nd — Hagerstown Outlet bus trip
25th — Sara Wheeler (folk-pop artist)
27th — National Museum for Women in the Arts bus trip
31st — Funny Photos

April

1st — Alain Nu (Washington-based mentalist)
5th — Baltimore Inner-Harbor bus trip
12th — CAUCUS OLYMPICS
GO MONT ALTO!
13th — King's Dominion bus trip
19th — Easter Egg Hunt
23rd — Clayton Miller Blues Band
25th — Campus Beautification Day
The movie Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
26th — SPRING FLING (family carnival, award ceremony, SGA Senate sponsored talent show)

Faces of the Commonwealth

Those that have helped make the commonwealth experience the best it can be!

By: Cindy Huang

Students at the Hazleton campus may have noticed a new addition to its faculty. The ROTC cadets certainly know who Sergeant First Class David Dick is already, because he is the Military Science instructor for the freshman cadets.

The most striking characteristic about SFC Dick is his enthusiasm to be in the military. If he comes across to you as someone who could be one of those drill sergeants you see on TV, with his stern demeanor and robust form, your guess is correct. The cadets of PSU Hazleton ROTC are in for a surprise; just before reporting to the campus for duty in April, he was on duty as a Senior Drill Sergeant!

If that is enough to scare you away, think again. Although being a drill sergeant is a demanding job because of the role model status they have in front of soldiers, it's also a rewarding experience for SFC Dick. "I enjoy working with young, motivated people who want to learn. It is very satisfying to see the difference in your soldier's attitude, physical fitness, and personal bearing after nine weeks."

So did he yell at the Privates a lot? "I did not enjoy constantly yelling at the Privates. Constant yelling will make a recruit tune you out," he explained. "The idea is to place a recruit under stress to see if they can handle it before they are placed in a combat situation where another soldier's life may depend on their actions. There are many ways to place stress on a recruit. Yelling is only one of them."

Being a Drill Sergeant isn't the only accomplishment in his 20-year career in the Army. Three years after he enlisted, he worked with the White House Communications Agency in Washington, D.C. under the Reagan Administration.

"Serving President Reagan was like being a part of history," SFC Dick said. He had two jobs while working at the White House. His primary job was a metal fabricator, where he built Presidential lecterns for the President and Vice-President and "outfitting the Chevy Suburban Communications Vehicles for Presidential Motorcades."

His second job was Assistant Radio Technician/ Communications Installer (ART/ CI). He provided communication support needed when the President traveled – setting up phone networks and providing radio coverage for Secret Service Teams assigned to the President. It's a good thing SFC Dick enjoys travel because he went to "numerous locations in the United States as well as spend three weeks at the European Economic Summit in Venice, Italy in 1987."

When he served at the White House, the loss of the Space Shuttle Challenger and foreign affairs with the Soviet Union and Libya placed heavy demands on President Reagan. "I was proud of the way he handled each situation, and on a personal level, the President cared very much about the military people who worked at the White House. The administration made us feel like members of a very special team," SFC Dick said.

His U.S. Army awards include the Meritorious Service Medial, Presidential Service Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, and an Expert Infantryman Badge, as well as two foreign awards: German Parachutist Badge and German Silver Marksmanship Badge.



Hazelton's Sergeant First Class David Dick, left, with Lieutenant Colonel Solley (center) and Major Grinstade (right). (photo by Cindy Huang)

So, what the reason to join the military that lead to all these achievements? "Tradition and the Iranian Hostage Crisis," he said. Since the American Revolution, his family served in the military, but "the deciding factor was the Iranian Hostage Crisis of the late 1970's. It was heartbreaking to see our country paralyzed both politically and militarily by this situation, and I wanted to join to do my part for my country."

After working at the White House, SFC Dick changed his Military Occupational Skill to 11B Light Infantry and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division.

"I wanted to do a tough job that not everyone is capable of or willing to do," he said. "This allowed me be a member of a team, performing stressful, physically and mentally demanding missions." During this time, he went to South Korea, attended Jumpmaster School, went to the Sinai Desert in Egypt for peacekeeping tasks, and participated in the combat jump into Haiti.

Other countries he has been deployed to include Panama, Germany, and Puerto Rico.

"I always try to view it as a big adventure and a challenge to learn about a different culture," SFC Dick said about going overseas. "Every country is unique and the more you make an effort to learn and adapt to their culture, the friendlier and more helpful people are. This in turn makes you feel more accepted and less isolated from your home."

In addition to teaching and guiding ROTC cadets at Hazleton, SFC Dick also sponsors the Rangers Club, an extracurricular ROTC activity where cadets learn survival and leadership skills not taught during leadership lab.

SFC Dick believes there are two advantages by participating in ROTC. First, it will dismiss myths about the military because of the exposure to military life that will bring "a more objective view and understanding of what the military is and does." Second, for the life skills – "time management, organization, public speaking, responsibility, teamwork, small group leadership, and physical fitness. Every one of these skills is essential for success in the military, civilian workplace, and the academic environment."

Members of the Hazleton campus will be glad to know that SFC Dick enjoys being at Hazleton.

"Once again I have a chance to work with motivated young people. Here I can give something back to the Army in the form of future Army officers who are focused, mission oriented, and concerned with the welfare of their subordinates. What I really like is the environment on a smaller campus where you have a chance to really get to know people. In addition to this, the faculty at Hazleton has made us feel at home and like members of a team."

Hazelton's Frank Novak -Chemistry Professor

By: Cindy Huang

For this man, a life of academics was set for him from the start. A chemistry professor, Dr. Frank Novak's love for the subject took him to Penn State Hazleton, where he is participating in progressing Hazleton's academic reputation.

The native of Pennsylvania found his major, Chemistry, so interesting that he decided to become a college professor because "I knew that I wanted to be around these ideas for the rest of my life."

Before finding a job with Penn State Hazleton, Novak was conducting research at The University of Chicago. "When funding for basic research 'dried up' in the early 90's, I had to leave my research position [there]."

His main focus is on Physical Chemistry, but he has also done work on quantum dynamics of molecular relaxation processes. "I started out applying ideas from Quantum Optics to the laser spectroscopy of molecules." Although most of his work is mostly theoretical, Novak has also done work with experiments in surface chemistry.

Novak is currently working on two projects. One deals with the concept of entropy. "The other represents an excursion into Theoretical Biology and tries to produce mathematical structures that show some aspects of evolution."

In Hazleton, he is an active member in the committee concerning the Research and Scholarship program, started by Mamoun Bader. "Since we are small and do not have the benefit of large numbers of visitors and seminars," Novak says about the campus, "the Research and Scholarship program places intellectual effort in public view."

What is the best thing about teaching for Dr. Novak? "Seeing certain students mature in their thinking. This goes along with their developing confidence and I think that confidence is the most important quality that a teacher can instill; it is the key to sustained hard work."

Arlene Quesada brings care, life and love to Lehigh Valley

By: Travis Bower

Spend just a short time in the hallway of Penn State Lehigh Valley's main building, and you will notice that it is not just the professors that are making a difference in the lives of the students. Along with the faculty, the staff members also play a role in keeping a safe and healthy atmosphere for the students. One of the staff members that stand out is the Health Coordinator, Arlene Quesada.

After graduating nursing school in 1969 with a background in operating room nursing, Arlene started out in the field of case management, which was a very stressful job. It was here that Arlene developed the attitude that helps her get through each case, regardless of its crisis.

"I have seen it all. Perhaps that is why I have adopted the attitude that nothing is as bad as you first perceive it to be, and that someone is always worse off than you are," she said.

It is this optimism that makes each case manageable. Although she enjoyed her job in the operating room, she discovered that the job was having an effect on her personality. Being overwhelmed with work and stress, Arlene decided that she needed to "get back to being me." After taking all the required classes on the weekends, Arlene graduated in 1985 from Lebanon Valley College with a degree in nursing.

After being hired by Penn State Lehigh Valley, she quickly became a positive feature to the campus' staff.

Adrienne Dorward (senior-Applied Psychology) said, "Arlene is more than just a skilled nurse, in fact, she is an asset to the Lehigh Valley Campus in that her kindness and caring personality welcomes students to feel safe and at home when they are here."

What makes Arlene unique is her ability to listen to the students. Sometimes students come to her with problems outside of the medical profession.

"Sometimes all it takes in this profession is to sit down and listen to the students. I sometimes see other people on campus, as having pre-conceived ideas about a lot of things, and never take the time to listen to what the individual is saying," said Quesada.

With this attitude, it is no wonder that students come to her with their problems.

But Arlene does more on campus than just help students with their problems. Arlene is currently working with the Student Government Association to have the 'designated smoking areas' removed from the entranceways to the building.

After years of dedication to the student body, Arlene was awarded the Student's Appreciation and Recognition Award for the 2001-02 school year. This honor, awarded by the Student Government, is annually given to the faculty or staff member that has gone above or beyond the call of duty. The students felt that it was time that Arlene received the credit she deserved.

With every new day bringing a new challenge or crisis, Arlene considers herself very lucky.

"I love my job, but I can say that because the students that I service now, and in the past are very wonderful," she said..

Affirmative Action & the Race Factor

"It is puzzling to me why President Bush would take a position on the Michigan University case. In the face of a possible war with Iraq, an unfinished war in Afghanistan, looming problems with, Iran and North Korea, and a sagging economy, the President needs to be a non-partisan voice of unity holding the Country together."

As you know, the Supreme Court will decide very important Affirmative Action cases some time in April of this year. What is all the fuss about these two separate Affirmative Action cases arising from the admissions policies at the University of Michigan? The two cases have nothing to do with the Q-word, (quotas) as President Bush alleges, but they have to do with whether the University of Michigan should use race as a factor in undergraduate admissions decisions. According to an article written by Beth Picardo,

"Each case initially had a different result from different judges within the same circuit. On December 2, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the two cases, revisiting the historic 1978 Affirmative Action case of Bakke v. University of California. In Gratz v. Bollinger, the U.S. District Court found that the University of Michigan's use of race as a factor in its undergraduate admissions decisions was constitutional and did not violate the law. In Grutter v. Bollinger, a similar question was before a different judge of the same court regarding the use of race as a factor in admissions decisions in the University's law school. On March 27, 2001, Judge Bernard Friedman ruled that the law school's use of race in its admissions decisions was unconstitutional because it violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The court therefore enjoined the law school from using an applicant's race as a factor in its admissions decisions. In May, the Sixth Circuit reversed Judge Friedman's decision finding that the law school's use of race in its admissions decision was constitutional."

The lower courts are just as splintered as the rest of the Nation in their interpretation of the constitution's Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It will now be up to the Justices of the United States Supreme Court to decide whether the University of Michigan undergraduate admissions policy to use race as a factor in admissions decisions is constitutionally sound or whether such preferences violate an applicant's constitutional right to equal protection under the law.

In a statement released by the University of Michigan, President Mary Sue Coleman said, "Clearly this is an issue of great national importance. We are looking forward to presenting our cases before the Supreme Court. This is a moment of great significance in our nation's history. We stand at the threshold of a decision that will have a profound impact on our nation's higher education system and on our race relations broadly. When the Court hears these cases in the spring, it will have the opportunity to reaffirm its landmark 1978 decision in Regents of the University of California v. Bakke. Universities have relied upon that decision for the past-quarter century, and it has worked well in guiding their admissions policies. Race is among the factors considered by virtually every selective college and university in the country."

By Ms. Picardo's expectations, the U.S. Supreme Court will make their decision on this matter sometime the summer of 2003. Beth Picardo has been practicing law since 1986. Her practice emphasizes labor and employment law for both private and public employers.

It is puzzling to me why President Bush would take a position on the Michigan University case. In the face of a possible war with Iraq, an unfinished war in Afghanistan, looming problems with, Iran and North Korea, and a sagging economy, the President needs to be a non-partisan voice of unity holding the Country together. Whether one agree or disagrees with the President's war initiative, the last thing his administration needs in these troubled times is for this issue to become a divisive distraction dividing the American people along race lines. Thus, it is beyond reasoning why this President Bush would choose this time to open his mouth about this hot issue. He should have let his political pundits debate this issue on behalf his administration because when the dust clears the U.S. Supreme Court will decide the issue not public opinion. For the sake of preserving unity and one-mindedness among the American people, especially in the midst of these troubled times; the President should keep his partisan politics to himself.

I was a bit surprised to hear the National Security Advisor publicly expressing her comments about the race factor. I guess it was appropriate considering that her boss (Bush) did the same. Born in 1954, Condoleezza Rice, the National Security Adviser, grew up in Birmingham, Alabama under the shadow of segregation. She has often said that to get ahead she had to be "twice as good" and her childhood chiseled her strong determination and self-respect. Taught by her parents that education provided amour against segregation and prejudice, Ms Rice worked her way to college by the age of 15. Rice graduated at 19 from the University of Denver with a degree in political science.

According to Newsday, Inc, The Trotter Group queried Rice about her commitment to black aspirations, which I imagine ignited her animated response. While engaging the 20 black columnists—members of the Trotter Group—Condoleezza Rice could not resist to weigh in on this issue reminding them that she, like they, "is also black."

She spoke of her roots in the South. She was a close friend of one of the four girls killed in a Ku Klux Klan bombing of a Baptist Church. She commented, "Race matters in different ways today than it did in 1963 in Birmingham, but it still matters." Rice's great-great-grandparents were slaves who worked, not in the fields, but in the plantation master's house. Unlike, Clarence Thomas, Rice and Secretary of State Colin Powell who some believe constitute the bookends of U.S. foreign policy, appears not to have opted out of the black mainstream.

Rice told the Trotter Group, "I am an African-American, and proud of it. I wouldn't have it any other way. And it has shaped who I am and it will continue to shape who I am. I do not believe that it has limited who I am or what I can become. And that's because I had parents who, while telling me what it meant to be an African-American ... also allowed me to develop as an individual to be who I wanted to be."

I am more than sure that there are problems with Affirmative Action. I am sure that it causes reverse discrimination in many situations. However, we should not throw out Affirmative Action altogether because it has helped to make the field of opportunity and competition more even for women of all races, especially whitewomen, cultures,and genders. The President should charge the legislators to work to correct the problems of Affirmative Action and fine tune its policies. As a minority and especially an African-American, I agree with Ms. Rice that, "Sometimes when we say to our kids, you are a minority, we don't say it in a way that says it is [simply] part of who you are, and race matters. We talk about it as if it is an impediment that cannot be overcome by hard work and access to education."

Although it appears to be a contradiction for Rice to sermonize on the one hand that African-Americans should not talk about being a minority as if it is an impediment, then on the other hand suggest that African-Americans can "…overcome by hard work and access to education." It is unfortunate, in my opinion, that any minority–American should have to work to overcome the stigma of being a minority. White men should work to overcome the stigma they have attached to women and to those Americans they have labeled minorities.

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Death Penalty: Gov. Ryan careless in controversial decision

By: Amira Johnson

"Most people have no idea how long it takes to prosecute a capital offense. Families of the victims are forced to relive their nightmare for years as their case goes through the judicial system. Many of these families were horrified and outraged to hear that after all they had gone through, the death sentence of the inmate convicted of their loved one's brutal murder was now thrown out and converted to life in prison. … One of the family members told me that they are the ones that *truly* suffer the life sentence." — Oprah

Last month former Illinois Gov. George Ryan commuted the sentences of all the states death row inmates. Gov. Ryan's main reason for commuting sentences was to try fixing a flawed judicial system.

In a CNN article Peoria County State's Attorney Kevin Lyons displayed her disgust for Ryan and his decision while appearing on CNN's NewsNight.

"I believe that he is wiping his muddy shoes on the face of victims, using them as the doormat as he leaves his office. It says much more about George Ryan than it does about the death penalty."

Not only did Ryan issue a blanket clemency he also pardoned four death row inmates after determining that they had been tortured into confessions. The three men pardoned by Ryan were Madison Hobley, Leroy Orange, and Aaron Peterson. One other inmate, Stanley Howard remains in prison for a conviction of another crime.

I never really thought about Gov. Ryan's decision until I tuned into the Oprah Winfrey Show and heard the testimonies of the victim's families.

"[Governor Ryan] took two different subjects and grouped them together. He took the thing with innocent people in jail and grouped it together with the death penalty issue. And that is where he is wrong." — Brother of a murder victim

"My son and my daughter were both stabbed to death. David was 18 and Dawn was 13. Seems like from the time that they died, I lost total control of their lives. They more or less became wards of the state. It wasn't [our family] against the defendant, it was the State of Illinois. They made me feel on the outside and even though they had promised to keep me informed, they didn't." — Father of two murder victims

"[This man] committed a heinous crime, and he deserved to die for that crime. And that is not my decision, that was the decision of our court system—countless numbers of hours and money going in to our judicial system. I think that any opinion or any decisions that Governor Ryan made were premature. Throw it all out of the way because he felt like there may have been an error? Leave the moratorium in place, and leave that to the next governor." — Sister of a murder victim

"For the court, we did everything by the book, everything that we were supposed to do legally. … We had to go through a double jury. We didn't want the jurors to be prejudiced on the basis of race; the majority of them were black. We wanted to make sure that [for the accused] his peers were just as equal. What he did was wrong. No matter what color you are, no matter what race you are, no matter what religion you are…you do it, you've got a choice." — Sister of a murder victim

Claire, a Northwestern University law student along with a group of classmates, helped exonerate Leroy Orange.

"When we started looking into the case, we realized that not only had someone else confessed to Leroy's crime, but that the only piece of evidence against him was a confession that had been beaten out of him. Every chance Leroy got, he told the world that he hadn't committed this crime. So we worked hard to overturn his conviction."

Andrea Lyons, Madison Hobley's attorney and the director of DePaul University's Center for Justice in Capital Cases also appeared on the show.

"One of the most difficult things about representing someone who has committed an awful crime is that emotions tend to run so high that they can blind people to the evidence. Because of how subjective our justice system is, it's sometimes tough to know who ought to live and who ought to die."

In his own defense Ryan stated on Oprah that the death penalty is not at the disposal of the victim's families.

"The death penalty was not designed as retribution for crimes that have been committed. It was designed as a deterrent to crime and murder. And that clearly hasn't worked. The families of the victims are justified in the way they feel. I feel for them, but in my heart I know I made the right decision, and I would do it again."

"I feel that justice would have been done if [George Ryan] had taken it on a case-by-case basis." — brother of a murder victim

"We're in a democracy. What he did is nothing short of a dictatorship, going through and changing what our whole system is all about. There are all kinds of checks and balances, and there is no accountability for what he did here."— Brother of a murder victim

"Throughout this entire ordeal, we have stressed to press him to look at each case individually, not to do a blanket clemency." — Sister of a murder victim

While on the show Ryan responded to a comment from one of the victims families, about how he was able to sleep at night knowing what he has done. Ryan stated that he sleeps better and better every night, knowing the innocent men aren't going to be sent to their deaths.

"I didn't know how else to correct the system that so clearly needed to be corrected. I was elected as a strong death penalty advocate. But it's an awesome responsibility. If you're going to send someone to his or her death, you want to be sure you got it right. This system has proven time and time again that it's broken," said Ryan.

No matter a person's stance on the death penalty, that's not the only factor that should have been considered. Many people believe that the state doesn't have the power to decide who lives and who dies. How can a judicial system decide whether a man should live or die if they can't even conduct a fair trial?

The families went through a judicial system that they believed to only have old wounds opened up again. Having a convicted murderer killed won't bring a person's loved ones back. A person's son, daughter, mother, or father won't walk through the front door after the execution but maybe it's a way for the families to live in peace. Maybe the victim themselves will finally have the chance to rest in peace.

Former Gov. Ryan should have based his pardons on a case-by-case basis. The three men pardoned may be innocent but there are still a large number of prisoners who are guilty and have the privilege to live the rest of their lives, unlike their victims.

Done With Tolerating Tolerance

By: Steve Catanese

I hate tolerance.

I have done a bit of heavy thinking recently, and figured out that one of the major reasons that I have become so heavily disenfranchised with the state of society in general is tolerance.

Why is it that it is such a huge thing asked of people, in general, to tolerate someone? We tolerate other individuals every day, that's no big deal. The key is phase out 'tolerance' and make 'acceptance' mainstream.

When you think of the word tolerance, what comes to mind? To me, I think 'managing with something you don't like or disagree with.' We then ask, in society, for everyone to 'tolerate' other races, religions, genders and just about any other word that we can fit in.

Why? Why do we ask others to simply tolerate? People tolerate one another at work every day. Tolerating something, or someone, is very simply done, only the mentally inept of society should warrant any education in this area.

Believe it or not, Palestinians and Israelis tolerate each other. Yes, often there are incidents between the two sides, but for the most part it's tolerance. You don't see every Israeli fighting every Palestinian, or things in Israel would be a lot worse than they are.

You see tolerance in the fact that Ariel Sharon, a man affectionately referred to by the Palestinians as "the Butcher," is not going all out on these poor schmucks. The deeds of few are punished by actions against few. The Israeli's may be many things, but one thing they don't do is target innocent people. They are showing tolerance, trying not to make things worse.

Now, getting them to make things better, that's a completely different story. The jump from tolerance to acceptance is a bigger leap than one would assume, and you know what assuming does.

See, this is why I hate the fact that we ask each other to tolerate rather than accept. Tolerance is such a simple thing to accomplish, and that's what we strive for in the world, simplicity. It's all right as long as it's presented in a simplistic way: Don't ask too much out of me and I won't ask too much out of you.

Our reliance on simplicity in society led to the 2000 election debacle in Florida.

"The ballot was too difficult for the voters of Florida to effectively read," said the nation.

Gee, maybe it was because they were too stupid and lazy to put some effort into reading it. I think the votes in question should have automatically been excluded. Not only that, but I also feel that the voters who made such a mind numbingly stupid mistake should have had their voting privileges revoked for four years so they would be denied an opportunity to taint the next election. Anyone who can't understand a voting card clearly doesn't have the mental capacity or sheer desire to effectively vote.

Simplicity has led to online grocery shopping, Avril Lavigne's success, and Russian Mail Order Brides for those of us who are so unsuccessful in love that instead of going about things the old fashioned way and searching for a wife, we can now order one from Russia. There is essentially an online QVC of Russian women available for marriage at a reasonable price. Pay the catalog money, buy the woman a ticket to the USA, and marry her.

It's that simple. Ah yes, simplicity at it's finest. How wonderful we can become when things are presented so easily.

Thus, through simplicity we have developed tolerance. Acceptance is too much work, it causes change in people, and change has been ingrained into our minds as being bad and difficult. Look how hard it was for the U.S. to change to the metric system! Oh wait, we didn't.

We make so many strides in the world, yet we can't accept that people have different religious beliefs. There are also people who are not accepting, but simply tolerant, through stubbornness.

For example, my grandmother, God bless her, is a wonderful woman and I love her very much. My grandmother is also a staunch Catholic, born and raised. She loves her religion, revolves much of her life around it and there is nothing wrong with that. However, she is not very accepting of other religions. She can tolerate other belief structures, but she refuses to accept them as legitimate. There is only one legitimate belief, and it is that which is found in Catholicism.

Stubbornness, simplicity, and sheer apathy have led to just about everything that's wrong at home in the U.S. and abroad. The downfall of society is the fact that we ask for tolerance rather than demand acceptance.

I, myself, will vote (correctly, of course) at every opportunity I get, accept different race and belief structures as being just that, different, and try to show my children (some day far away from now) how bad the world is because of the three evils I stated in the previous paragraph.

It's the least someone can do to try and improve this rapidly sinking ship, the U.S.S Earth. And that's all we do anyway, the very least possible.

Lott damages minority vote, Republican Party

By: Amira Johnson

Most Americans have already forgotten last month's commotion involving former Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi. The nation's capitol and most of America were in an uproar after Trent Lott made comments supporting Strom Thurmond's 1948 presidential campaign.

For those who have forgotten Sen. Trent Lott's comments, let me refresh your memory.

"We wouldn't have had all the problems that we've had over these years," said Lott.

Meaning if a man who was in favor of segregation had been elected president we wouldn't have all of the problems that we have today. Lott said that his statement wasn't prepared but just an "off the cuff" remark.

Most CNN, FOX News, and MSNBC junkies (like myself) spent most of the following weeks after Sen. Lott's comments glued to the television in anticipation of what was going to come of this debacle. I bet my father $5 that he was going to be forced to resign, though I still haven't seen a penny of it.

A lot of people thought that Trent Lott should apologize and have everyone move on with their lives. There were even some people from Mississippi who thought Sen. Lott shouldn't have even apologized.

At first I thought that people should forgive the man and give him a second chance. But, my main problem with Trent Lott is this: His apology was too late and he didn't seem genuine.

Trent Lott only apologized for his comments because he knew he had to, not because he was actually sorry. A person can never know what is truly in a person's heart but people aren't stupid and can tell when someone is being truthful. I watched in amazement as Sen. Lott went on an apology tour going on television programs saying how sorry he was.

The best part of all was Sen. Lott's trip to Black Entertainment Television to be interviewed by anchor Ed Gordon as a last attempt to keep his position. Lott's interview only made matters worse. Lott stated that he wasn't a racist and is actually in favor of affirmative action, since he hired a few African Americans to work in his office. Nice try, but the damage had already been done.

My point is this:

Is Trent Lott the first politician to make racially insensitive remarks? No.

Will he be the last? Unfortunately, no.

It's hard this day and age to take politicians seriously. I would love to be a fly on the wall in any politician's office or house. I am not as naive as to think that all Republicans are racists and that all Democrats are saints and want to help minorities.

Sen. Lott's comments crushed the Republican Party's ability to reach out to minorities, even though the Republican Party has a reputation for being racist. I hope the Republican Party can learn from Sen. Lott and step up to the plate and try to appeal to minorities. They could use the help come 2004.

Ignorance is Bliss: Feedback from a Rising Counter Culture

By: Lindsey K. Impagliazzo

Body modification comes in many forms; it is a broad range of alterations to one's own person. Breast implants, weightlifting, acrylic nails, hair dye, hair extensions, nose jobs, color contacts, sun tanning, laser eye surgery: Do these subjects bother you? Would you **cringe** if you saw these things in public? Would you hold your children closer to your sides and avert your eyes when you walked by these individuals? Of course not.

Now, loosen your tie and get a firm grip on the seat beneath you. Breathe in through your nose, breathe out through your mouth. Lock your doors and for once, just sit quietly and listen to what I'm about to tell you. Here comes the **truly frightening stuff**.

Tattoos, nontraditional and/or ritual or cultural body piercing, branding, scarification, stretching, nontraditional implants, suspensions, pocketing, cutting, corsetry, performance modification exhibits, saline injections, transdermals, tooth filing, tongue splitting, dermal punches... do any of these **strike a nerve**? Can you identify half of the things that I have just listed?

This lifestyle is claimed by people young and old, of all races and genders, of all sizes and shapes. There are multiple levels of body modification extremism. There are people who lightly delve into it with a tattoo or two, or perhaps a navel piercing or the ever popular "tongue ring." There are others who make it a daily practice, and dedicate their lives to it. Studies have shown that over twenty percent of college students today "now sport tattoos."

A recent documentation dealing with such has been written and researched by Myrna Armstrong of Texas Tech University, she notes that over **sixty percent of young individuals** who choose to be tattooed have maintained A's and B's in school. Why this is a surprise to read for some people, is beyond me.

It astounds me how many times I can get stopped in a single day for the same reason. It never ceases to amaze me when I am **spotted, analyzed, dissected, ridiculed, and thrown open for public debate** time and time again. It gets old. Let me clue you in.

To so many people, regardless of their affiliation with the industry, I have apparently rendered myself public property. Body modification has turned into such a controversial counter culture. With what we (as participants therein) practice and perform on our bodies, it seems likely that we must just be asking for attention. We must be in need of gasps and shocked disapproval.

Our altered appearances therefore must be representative of our need to be called **freaks**, our need to be referred to as bad mothers or fathers, judged without basis, to be fired, to be beaten up, raped, and challenged at every turn. How we use our bodies must be a sign of our obvious drug use, disease, failure, and rebellion to the unsaid standards of society. We must be the untouchables of the world.

Because I am tattooed, I most certainly have contracted Hepatitis. I couldn't look this way unless I ride a Harley. I couldn't have gotten these marks on my body unless I spent some amount of time locked up. I must be a sailor. I must be promiscuous. Something must be wrong with my head for me to willingly do these things to myself, maybe I need to see a psychiatrist. Obviously I have some deep rooted issues and must be trying to humiliate my family and instigate fights. Blame it on **rock and roll**, blame it on drugs, blame it on sex, blame it on my parents "not raising me correctly," blame it on the media, blame it on peer pressure. Keep attempting to rationalize this behavior without facts and sufficient knowledge.

Because my earlobes are stretched, I must be Buddhist. (Or maybe I can claim mental instability again). I must constantly be reminded that "hey you look like one of those people in National Geographic," or asked "you going to put plates in your bottom lip now?" I must take great joy in giving endless repetitive answers to the same questions. "Did that hurt?" "Do they go 'all the way through?" and "Can I touch them?" "Define hurt. Yes. No you may not." At one's own intuition, you may be able to conclude as much without my help.

Don't take it upon yourselves to let me know what "the best methods are to get rid of those **pesky tattoos**". Don't feel obligated to tell me "you're such a beautiful young woman, why would you do these things to yourself?". Don't ask me questions about pain and permanency when you already know the answers. Resist the feeling of need to let me know that you think I've made myself "**ugly**". Understand that I do not appreciate opinions filled with hatred and disrespect, especially when I did not request them from you.

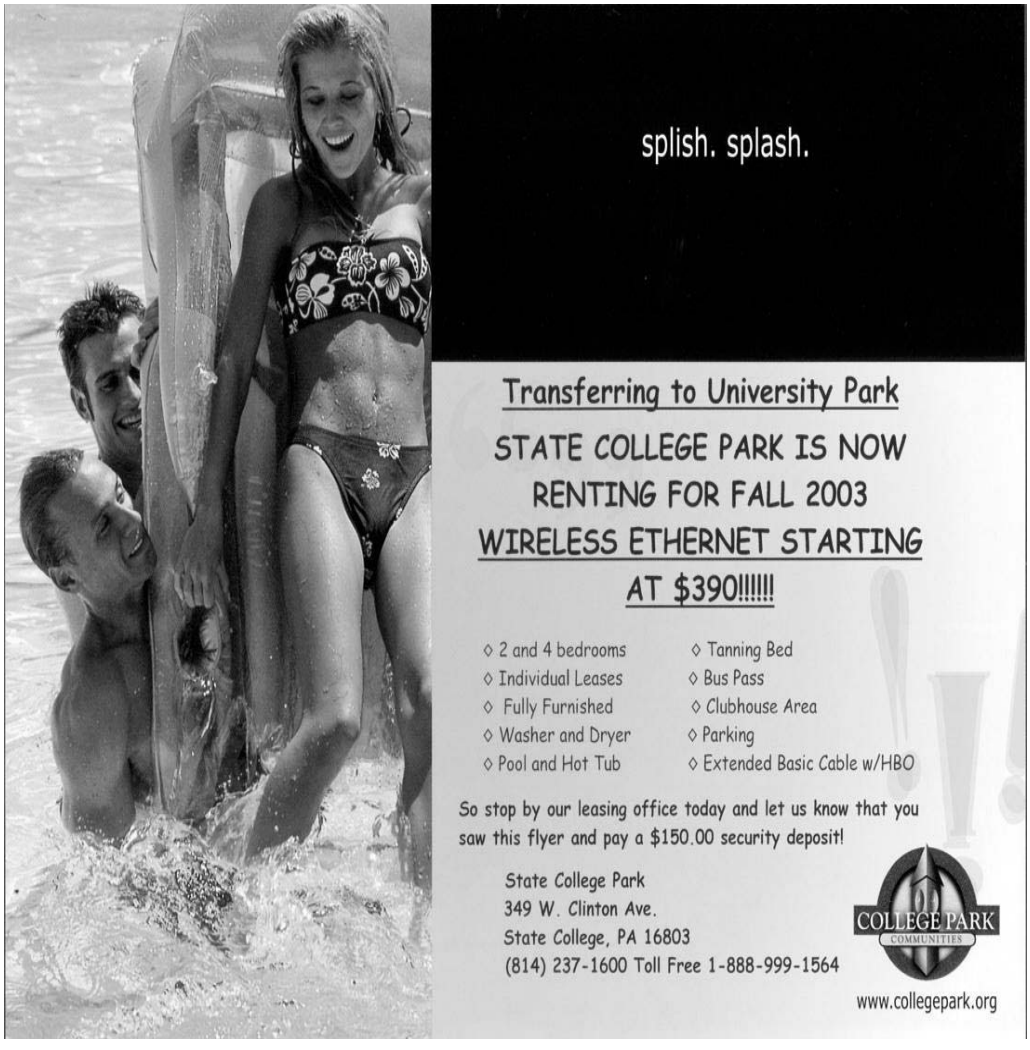
Apparently we are begging to be violated with every single day that goes by. Because we partake in these art forms and spiritual practices, we are everything you say that we are. I should have known and accepted that my self-worth would have been compromised when I began my practice six years ago. I should remain silent and be considerate to everyone but myself, rather than risk the chance of offending someone with these words that I write. **Someone should have warned you**.

Let me be the one to educate. When you see us walking by you on the streets, question your prejudices. Challenge your current opinions and preconceived notions. Understand that the next time you run off to the gym so that "you'll be able to look fantastic for Spring Break," that your practices are no different from ours. We all have goals in life, we all have ideal appearances and lifestyles that we strive to attain.

We are not theme parks, we are not put on display for your curiosity, we cannot be bought at ticket prices, we will take offense to you touching us as much as you would be if we randomly grabbed areas of your anatomy. Ignorance on this issue has gone far enough.

I am **multicolored**, I am **pierced**, I am *stretched*, I am *scarred and cut*, I am **decorated** to my own standards. I am securely employed in a managerial division of an international company that is widely respected and recognized. I am a student at The Pennsylvania State University, I made Dean's List on my very first semester. I am considerate, I am intelligent, and I am beautiful. My skin is like a banner, my rings can shine like stars, my body is a sculpture and my rights stand strong just as well as yours. My mind is free and I can accept you for who you are.

Guess what…I bleed just the same as you do.



"Do Not Tolerate Diversity…Celebrate it!"

By: Terry Johnson

This is the logo of newly revamped Shenango Students for Cultural Diversity Club, SSCD, at the Penn State Shenango campus. The SSCD Club is a student organization dedicated to the promotion of cultural understanding, both on-campus and in the community.

The purpose of the club is to provide an association as a support group for student unity and cultural awareness. In the past, students have falsely perceived cultural diversity as serving the interests of only African-American students. However, diversity does not only mean differences between the Black and White populations but between cultures, races, ethnicities, religions, and sexual orientations of all peoples.

Penn State Shenango's SSCD Club is proactively trying to change this false perception by planning seven bi-weekly cultural diversity forums for the Spring 2003 semester. The seven bi-monthly forums, held two times a month on Wednesday's, provide an open and free interchange of ideas and perspectives regarding cultural diversity issues. A different professor will facilitate each of the seven symposia.

To encourage student involvement, the SSCD Club has planned a contest that will provide interested students an individual opportunity to express the theme, "What Cultural Diversity Means to Me."

Three contest winners shall receive $100 as a first prize, $75 for second prize, and a $50 third prize. The SSCD Club provided the student body with a free luncheon to kick off the contest and the series of diversity symposia.

The SSCD Club hopes to redefine cultural diversity as a term expressing the importance of being aware of the diverse cultures of all races and ethnicities and appreciating others for who they are.

The Club's officers are Terry L. Johnson, Sr., President; Kathie Lee Gross, Vice-President; Rick Elsbury, Public Relations Officer; Stacey Bittler, Secretary; and Toni Price and Kathryn Watson, SSCD Advisors.

The long-range goals of the SSCD Club are to:

-Disseminate knowledge throughout the campus and community of different cultural qualities making it easier for students and others to recognize the creative ways people express themselves

-Provide students with an opportunity to enter dialogue on diverse issues of culture, race, ethnicity, and all other relative areas

-Develop a diverse, multi-cultural environment on campus

-Impact the school's administration policy, positively affecting students of color

-Impact the development of academic and outreach programs to the point where cultural diversity enhances the school's supportive learning environment

-Respectfully challenge instructors to consider their own cultural backgrounds and understand how their biases might affect their interactions with their students in the classroom. Perhaps then, instructors might examine the backgrounds and needs of their students and understand their students' cultural biases as well

-Positively affect the way course instruction is designed and connect the content of appropriate courses with students' cultural backgrounds

-Build a supportive atmosphere on campus where students do not overlook or minimize cultural differences but explore and discuss them and celebrate diversity

-Inspire and challenge students to face the difficult emotional hurdles that impede equality, break the silent fear of discussing cultural diversity issues, and equip students with the tools to go beyond the campus in disseminating knowledge or information of cultural diversity issues and in dismantling racism in our society

-Increase SSCD membership.



Winter Hits the Commonwealth: The Lion Shrine at University Park! (photo By Mike Ward)

Sexual Transmitted Diseases

What you need to know-the facts, prevention, protection and treatment- about STDs.

By: Kevin Waltz

Sex.

Today it is an integral part of society. Whether watching television or reading a magazine, we are all exposed to thousands, if not millions, of messages that explore sexuality.

Manufacturers rely on sex to help sell products. Beyond all of the marketing schemes designed to gain the attention of the audience, there is something frightening going on.

Our culture feeds off of our own desires for sex; but beyond the explicitly aimed messages, there seems to be no talk of any consequences, like sexually transmitted diseases, that may result from sexual activities.

As we get older, sex will begin to play a larger role in many of our lives. Whether married or single, it is important to understand the ramifications sexual activity can produce.

Is sex dangerous? Yes, in fact it can be deadly if you are not careful. There are a number of diseases that are transmitted through sexual contact. Some are deadly. Some never leave your body. Some are just plain annoying. It is important to know the symptoms of the following most common STD's and how you can prevent their infection.

Lice: Although lice can be spread easily without sexual contact, it is one of the most common STD's. There are head and body lice, but pubic lice (also known as crabs because of their crab-like appearance) are the most common. Since it is treatable without medical consultation, there are no records to definitively say how many people have lice, but estimates are about three million infections a year.

Lice can take anywhere from a few days to a month to show their presence. Although lice do not always cause itching, you can look for egg sacs around the base of follicles in the pubic hair. Lice feed off of the blood in the body and cannot survive more than a few days outside of the body.

Skin-to-skin contact is the primary means of spreading, although you can still become infected simply by coming in contact with a bed or couch of an infected person.

Topical creams are available over-the-counter. These creams need to be applied to the affected area more than once. Many times, egg sacs survive the initial treatment. A few days after the first treatment, apply the cream again. Continue applications for about a week and the condition should clear.

Chlamydia: Very common among sexually active individuals, Chlamydia is a bacterial infection. Approximately four to six million people a year are infected, making it the most common of all bacterial STD's.

Most people infected with Chlamydia are symptom-free. In fact, more than half of men infected show no symptoms and over 75 percent of women are symptom-free. When symptoms do occur, they show up in the form of burning urination.

Chlamydia can be transmitted through oral, anal and vaginal sex. The use of condoms can help prevent the disease from being transmitted.

Genital warts: Genital warts are painless bumps in and around the genital area. It is the most common STD with 70 percent of sexually active adults infected. The interesting thing about warts and the reason why it is the most common STD is because less than one percent of those infected show symptoms.

When symptoms do show up, it is usually within 30 to 90 days after infection. Genital warts are darker than those that show up on hands and feet. Left untreated, only 20 percent of the warts will disappear on their own. If getting treated, those infected will find themselves either applying a topical cream or going through a very painful process of freezing them off using liquid nitrogen.

Warts are transmitted through skin-to-skin contact. There is no cure for genital warts.

Hepatitis: There are three types of Hepatitis: A, B and C. Hepatitis B is the most common with 300,000 people infected in the United States. Hepatitis C infects 150,000 people and Hepatitis A, 30,000.

Being the most common, Hepatitis B is transmitted through drug needles, oral sex and kissing. Hepatitis A is commonly passed through fecal matter, so it is possible that oral contact can cause infection. Hepatitis C, while less transmitted than B, can also be transmitted through sexual contact, but is mostly spread through contact with blood.

Hepatitis, a disease of the liver, causes a yellowing of the skin, nausea and diarrhea. However, around 70 percent of those infected never develop symptoms. Vaccines are available for the public in order to help prevent the disease.

Herpes: Herpes are very common among both sexually active and non-sexually active individuals. Around 70 percent of adults have oral herpes by age 40, mostly transmitted at a young age by adult contact. Also known as cold sores, oral herpes can be treated with over-the-counter medications and creams.

Genital herpes affect around 45 million Americans. After initial infection, symptoms can develop within two to 20 days and last up to six weeks.

Herpes cause painful sores on the genital and mouth area, and although you may not have any visible symptoms, the disease can still be transmitted. There is no cure for Herpes.

HIV and AIDS: To this day, there are still many questions about this deadly disease. Exploding in the early 1980's, AIDS was first known as a "gay cancer" because it first hit the gay community. It was later linked to IV drug use as well.

Although you may not become infected with the disease by sleeping with an infected partner, it is still easily spread. Many times, those infected with other diseases are more prone to infection of the HIV virus. Research suggests that there may even be a possible gene people carry that makes them immune to the disease, but if you do become infected, you will die.

There is no cure for AIDS because the virus is able to transform itself, beating the anti-bodies trying to kill the virus. When people die from an AIDS infection, it is not from AIDS. AIDS lowers your immune system, making your body prone to other infections, most notably, pneumonia. Your body's immune system becomes crippled and is unable to fight off infections.

Even though there is no cure for the disease, there are many medicines, like AZT, that slow the progress.

After a person's initial infection, they develop flu-like symptoms that last up to two weeks. During this time, your body is developing anti-bodies. It is after HIV begins to take over the body that screening will show the disease. This can take up to six months and is known as the "window period."

HIV is transmitted through IV drug use and unprotected oral, anal or vaginal sex. Infants can also become infected during birth if the mother is positive.

Currently, there are 30 million people in the world whom have AIDS, with 16,000 becoming infected daily. In the US, approximately one million people have AIDS, mainly in urban areas.

Tested are done through blood screenings and oral swabs.

Prevention: Ultimately, the only way to make sure you never develop any STD's is to abstain from sexual activity. Many people are unwilling to deal with that, so protection is a must.

Using condoms is the best way to engage in sexual activity safely, but they are not 100 percent effective. Know your body and know your habits. If you believe you have an STD, seek treatment as soon as possible. Only a physician can know for sure and provide you with options for treatment.

If you have any questions, consult the Center for Disease Control website at www.CDC.gov.

Reality TV's hooking cable, network audiences

By: Amira Johnson

I'm not ashamed to admit it. I have a serious problem. I'm addicted to reality TV and I fear it will only get worse.

Ever since the first season of MTV's The Real World I have been addicted to people having their lives taped and shown for my own amusement. On any given night turn on your TV to a cable network or regular programming and you're guaranteed to find reality TV staring at you in the face.

Monday night on FOX for example. My new favorite show Joe Millionaire, which has also been called "Bitches who want money" by a comic on the Tonight Show, puts a new twist on the Bachelor. 20 gullible and unsuspecting women vie for the attention of a very handsome young man who they believe has inherited $50 million. As it turns out the young man, Evan is actually a construction worker who only earns around $19,000 a year. I can't wait until Evan tell the "lucky" girl that he is no millionaire, I'm sure the look on her face will be priceless.

The birth of reality TV can be attributed to MTV's the Real World but the family in charge of reinventing reality TV is America's favorite family, no it's not the Kennedy's but the Osbournes. From Ozzy's potty mouth to Sharon throwing meat products at her neighbors, this eccentric family has surged a new genre on TV into the limelight.

Soon after the Osbournes other networks started taking advantage of the new market. ABC started the Bachelor where, like Joe Millionaire, a man has to choose a wife from a group of young women. At the end of every show, in order to move to the next round the woman had to receive a reed rose from the bachelor. After the success from the first Bachelor show, ABC started the Bachelorette, featuring Trista, a woman from the first season who was dumped on TV, after she was told that she would be the "chosen one".

After the local networks cashed on the reality craze cable network Entertainment Television created the Anna Nicole Smith Show. Camera's followed the former Playboy Playmate as she bought a new house. The show was a huge hit due to Anna's very laid-back personality, her dog Sugar Pie and who could forget her fabulous decorator Bobby Trendy. Another season of Anna will be airing in the next month.

Even small networks like the WB got on the bandwagon and created the Surreal Life and one of my favorites High School Reunion. Members from the Class of 1992 head to Hawaii for a couple of weeks of romance, gossiping, and of course fighting. The former classmates begin to realize just how much they hated high school, which leads to a lot of fireworks.

Another old time favorite show is Fear Factor. What's not to like? Adrenaline junkies get to perform dangerous stunts involving water and fire. They even have the infamous food challenges that involve eating rooster jewels, horse rectum, bile, bull testicles, and a very smooth pig liver shake. Yummy.

When the reality TV craze first started it was every couch potato's dream. It also gave small networks a chance to compete with the dominating market of large cable companies, mainly HBO. As people say, "too much of a good thing…?"

Reality TV haters are waiting for the day when there will be a program that will cross the line and create backlash. But I'm happy to say there's no end in sight, even though I was a little disturbed by FOX's show Man vs. Animal, where a man competed against a bear to see who could eat the most. That doesn't make me feel very optimistic, but in the meantime sit back, relax and enjoy the show. Hopefully your IQ won't drop 10 points like mine has.

Throw your cell phone out the window, but not while driving

By: Kevin Waltz

I am driving through the near bumper-to-bumper traffic on route 26 on my way to work. I am already late for work and am frustrated at the fact that if the people of this small city of State College, PA knew how drive decently, none of this would be happening. As I continue on my venture of weaving in and out of traffic nearing my point of destination, my concentration of the matter at hand is rudely interrupted.

"Ring!!! Ring!!!" It is my cell phone going berserk somewhere in my car. It could be my place of employment, inquiring as to where the hell I am. Where is it!? I hear it but I can't see it. Somewhere in my car that resembles a bomb going off inside it a few weeks before, is my phone, incessantly making every attempt to gain my attention.

Suddenly I see it. It is on the floor of the passenger side. I quickly reach over and grab the phone, realizing on my way back to focusing on the road, that I am virtually about to side-swipe a clueless drive who has no clue as to what is going on around him.

"Hello," I ask irritably.

"Hey, what's up?" asks the inquiry on the other end.

"I am on my way…I am stuck in traffic and…"

"Hey! Its not your work, its Jeff."

"I'm kind of driving right now…in traffic."

"Cool…so, what are you up to."

"What! I am on my way to work!"

"Hold on a minute."

I hear in the background some screaming between roommates as I attempt to downshift my car at the sight of an ensuing red light.

"Sorry, so what are you doing again?"

Frustrated, I hang up the phone.

I know I am legally not supposed to answer the phone as I am driving. Especially while driving a stick shift car. I thought it might have been work. But instead, this is what I encounter too many times: People calling and wanting to chitchat while I am putting my life, and others, at risk.

What are cellular telephones for? In general, they are for purposes of being assessable in times of need. This is directed to individuals who constantly and incessantly require attention of those who are either busy or unavailable. Lets make some valid arguments for my case.

First, cellular telephones are dangerous. How many times have you found yourself driving and swerving through traffic while at the same time eating a quick snack or lunch, changing the compact disk or reading the compact disk label trying to find the song you have to hear, checking yourself out in the rear view mirror, all whilst either talking on the phone or making or receiving a phone call?

The answer is quite simply too often for comfort. Driving requires attention from the driver. As important as making those evening plans with your friends are, it can usually wait for a few minutes. There have been simply too many vehicle accidents while cellular telephones are in use.

Second, cellular telephones are annoying. How many times have you been to the movies and you are totally into a movie when out of the blue you hear "RING RING RING" followed by a shuffling and giggling that completely ruins the moment.

How about when you are out to dinner or at a store where you are with an associate? I know that when I am at work and a clients phone begins to ring and they pick it up I get really irritated. Lets focus on the matter at hand. Is it really that important that you have to rudely talk in front of other people in a loud voice?

Third, cellular telephones are too expensive. I can vouch for this. When purchasing my cellular telephone this past Christmas I decided on the plan for $29.95, where I had 250 'on peak' hours and about a zillion 'off peak' hours. Seemed like a good deal, but after friends incessantly calling me to see "what's up" I found myself going over my allotted number of included minutes and found out that each minute I went over was 40 cents. Well, my bill was well over $100. My friends seemed to have no concern for this at all.

In a society where we are always on the go it makes sense that cellular phones have become essential and indispensable. Instances like car troubles and abandonment ring a bell. Perhaps I am biased because I hate talking on the phone. I like my conversations short and sweet with a purpose. I don't call people unless there is a reason to call.

I hate when I get those calls when the person has no reason or purpose to talk and then doesn't say anything except for side comments about what they are doing. You know, getting burned by a curling iron, spilling a cup of coffee on themselves, and pointless happenings like that. If your reason for having a cell phone consists of being able to talk in the car and have pointless conversations then for my safety and everybody else's, get an ear piece, otherwise throw the damn thing out the window.

Sun and Fun filled with Rain: New Year's in Disney World!

By: Candy McGill

Escaping the bitter cold and snow to bask in the warm and sunny Florida seemed the perfect plan for a New Year's celebration. Unfortunately, that sun lasted only a few short days.

I returned to Disney World to work once again where I interned last spring. On New Year's Eve, I thought I had the perfect plan. I only had to work until five, and was expecting to celebrate out on the town with old friends.

My, how I underestimated the Florida Weather Channel!

Around 5:30 pm the skies opened up and gave me a taste of a true Floridian storm.

Driving down the highway with the windows down, music blaring, I went from a happy-go-lucky 20-something soaking up the sun in a rental car to a scared Pennsylvanian alone in a pseudo tropical storm. Even the crazy Florida drivers slowed from a lightening fast speed to a cautious crawl, avoiding major puddles already formed. Visibility was minimal, the windshield wipers couldn't move fast enough.

All thoughts of the evening's festivities were temporarily lost. I just wanted to make it to my apartment.

After a normally 15 minute drive took what felt like an eternity, I arrived to my apartment, only to face the mad dash to the door. This was going to be a major challenge.

I grabbed my umbrella, slung my backpack over one shoulder and opened the door just a crack so my umbrella could peek out. The winds were blowing the quarter-sized droplets into my face. Sputtering, I kicked the door open and mustered the courage to stand.

With fast paced twist and turn movements, I suddenly had the door shut and was sprinting towards the door. I felt like Larry Johnson for a brief moment. Seconds later I was at the front door, my wet and freezing hands fumbling with the keys. Finally I pushed open the door and slammed it shut, as if it would stop the rain.

I stood there with both arms outstretched, leaning on the door, to catch my breath. I felt like I was in a movie. I looked down and realized my sneakers were drenched, my shorts reached past my knees, and my umbrella, which somehow fell to the floor, was mangled. Beads of water were tumbling from my face and the ends of my saturated curls into a pool around my feet.

I was thoroughly soaked. All I could do was laugh and think, "Is this really happening?"

After drying out and meeting up with friends, we decided to forge on with slightly altered plans. Why should rain hold us back from a good time? While it wasn't the gala expected, we rang in the New Year Florida-style.

The next day at work, the sun was out once again, but the temperatures dropped about 20 degrees. Remembering what I was returning to in Pennsylvania, I decided to suck up as much of their "cold" weather as possible, although I couldn't believe I was wearing a wool coat outside.

Some of the older locals I work with were carrying on about "the worst weather on New Year's ever!" Grrreat, I thought. Happy New Year!

Vacation in Las Vegas

Cont'd from page 1

expedition. I believe I owe around $700 and it looks like I'll have to search for a job this semester. For any person who loves designer fashions like Escada, Kenneth Cole, Bally and Versace, Primm is the place to shop. The mall also had well known name brands like GAP, Banana Republic and Old Navy.

By the time we were scheduled I was ready to get out of there! I love the desert but anything past four days is overkill.

The plane ride back was pretty smooth except until we got towards Washington D.C. It was the day of the Fiesta Bowl and instead of concentrating on flying through turbulence the pilot kept updating passengers about the score. I love college football but I also wanted to arrive home safely.

All in all my vacation was definitely that, a vacation. It wasn't our typical family trip from hell. As soon as we got back to town I headed to work in preparation for next month's credit card bill.

Box Office 'record setting' in 2002

By: Kevin Waltz

The fall and winter 2002 movie season came to an end a few weeks ago. The record setting season also ushered in higher than normal sales for January. With the continued growth of budgets, tickets and grosses, 2003 will most likely be even better for the film industry.

With the arrival of all of the new blockbusters of the new-year, there will also be the flops and the disappointments. Still, with the continuing growth of the box-office, studios are gambling a lot of money for what they know will be an even stronger year.

The holiday season at the movies saw a ravenous appetite for sequels. It was inevitable that both "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" and "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" would dominate the market going into this season.

Last year, the original movies, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and "Lord of the Ring: The Fellowship of the Ring" grossed $317.6 and $313.4 million respectively. So far, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" and "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" have grossed $255.4 and $283.4 million.

Although lower box-office totals are recorded than the first movies, one sequel has yet to run its course. "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" is still grossing an average of $10 a week, and while "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" seems to be stabilizing (final figures should be around $265 million, almost 20 percent less than its predecessor), "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" should easily bypass the final number for "Lord of the Ring: The Fellowship of the Ring."

Heading to a final figure of over $330 million, "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" will land inside the top-ten list of highest grossing domestic blockbusters, replacing "Forrest Gump," currently at number seven. Combined figures of both "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Stone" and "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" are on pace to out-run the originals by $65 million.

Next year the numbers for both series should be higher. The "Lord of the Rings" trilogy will end with greater hype and anticipation, while the "Harry Potter" franchise will most likely lose Daniel Radcliffe as the curious Potter after the next movie.

Other movies continued to show success at the box office, including two Leonardo DiCaprio movies. "The Gangs of New York" has grossed $61 million to date and helped carry success over into the beginning of 2003. "Catch Me If You Can," continues to show muscle at the box-office, totaling $131 million. It should break the $200 million mark by the end of February.

Jennifer Lopez proves herself bankable yet again as "Maid in Manhattan" looks like it will end its run with $100 million, the highest of her career.

Oscar nominees "The Hours" and "Chicago" should both post solid sales as they expand into more theaters. "The Hours" grossed $4.7 million the week ending Jan 19, breaking into the top ten for the weekend. Its 402 screens should expand to about 1000 screens for a final gross of $50 million if the public catches on.

"Chicago" is averaging over $14,000 per location and is expected to reach $100 million, making it the most successful musical of the last 20 years, passing 1996's "Evita" starring Madonna and 2001's "Moulin Rouge" starring Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor.

Current hits "Just Married" and "Kangaroo Jack" are leading the box-office right now. Their success places 2003's January on par with 2002's. Summer 2003's release schedule looks strong with a "Charlie's Angels" sequel along with two "Matrix" sequels. Add that to "Terminator 3," "Legally Blonde 2" and "Hulk," and it looks like lines will continue to be long.

Aside from the wide-release of "Chicago" and the up-coming thrillers, "Darkness Falls" and "Final Destination 2," the box-office should remain stable for at least a month.

What I Did During Winter Break: OPENED PRESENTS

By: Mike Ward

Severe boredom has set in during my final week of freedom from school and thus I put my digits to the plastic boxes of my keyboard to punch out a review of some of my Christmas presents I received this year. Here are the best of the presents I received this year:

DVDs:

Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace* and *Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones

I'm a bona fide Star Wars geek so I'm very biased here but it's hard to find something to complain about in these DVDs (minus Jar Jar Binks naturally). Both films receive double-disk treatment and are loaded with extra features. The *Episode I* disk is somewhat of a special edition of the theatrical release of the film with added footage as well as completed special effects (including an extended version of the pod race). The commentaries and bonus features have inspired a new appreciation for *The Phantom Menace* in me, and helped me to somewhat understand the more excruciating scenes of *Episode II*.

Minority Report

The film alone gives this DVD high marks in my book, but the double-disk edition released by 20th Century Fox makes it all the more worthwhile. Steven Spielberg movies are always great (when I say "always great" I mean when he's directing films that aren't A.I.) and his collaboration with Tom Cruise is no exception. Special features include documentaries on the stunts, visual effects, storyboards, and interviews with Spielberg and Cruise.

Books:

***Mind over Matters* by Michael J. Nelson**

This book is a collection of essays written by the hilarious humorist, Mystery Science Theater 3000 Alumni, actor, director, and musician Michael J. Nelson. This is Nelson's second book coming after his collection of movie reviews: *Movie Megacheese*. Essay topics include "Portal to Hell: The RadioShack Experience", "Television and How It's Shaped Us. . .Into Balls of Dough," "Tennis Tips," "Animals: Worth Saving?," and about 50 others. This book is laugh out loud funny and superior to the film-snobbery found in *A Year at the Movies*, written by another MST3K alumnus, Kevin Murphy (the voice of Tom Servo). *Mind over Matters* is definitely worth it if you yearn for reading material that isn't so serious and isn't a novel.

***Letters to a Young Conservative* by Dinesh D'Souza**

This may just be my favorite book I received this Christmas. Written by the former senior domestic policy analyst in the Reagan White House from 1987-88, this book just over 200 pages is a collection of correspondence between the author and a college student named Chris. The book deals with Chris's questions about his still evolving political beliefs. While obviously targeting young people of conservative persuasion, I'd recommend this book to anyone regardless of age or political leanings. If you're a Conservative, it will reinforce your beliefs and answer questions you may have had about them. If you're a moderate, it will paint a portrait of the Conservative mind. If you're unfortunate enough to be a liberal, this book will give you a better understanding of the enemy and why Conservatives believe what they do.

***Transfer of Power* by Vince Flynn**

For fans of the political thriller, it doesn't get any better than this book. Vince Flynn has authored a series of Jack Ryan-esque books, including *Term Limits*, *Transfer of Power*, *The Third Option*, and *Separation of Power*. The premise of ToP is that terrorists have taken over the White House with the President as hostage. Every book in this series is excellent, but this installment is definitely the best. Flynn is the very definition of a page-turning political thriller.

Music:

Ok, I admit I didn't get any CD's this Christmas. However, here are my favorite songs and/or albums of 2002:

Albums:

-Original Soundtrack Recording of Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones – John Williams

-Original Soundtrack Recording of Black Hawk Down – Hans Zimmer

-Boogie Woogie Christmas – The Brian Setzer Orchestra

Songs:

-"Bodies" – Drowning Pool (Don't think any less of me)

-"My Friends Over You" – New Found Glory

-"Superfly" – The O.C. Supertones

-"Valerie" – Reel Big Fish

-"Lose Yourself" – Eminem

-"Get Free" – The Vines

Diva Downfall

Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston continue to have poor sales for attempted 'come-backs'

By: Kevin Waltz

Back in late 2001, Mariah Carey appeared on MTV's TRL. During the program she handed out ice-cream cones while performing a striptease for the camera. Host Carson Daly watched in the background with a baffled look on his face. Weeks later, *Glitter*, Carey's movie/album double whammy, both flopped. The movie made less than $5 million at the box-office, and the album sold less than 500,000 copies. Carey then admitted herself to a hospital for "exhaustion," although rumors that she had attempted suicide were everywhere. On top of it all, Virgin Records paid her off to end her recently signed recording contract, of which *Glitter* was the first album.

Whitney Houston recently put an end to the rumors of drug-abuse and admitted that she has had problems with drugs. Although her last album, 1998's *My Love Is Your Love,* has shipped 4 million units, it was before all of the drug speculation began. The Diane Sawyer interview was the icing on the cake for the singer, who withstood public scrutiny and embarrassment after last year's Michael Jackson self-tribute concert, where she appeared scantily clad and looking emaciated. Her frail, thin frame was digitally altered (along with Jackson's face) for the television broadcast.

Just Whitney and *Charmbraclet* were the come-back albums of the year that just didn't make any waves. Industry insiders were unsure of the success after both divas suffered difficult years. After *Glitter,* an 80's R & B/ Disco inspired soundtrack concept album, flopped, people believed that it was Carey's over-sexed image and non-melodic sampled songs that made her lose touch with audiences. *Charmbraclet* was a return to form for Carey, but it has hardly been the big seller it was supposed to be.

The publicity leading up to *Charmbraclet* was huge: radio and television ads as well as appearances on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and "Larry King Live." She also appeared more recently on the American Music Awards where she performed. Yet despite all of the publicity, *Charmbraclet* and its single releases have been met with opposition and disappointment.

The first single, "Through the Rain," never broke the top 40, the first time for a lead single from Carey's catalog. The second single, "Irresistible," never even broke into the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart. The album, while peaking at number six and becoming platinum in the US (1 million shipped), it has scanned only 825,000 copies. Worldwide, *Charmbraclet* will be lucky to sell a total of 4 million copies. Although this number is higher than *Glitter* 's worldwide total of 3 million, these numbers are off of her average by more than 75 percent.

Just Whitney is Houston's response to her critics. Unfortunately for her, *Just Whitney* is performing even worse than *Charmbraclet,* falling out of the top 40 in just two weeks. *Just Whitney,* like *Charmbraclet*, is certified platinum, but its scans are just over 500,000. Houston also had negative feedback from radio when her first single, "Whatchulookinat" failed to take off. The subsequent video was scrapped. The next single, "Try It on My Own" is being released to radio in February, but it is still unclear as to whether anything can help the record from tumbling down the charts.

Critics also took aim at *Just Whitney* because of its length. The 10 tracks totaled less than 30 minutes.

Both Houston and Carey are extremely successful. They are both among the top five most successful female recording artists. Their longevity is strong, but contemporaries like Janet Jackson and Madonna continue to outshine Houston and Carey. Jackson continues to sell well, and although she has not sold as many total records as Houston and Carey, her prominence is still strong. Madonna has sold more albums than any other female artist, and she continues to market herself in a way that is incredibly successful. Maybe Houston and Carey should look to these pop icons as an example of how not to ruin a career.

Computer Etiquette: What to buy and why

By: Kevin Waltz

Mention the word "computer" to a friend and watch how they react. Except in a rare instance where one of your friends may be a computer pro or nerd, most of the responses will be those of despair. Mention the idea of buying a new computer; the response will be one of sheer horror. Most people don't know all that much about a computer besides the normal day to day basics we have all become accustomed too: Checking e-mail, surfing the web, writing papers. It's when we begin to look at what's in the inside that frightens people the most, especially when buying a new one.

"How do I know what to buy?"

"What is the difference between the $1000.00 computer and the $3000.00 computer?"

These are typical questions when looking around at some of the options that are out there. This will provide you with a summary of some of the most important features to look for when shopping around and also defines some of the confusing terms and hardware that come with the territory. Let's face it. Who wants to drop $1000.00 bucks on something we don't even know anything about?

Macintosh Vs. Windows:

Macintosh uses a completely different operating system than that of a Windows- based computer. Although Macintosh is very simple to learn, only about 5% of the public uses them. Graphic artists and journalists use them the most. Windows is the standard in most homes and businesses. Most of the programs that are available for each operating system are pretty compatible with each other these days, unlike before. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and many other popular programs are easily accessed and used on either machine. For the purpose of this article, Windows based PC's will be the focus.

Processor:

The processor is at the heart of the computer. This is the determining factor of how fast your computer will and can run. It is also the factor that determines the value of your PC over the years.

There are a few types of processors that are out there. The most well known and perhaps most popular is the Intel brand. Synonymous with anything about computers, Intel has proven itself to be an industry leader with reliable products for Windows-based operations.

The most current processor by Intel, the Pentium IV, is the new standard. With processor speeds starting at 1.8GHz going up to 3GHz, these are the fastest and by far the biggest jump in speed over the recent years. The Pentium III can still be found in laptops, but has been phased out in desktop units. The lower-end Celeron processor has been revamped to meet current industry standard with Memory, but they lack the video capability to play some higher-end games and are typically much less upgradeable.

AMD (Advanced Micro Devices) is sort of the underdog of the PC world. Intel's competitor, AMD provides the user with a processor that works the same way any Intel processor works, at least to the users eyes it will.

Windows based, along with Intel, the two most popular AMD processors you will see on the market are the Duron's and the Athlon's. The Duron is comparable to Intel's Celeron processor, meaning it is a lower-cost, lower-end machine. The Athlon is comparable to Intel's Pentium III and IV processor's and is more for the multimedia user.

Hard Drive:

Contrary to popular belief, the Hard Drive is not the computer tower that so many mistake it for, although the confusion makes sense. The Hard Drive is where everything you see and save goes. The size of your Hard Drive is directly in proportion to what you will be using your computer for. In desktop computers the smallest Hard Drive is around 20GB, while the largest available is around 120GB. The determining factor one needs to look at when deciding what size to get should be the amount of music that is going to be downloaded and if a lot of digital pictures will be saved to the computer.

Some programs take up a lot of space, but a 20GB drive is more than enough for any Microsoft Office programs like Word and Excel to be stored. The important factor is the music and photos. These tend to be rather large files and can bog down and fill up a hard drive before you know it. The speed of the hard drive should also be looked at. A 20GB or 40GB hard drive tends to be slower than that of the larger ones. Hard drives spin and the number of spin per minute is stated in RPM's. A 5400RPM hard drive will take longer to access information than a 7200RPM hard drive. This is important when playing games or using your computer to access information quickly.

RAM:

RAM (Random Access Memory) is one of the most important parts of a well performing PC. RAM is temporary memory for your computer. From the moment you turn your computer on, everything that you do is stored in there. The more RAM you have, the faster your computer will run. Most systems come standard with at least 128mb, and you definitely don't want to go any lower than that. With all new computers using the Windows XP operating system, it is essential to make sure the computer is going to have the available resources to effectively and efficiently operate. 256mb is usually the best way to go because you won't have to upgrade the amount that you have after loading all of your programs and peripherals.

RAM is the easiest thing to upgrade in a system. If you don't know how to do it, chances are a friend does. All you need to know is the type of memory your system takes. From there you can order it over the Internet or pick it up from any office supply store. Memory pops right into slots on the main board of the computer. Once in, the memory is recognized. You don't have to go in and play with any weird settings.

CD-Drives:

This is personal preference. Many computers today come with CDRW drives (CD burners), so making music CD's is a pretty easy task. When getting a CDRW drive, the speed of it will determine how quickly a CD will copy. Besides music, CD-burners are great for backing up any kind of large file, especially photographs. A CDRW disk can hold around 800mb of data.

DVD-ROM drives are nice to have if you want to watch movies, but that is not their main purpose. DVD disks hold around 6 times more information than a CD, so more and more software games and programs are released onto this format. Eventually, CD-ROM's will be completely phased out. You can also get a

See "Computer" page 11

Penn State Ice Lions Report

By: Mike Stangl

As of Jan. 22

The third ranked Penn State Ice Lions are trying to end this season on top. With just five games left in regular season play, the Ice Lions are getting geared up for nationals.

The American Collegiate Hockey Association's Div. II National Tournament will take place in Anaheim, Calif., in ice rinks on the outskirts of Disneyland. If everything goes as planned, the Ice Lions will leave for California on Feb.25 and will return on March 2.

With 18 wins, two losses and two ties the ACHA Div. II Ice Lions believe nationals will prove to be a great experience. "We have a legitimate shot at winning nationals," junior defenseman Jordan Katz said.

However, the west coast trip is the last thing on players' minds. "We have to finish strong," sophomore defenseman John Feltz said.

In this last stretch of games the Ice Lions will host Central Michigan on Feb. 1. The Ice Lions feel this game will be their final test before heading to nationals. "They (Central Michigan) are one of the best teams we will play all year," said Feltz.

The team feels they should not be dealt with lightly, with their roster speaking for itself. **There are a multitude of goal-scorers on offense in senior forward Ralph Stoehr, sophomore forward Chris Stoehr, junior forward Ryan Tocicki, and junior forward Pat McCullough to name just a few.**

The Ice Lion defense is fierce with standouts in senior Dave Jones, junior Jordan Katz, sophomore Jason Rusnic and sophomore John Feltz. Finally, the team is anchored by a 'brick wall' goaltender in senior Brian Gratz.

Gratz leads all goaltenders in the ACHA in both save percentage and goals against. Gratz averages a slim 1.49 goals against per game and saves an impressive 96 percent of all shots he faces. "Brian is a tremendous goalie who gives us a chance to win every game," Chris Stoehr said.

The end of the season holds a pair of away games at the University of Maryland, a game at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and ends the season by hosting the Owls of Temple University.

Tocicki feels these last games will provide the team with some extra confidence for postseason play. "If we keep progressing as we are, the team will be in stride for nationals," Tocicki said.

Ice Lions to Disneyland, hopeful for Playoffs

By: Mike Stangl

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Penguins' Donovan, key

By: Steve Catanese

As of January 22, the Pittsburgh Penguins are sitting at a cool 20-19-4-5 record while barely clinging onto the 8th and final playoff spot in the NHL. Over the past few weeks, one player has established his meaning on the team but has not received recognition from casual fans.

That man would be Shean Donovan.

Donovan, a 6'2 188lb right wing, is a former first round draft pick of the San Jose Sharks. The Penguins picked him up near the trade deadline of the 2001-2002 NHL season off of waivers to serve as something of a veteran boost to a young and physically battered team.

Though the Penguins missed the playoffs, Donovan showcased his world-class speed and inspiring work ethic to management, leading him to resign with the Penguins in the off-season.

The difference between Donovan and players like Pavel Bure and Brian Rolston is the fact that Shean isn't much of an offensive threat.

He net only 7 points (4 goals, 3 assists) in 29 games thus far this season, and only played in 29 games due to several injuries. However, Donovan makes up for his lack of offense by being far more skilled defensively than other players of his speed caliber.

Shean Donovan and his line partner, Kent Manderville, make up the top penalty-killing tandem on the team. Manderville provides a cool head on the ice making smart, calculating moves while Donovan just goes full speed the entire time he's on the ice, aiming for opponents like a demented Tasmanian devil.

Though, you will probably never see Shean Donovan on an All Star squad, he is definitely a key in the puzzle that is the Pittsburgh Penguins. In recent games he's played 18-19 minutes on the ice, numbers comparable to second line high scoring NHL forwards.

The difference is clear. While they score many goals, he prevents just as many. If the Penguins are to make the playoffs and create some waves, much of the defensive burden will rest heavily on Donovan's capable legs and heart.

Age of the Computer

Cont'd from page 10

DVD-RAM drive, which is just like a CD-burner, but instead of saving data onto a regular CD, it saves it onto a DVD, increasing total capacity to around 4.7GB per disk.

Video Cards:

Many systems come with something called "integrated video." It almost sounds good, but it can be a potentially bad thing. If you want to use your computer for gaming purposes, you want to stay away from this type of video. Although newer systems have a much more impressive amount of video on the integrated component, the newer games require more memory power than that can provide the user with. It is important to have an AGP card slot for this video capability. If you only have video directly on the board (as with anything else integrated), the only way to fix something if it breaks is to replace the whole motherboard. If that sounds bad it's because it is. Trust me.

Anything else is pretty much up to the person. Audio choices range from basic to surround sound. You can also get Firewire and get into digital video editing.

What about desktop versus laptop? Laptops are nice, but the thing with them is that everything you have on them is going to be a lot slower. Laptops can be fast, but as a rule of thumb, they are typically a year behind desktops. When you buy a laptop you also fall into the trap of integrated components again. Pretty much almost everything is permanently on the main board, which proves extremely challenging for anyone looking to change things around. Memory can typically be upgraded (although not in every instance), and some CD drives can be swapped out in favor of other ones.

There is a lot to know about computers, and the industry is always in a state of constant renewal. If you don't work in the field or have an interest in the subject matter, what you know one year will be obsolete the next. Just make sure you get something with a decent warranty to protect yourself from unneeded stress and costs. Computers break, and they really are not the cheapest things to fix so the little spent at the time of purchase will be worth it in the long run.

Pro-War and Proud

By: Mike Ward

I know this is a tough decision for some people to make, but if I have to choose between Saddam Hussein and George W. Bush, I stand with George W. Bush. I think we can all agree that Bush 41's decision based on the opinion of Colin Powell to let Mr. Hussein stay after the first Gulf War was not a particularly inspired one.

Generally speaking, when a maniacal leader (in this case Saddam Hussein) is allowed to stay in power after an overwhelming military defeat, he agrees to abide by the terms of the victorious party (in this case the world). When the defeated party does not abide by these agreements, it is incumbent upon the victorious party to enforce the obligations of the defeated party. What does this mean in English? Saddam broke every promise he made to keep himself in power in 1991 and it's time to take him out for the sake of our own security, the security of the entire Middle East, and for the freedom of the oppressed Iraqi people.

I also reject the notion that this war is about oil (even though this is the same tired argument that was used during the first Gulf War). Never in the history of humanity has one nation had the ability to dominate the world as the United States does and used that power so sparingly. (Someone explain to me how you impose freedom on someone anyway. It's a fundamental paradox). Even if the war *was* about oil, it is a valid reason to go to war.

Oil is was a driving force powering our economy, which is interlinked to Homeland Security. Also, as a note to you liberals: you don't want us to get our oil from the Middle East, you don't want to drill in Artic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and you say that Bush is in bed with big oil every time gas prices go up. What do you propose short of all of us living in teepees and riding a carriage into town?

The problem is that some people simply do not believe in the existence of evil, as Saddam Hussein is. Evil cannot be appeased; it cannot be negotiated with; it can only be destroyed. Sometimes the world *is* black and white instead of shades of gray. I am mystified as to why anyone would think that a world with Saddam Hussein would be better than a world without him.



Washington D.C.: 500,000 marched on January 18th against an attack on Iraq. The number estimation was provided by International ANSWER, the rally's sponsor. For more information on this and upcoming anti-war movements go to internationalanswer.com. (photo by: Stephen Ryan)

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