By Tessa Lynady

If you are like most college students, you have a MySpace account. Chances are you use your MySpace page as a way of socializing or procrastinating.

You may spend countless hours adding graphics and music to your page or sending friend requests to people you haven’t spoken to since fifth grade.

The main purpose of this site is to create an internet social network, but some people actually use MySpace as a sort of dating service.

One of my closest friends met her current boyfriend by searching MySpace for guys who matched her interests. She found someone who she seemed compatible with and after talking through instant messages and emails, they eventually met and have been together since.

For them, MySpace dating was a success because they had talked for an extended amount of time before meeting and they were both completely honest with each other.

MySpace is a good, cheap alternative to a dating service. It is a free and open internet community that allows people to connect to each other easily.

Conventional dating services often have a stigma attached to them. With the exception of the television commercial “couples” who are paid a generous sum to admit on national television that they met through a dating service, most people would never admit to using these services for the fear of looking lonely and/or pathetic.

MySpace has most of the benefits of a dating service without the financial cost or social embarrassment. No one has to know that a couple met using MySpace or the internet.

My friend and her boyfriend tell everyone that they met at...
¡Bienvenido, Señor Musto!

By D. S. Smith

Mr. Vincent Musto, retired high school Spanish teacher of thirty-four years, has joined the ranks of the Penn State Wilkes-Barre faculty, replacing former Spanish instructor Joan McAndrew who retired last fall. More than forty Spanish students in both Spanish I and II greeted Mr. Musto on his first day at the university.

Musto, known as Señor Musto to his students, is a native of Pittston, PA, he thoroughly enjoys hunting and fishing and has authored a book entitled Game Cooking and Stories of the Hunt. Other favorite pastimes include painting, cooking, reading, and amateur winemaking. Despite his fervor for these various hobbies, Musto states that his top priorities have “always been my family, my friends, and my health. Family first.”

After graduating from West Pittston High School, Musto earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Scranton. While earning his degree, Musto had the opportunity to spend a summer in Mexico studying abroad. In addition to his undergraduate education, he went on to receive his master’s degree from Wilkes University. Musto also spent three summer months in Spain expanding his knowledge of the Spanish language and culture.

Musto began his career as an educator at the Dover Air Force Base High School, where he taught Spanish for three years. He then went on to teach for three years at the local Hanover Area School District, followed by three years at the Lakeland School District. Musto spent the majority of his teaching career at the Tunkhannock Area School District, where he spent twenty-eight years teaching high school Spanish. There he became familiar with many of the students who are now in his Spanish class here on campus.

Though retired, Musto retains his passion for education and the Spanish language. When asked what he would have done differently, Musto replied, “I’m totally happy with what I’ve done in my life.”

Emphasizing his zeal for education, Musto remarked, “Even though I’m retired, I still love to teach.” And Penn State Wilkes-Barre is grateful for that.

¡Gracias, Señor Musto!

Hey, Señor Musto, What’s Your Favorite...

... foreign country? “Mexico.”
... food? “Anything Italian.”
... holiday? “Christmas. I love Santa Claus.”
... book? “Moby Dick.”
... movie? “True Grit.”
... song? “Nessum Dorma” by Pavarotti.”
... sport? “Hunting.”
... athlete? “John Daly.”
... super-hero? “Spider Man.”
... color? “Blue.

A VALUABLE GAIN

Dr. Jankowski joins Wilkes-Barre Campus, becoming new D.A.A.

By Tessa Maciejaszek

Just before the fall semester of 2006, Penn State Wilkes-Barre gained a valuable, multi-skilled faculty member. Dr. Theodora Jankowski became Director of Academic Affairs and an English professor. “This campus offers a warm environment and also comes with its share of challenges,” said Dr. Jankowski.

Dr. Jankowski received her bachelors and masters degrees in English from Hunter College in New York City. She also earned her Ph. D. from Syracuse University in English Renaissance Drama. Her previous positions, at Washington State University, Utica College, Norwich University, and Eire Community College include English Professor, Assistant Dean of Students, Director of Continuing Education, and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs in Liberal Arts and Allied Health.

Some of you may wonder what you’re entitled to do as Director of Academic Affairs. Dr. Jankowski is the chief academic officer and oversees everything to do with academics, including program development, course scheduling, DUS advising, and Learning Support. She is also in charge of hiring and mentoring faculty. She adds, “I meet with chief academic officers from other local schools and we brainstorm and network to get new ideas.”

Dr. Theodora Jankowski, Director of Academic Affairs

Dr. Jankowski’s favorite part of her job is giving faculty members good news, such as being nominated for or winning an award. Her least favorite part is saying no to certain programs or ideas due to low funding. Fortunately, her future plans for this campus are to find funding, increase enrollment for traditional and adult students, and increase the number of faculty members.

Being a knowledgeable administrator is only one of Dr. Jankowski’s achievements. She also has published widely, including the books Women in Power in Early Modern Drama (1992) and Pure Resistance: Queer Virginity in Early Modern English Drama (2000). Both books could be found at Barnes and Nobles and other bookstore retailers. She also published her share of critical essays in some of the most prestigious journals in her field. Most of these articles can be found through LIAS databases such as MUSE and JSTOR on the

See “Jankowski,” Page 6
INTERESTED IN STUDYING ABROAD?

By Kristen Durso

You might ask: What is “studying abroad?” And do I have the chance to study abroad even though I am not going on to University Park?

Studying abroad is spending a few weeks in the summer, a term, or even an entire year at a university in another country. And yes, we all have the opportunity to participate in any of Penn State’s many international programs in countries all over the world.

The first step in mapping your path to studying abroad is research. If you are interested in a specific country or city, research everything about it. After researching make sure to follow through and talk with your advisor about your plans. It is better he or she knows what is going on, so he or she can assist you and help you to choose a program suitable to your major.

Then it is time to do your homework. The best information on study abroad is found at www.international.psu.edu where you can find information on cities that may interest you, costs of programs, scholarships that are offered, and how they apply to your current education. Most importantly, you will find the application. Keep in mind if you do plan to study abroad, you should apply at least one year to eighteen months ahead of time. Each program has a certain number of openings, so the earlier you apply the better chance you have.

Explore each program you are interested in thoroughly and make sure it is the path you want to follow. Some people like busy cities while others like the tranquility of the country. Some would like the chance to perfect another language, while others prefer programs in English — speaking countries. Studying abroad is an enriching experience, so checking out what activities are offered in and outside the host country is important.

After researching and exploring you should talk with your advisor again. I would recommend keeping your advisor informed about your plans throughout the process so he or she can help prepare you. Studying abroad is an opportunity of a lifetime. Why not take advantage of it?

AN INSIDE LOOK AT STUDYING ABROAD

By Melissa Gunshannon

Still not sure if studying abroad is for you? Emily Troskel, a senior English Writing/History and Art major at the University of Pittsburgh, has literally traveled all over the world. During the Summer 2004, Spring 2005, Summer 2006, and Fall 2006 semesters, Emily has traveled to over a dozen cities in Europe, Africa, and Asia, including a Semester at Sea.

Emily says that while the curriculum of studying abroad is easier than conventional American universities due to the hands-on nature of the coursework, it is, at the same time, far more difficult to concentrate because of all the distractions and excitement of being in a new country. There is, also, the inevitable language barrier, but thanks to an immersion in the culture and language, communication becomes increasingly easier as time passes in the host country.

Emily said of the hands-on learning: “You may not remember the specifics of the key ideas in Buddhism, but when you visit temple after temple and see it in practice, you understand on a deeper level, and it makes sense. You can learn about the caste system in India, and get an idea of how difficult the lives of the untouchables are, but when you see them waist deep in a sewer cleaning out waste from a latrine with a bucket and their bare hands, it hits home.”

While she would not trade her study abroad experiences for anything, Emily does warn about watching that grades earned from studying abroad transfer to your home university. She only needed a C or better in order to get a Satisfactory on her transcripts, and for some, it counts as a much as a semester at your home university. However, she recommends that if you want an experience without affecting your GPA, you should consider a summer program without transferring the credits.

Sarah Armaghan, a sophomore English student from St. John’s, New York, is currently studying abroad in Rome, Italy. Though she was very hesitant about leaving her Kingston, Pennsylvania hometown and S.S.S Anyway?

By Jaquana Windsor

The Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus offers students numerous support opportunities, but many students seem timid about seeking help. That is where Student Support Services, also known as S.S.S comes in.

S.S.S is a program designed for students who are the first generation in their families to attend college. This program started on the Wilkes-Barre campus in 1997 as part of a Trio program funded by United States Department of Education. S.S.S offers students great opportunities such as free tutoring in both math and English, use of computers, and assistance with buying books for one subject. But to receive this financial aid, you will have to attend three meetings or more. This is no problem because S.S.S meetings are so much fun providing different academic, career and interesting workshops about getting used to college life.

S.S.S also provides a great Mentor Program for freshmen and upper class students. The staff is fantastic. Patricia Staskiel is an efficient and imaginative coordinator, Allan Scoble is also a wise counselor if you ever need help with academic or personal matters, and Gail Stevens is a knowledgeable career counselor, and last but not least, Sue Wysocki is the always kind and helpful staff assistant.

The Student Support Services is housed in Hayfield 302 with office hours M-F from 8 am- 4:30 pm. An Inside Look Page 10
Myspace

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Starbuck’s, which is actually where they went on their first date. This is another way to eliminate any kind of stigma.

You may be asking yourself “So, is MySpace or internet dating safe?” The answer to that question is simple: it’s as safe as you make it. You wouldn’t get into a car with a total stranger, so in the same respect, you shouldn’t agree to meet someone until you’ve talked to him or her for an extended period of time.

If you do end up meeting someone, make sure you make your first meeting in a public place and tell someone where you are going. It might even be a good idea to tell a friend to call you sometime within the first hour of the date; that way you can fake an emergency if the date is not a good one or if the person you’re meeting makes you feel uncomfortable.

Another smart idea is to make it a group date. This ensures your safety while eliminating some of the first date pressure.

If you follow some basic safety rules and keep an open mind, you may just find that you meet the person you’ve been looking for.

QUIZ: How well will you do in Valentine’s 101?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

5. This campus couple worked at the same place of employment at the same time during three separate time periods in their lives...
   a. Tom and Janis Winter
   b. Lorna and David Chin
   c. Denise and John Galeano

6. Valentine’s Day is the ___ largest card sending holiday
   a. first
   b. second
   c. third

7. Cupid, a symbol of Valentine’s Day, was...
   a. brother of baby new year
   b. son of Venus
   c. son of Zeus

8. St. Valentine was...
   a. a Jewish Rabbi
   b. a Christian Priest
   c. a Roman emperor

9. Valentine’s Day was declared an official holiday in ____ by King Henry VIII
   a. 1437
   b. 1537
   c. 1637

10. Which country does not celebrate Valentine’s Day?
    a. Canada
    b. Mexico
    c. China

11. The most fantastic gift of love ever built was...
    a. The Eiffel Tower
    b. The Leaning Tower
    c. The Taj Mahal

12. The first televised tour of the White House took place on Valentine’s Day...Who gave the tour?
    a. Jackie Kennedy
    b. Roselyn Carter
    c. Hillary Clinton

13. 15% of these individuals send themselves flowers on Valentine’s Day?
    a. women
    b. men
    c. Bill Clinton’s girlfriends

14. This state produces 60% of American roses.
    a. California
    b. Florida
    c. Texas

15. This many million roses are sold annually during Valentine’s Day.
    a. 90 million
    b. 100 million
    c. 110 million

16. This percent of pet owners will give their pets Valentines.
    a. 3%
    b. 6%
    c. 9%

17. Hallmark has ____ cards designed specifically for Valentine’s Day.
    a. 1000
    b. 1330
    c. 1660

18. This group of people will receive the most Valentine’s Day cards in one day.
    a. mothers
    b. wives
    c. teachers

19. This organized-crime boss was suspected of organizing the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre?
    a. Bugs Moran
    b. Al Capone
    c. Don Corleone

20. This campus couple was married in ‘The Little White Wedding Chapel’ in Las Vegas, NV (they were running a wedding sale - $69.95)...
    a. Jackie and Jeff Piatt
    b. Tish and Adam Crahall
    c. Lorna and David Chin


we asked, you answered...

what do you think is the perfect valentine’s day date?

“Romantic dinner and roses”
-Jennifer Hilstolsky

“Flowers, dinner, and definitely some chocolate!”
-Melissa Rollo

“Something relaxing like dinner, and then watching a movie at home on the couch.”
-Jeremy Gillis

“Dinner to a nice restaurant, flowers for her, and hit the sack afterwards”
-Ryan Taylor

“Dinner and then take her back to the house and play smooth music with rose petals and candles everywhere.”
-Zack Cohen
CHARITY TO HOST BALL
Make-A-Wish
hopes to fulfill
many wishes
with proceeds
By Melissa Gunshannon

Many people set out to help others in any way they can: donating canned goods to a soup kitchen, donating new or gently used blankets for the winter, and of course, Toys for Tots. However, once the holiday season passes, it seems that most people tend to forget or do not have the time to help anymore.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is offering those who “have no time” but still want to help a chance to get out and enjoy an evening of Cabaret style dining, cocktails, fun and the music of the Poets in an effort to continue their funding to make childhood dreams come true.

The Crystal Ball is scheduled to take place Wednesday, February 10 from 7 p.m.-11 p.m. at the Woodlands Inn and Resort, Wilkes-Barre. The black-tie event costs $145 per person or $260 per couple. While this price is rather steep for the average college student, do not let that take away from the ultimate goal of the foundation.

The Ball is an opportunity to donate and give back to the community during the “off season” by providing good hearted people a chance to give of themselves in an effort to make the dreams of children with terminal diseases come true. Many children have wished they could go to Disney World or a redecorated bedroom. Last year alone the Greater Pennsylvania and Southern West Virginia Chapter granted 608 wishes. With the Crystal Ball in place, our local chapter is hoping to add more wishes to that list for 2007.

By: Melissa Gunshannon

I cannot say how many times I have heard people say “The Wyoming Valley is so boring. There’s nothing to do around here.” I have not once had nothing to do when I’m looking for a good time in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area. With a new movie theater in downtown Wilkes-Barre, events at the Wachovia Arena, and all the new restaurants that have opened in the past few years, just a quick glance offers many options for those seeking an evening out. However, if you’re looking for something a little different from the routine dinner and a movie, perhaps you should check out some of the more “cultural” events in the community.

The Lands at Hillside Farms have recently been offering activities to boost community involvement in the rebuilding and rebirth of the farm. Events included Christmas tree decorating, stargazing, and bonfires.

By Robert Winkler

Comedy is hard--ask any comedian; they will tell you that making people laugh consistently and heartily is something that does not come easily.

There are many forms of comedy, but none are harder to master than the art of satire. Wikipedia describes satire as "...a technique used in drama and the performing arts...the purpose of satire is not primarily humour but criticism of an event, an individual or a group in a clever manner."

I have never reacted to satire quite so well as I did while watching Borat.

Sacha Baron Cohen brings his character, Kazakh reporter Borat Sagdiyev to life, in this “mockumentary” comedy.

Borat (first seen on Cohen’s TV Series “Da Ali G Show”) is racist, sexist, homophobic, and just about every other political incorrectness you can think of. He also maintains a childlike naïveté, which helps Cohen lower the guard of the people whose hidden bigotries he is trying to root out.

Even without knowing that Cohen is actually a British Jew, this movie would still be hilarious, as Borat is so outrageously backward and offensive that you just cannot help but laugh, thinking to yourself “are there really people this ignorant?”

Sadly enough, the answer to that question is “yes,” and the proof is seen quite clearly through the people Borat ‘interviews’ during his interactions with his victims he obtains some startling opinions, some going so far as to suggest that women should subjugate themselves to men, that homosexuals should be executed, and most shockingly that America would be better off if slavery had not ended.

The movie is fronted as a documentary for Borat’s home country Kazakhstan, so that the Kazakhs may learn from America’s culture. This focus quickly shifts as Borat falls in love with Pamela Anderson while watching television in a New York hotel and convinces his producer Azamat Bagatov (played by Ken Davitian) to travel across the country to Los Angeles.

When Bagatov asks Borat what there is to see in America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan’
By Amanda Panuski

Martin Luther King Jr., a man with a passion for equality, showed the nation that we can all learn something from one another. Dr. King taught generations of people that we can change the world by setting our differences aside and helping one another. Penn State Wilkes-Barre recently celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by putting some of Dr. King’s ideas into action.

The Campus Environment Team organized a Community Service Week that ran from January 15th to January 19th. They called upon faculty, students, clubs, and organizations to help community agencies in our area. The Campus Environment Team asked that people take the time to donate items to these agencies who are in need of basic necessities. The agencies involved were The Domestic Violence Service Center, The Victims’ Resource Center, SPCA, and The Back Mountain Food Pantry. Items that were needed ranged from shampoo, toothbrushes, activity books for children, cat food, towels, blankets, and canned goods.

Student Activities Coordinator Jackie Piatt said the Community Service Week was a huge success. After going through all the items a total of 412 items were donated to The Domestic Violence Service Center, 289 items were donated to The Victims’ Resource Center, 244 items were donated to the SPCA, and 266 items were donated to The Back Mountain Food Pantry. This gives a grand total of 1,211 donated throughout the week.

The Community Service Week inspired many to reach out to those in need and it showed that Dr. King’s words and ideas will continue to influence people for years to come.

Jankowski

Continued from Page 2

Penn State is known for its worthy education and that is what Dr. Jankowski likes about this campus. She is also pleased with Penn State Wilkes-Barre’s favorable student to faculty ratio, access to a world-class library system, and the student involvement in clubs and activities.

English majors and others who enjoy reading 16th and 17th century plays have an opportunity to take a course on Shakespeare’s Contemporaries with Dr. Jankowski. The class deals with reading plays that involve themes such as madness, murder, and mutilation. Kristen Durso, a student currently taking her class, comments, “Dr. Jankowski’s class seems like it will be an interesting experience. Of course, being an English major I will definitely benefit from her class. I hope to learn about Elizabethan drama and familiarize myself with it more.”

This campus will be sure to benefit from Dr. Jankowski’s expertise in teaching and administration. Her enthusiasm and determination will help Penn State Wilkes-Barre thrive and grow. We all look forward to her many new initiatives and know she will make Penn State proud.
By: Melissa Gunshannon

“THON,” “For the Kids,” “Four Diamonds Fund,” and “Penn State Children’s Hospital” are all phrases common to a Penn State student’s vocabulary. However, many die-hard Nittany Lions are still in the dark as to what this all means.

All the money raised by THON goes to the Four Diamonds Fund whose mission is to “conquer childhood cancer by assisting children treated at Penn State Children’s Hospital [Hershey Medical Center] and their families through superior care, comprehensive support, and innovative research” (http://www.fourdiamonds.org).

Since the Four Diamonds Fund’s inception in 1972, it has helped more than 2,000 families and about 90 new families receive support every year. The Fund takes care of treatments not paid for by insurance as well as expenses such as car repairs, household needs, and anything that may disrupt the child’s progress with treatment.

Last year alone Penn State students banded together to raise over $4.2 million. Students spend weekends out in the cold shaking cans for money from passers-by, or contact major firms and companies for donations, and dance a February weekend away.

To say that THON is the “largest student run philanthropy in the world” hardly does it any justice. THON, short for Penn State Dance Marathon, is a 46-hour, no sitting, no sleep dance marathon that is the culmination of a fundraising season that kicks off in October and climaxes THON weekend (http://www.thon.org) which will be held this year from February 16-18 at the Bryce Jordan Center in State College.

The philosophy behind the two-day “party” is this: If these children can suffer with cancer everyday of their lives and still bring a smile that lights up a room, we can put ourselves through our own little trial. It helps us empathize with them; show them they are not alone in their suffering; that we want to be part of it too. THON weekend provides the children and families with a chance to just get out and enjoy the treasures annually attend the APCA (Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities) Conference. This year the four-day event will be held in Pittsburgh. For these four days, Jackie becomes the campus’s equivalent to an American Idol judge, watching and critiquing acts from across the nation. She decides who should keep their day jobs and who are privileged enough to perform at the Wilkes-Barre Campus.

The APCA has brought acts such as Wayne Hoffmann and Throwing Toasters to Penn State Wilkes-Barre. This month Jackie has scheduled two performances in honor of Black History Month. E-Baby, a slam poet who uses rap and poetry in his performance was seen in the Commons on February 6th from noon to 1pm. On February 26th students can look forward to seeing LeCount Holmes Jr. on campus. Holmes is a motivational speaker who dresses up as the historical figure, Frederick Douglass. He can be seen from noon to 1pm in the Hayfield House.

Jackie is always looking for new and exciting acts to bring to the campus and is always open for suggestions. She loves when the students enjoy the performances and she always keeps the students in mind when she’s booking someone new. Jackie is currently preparing herself to attend this year’s APCA so get ready to see more new performers in the following months and next semester.

Left: Throwing Toasters performs.
Welcome “Dear Nittany!” by Placing Questions in Drop-Box

Today, it’s hard to find any media source that doesn’t include an advice column. Newspapers, magazines, and journals almost always include one form of an advice column. If you have read a newspaper on campus, chances are you’ve come across the “Dear Abby/Dear Annie” sections. Not only are these columns usually cleverly written with humorous touches, they appeal to readers because they answer common questions. Advice columns can add humor to somewhat sticky situations while providing realistic solutions to normal problems.

The writer of an advice column is commonly referred to as an “agony aunt.” In early advice columns, the person who answered the questions was motherly, and she showed it in her answers, by providing motherly wisdom. It was usually a woman who answered personal questions that you didn’t want to ask someone you knew.

The first newspaper to have an advice column was the New York Evening Journal in 1898. Its writer, Marie Manning, went by the name of “Beatrice Fairfax.” She often answered questions of wives whose husbands were in World War II. Advice columns grew rapidly.

Often, these columns include a small picture of a woman who supposedly writes the article. However, just as a pen name is often used along with a picture of someone else. In fact, usually, there is not just one person who answers the questions, but a team of writers. This helps because different people have had different experiences, so the writers are considered to be more credible.

In keeping with this age-old tradition, a feature of the Wilkes-Barre Collegian will be a “Dear Nittany” section. We hope you will all take advantage of this, since there are certainly a lot of issues that college students must face in daily life. Do you remember a few years ago the question in the advice column of one of the local papers about the woman who ate entire boxes of crayons as snacks? Let that serve as a reminder that while only tasteful questions will be answered, sometimes it is more fun to read the “crazy questions.” I’d like to encourage you to ask them. Just drop your questions into the box located in the Commons. Of course, the answers you'll get will be my opinion, but though two opinions are better than one, and three are better than two, “Nittany’s” opinion is better than all—or at least more fun.

Top 10 Excuses Students Give to Professors for not Having Homework

By: Jennifer Shubilla

You’ve all caught the Late Show with David Letterman at least once or twice in your life, right? We’ve taken the congenial comic’s lead and decided to develop our own Top 10 list for each issue. Why a Top 10, you ask? What’s wrong with the other numbers? Well, we don't want to be mistaken for Myspace and their fun (and sometimes controversial) Top 8. Also, we were trying to create a catchy title complete with some awesome alliteration and a Top Two or Three would just be lame; and we're just too lazy for a Top 200.

1. My computer crashed.
2. It’s against my beliefs to cut down trees for paper.
3. I have a solar powered calculator and it was cloudy all week.
4. NBC bought it, they plan to base a sitcom off it.
5. Our furnace stopped working and we had to burn it to stop ourselves from freezing.
6. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we went out on Monday, we thought it was Sunday.
7. My orgasmic wrap fell apart on top of it.
8. I was up all night last night, if you want proof, ask your mother.
9. I’m in love with you and can’t focus on the coursework. You’re really dreamy.
10. What homework?

Y Evrybdy <3’s Txt Tlk

D.S. Smith

My fellow collegians, be proud. For centuries our forefathers worked hard to perfect and preserve the English language. They created and observed complicated rules that have been drilled into and memorized by each consecutive generation of English-speaking students. We, the young people of America, have put an end to their efforts in one fell swoop. In a single decade we accomplished a feat that Shakespeare in all his wisdom never achieved. We have developed a convenient system of communication that requires minimal literacy, simplifying the English language to the point where even grammatically-challenged students can communicate effectively. It is time we took this new and improved version of our language to the next level. Allow me to present to you the updated EGLSH 2.0 Beta. Consider the possibilities this new program of communication will present:

To the future computer programmers: I propose that we completely remove all unnecessary letters from our computer keyboards. Who needs vowels, N E way? Removing these needless symbols from our keyboards will free up space for more important features, such as Smiley keys, which will make communication more accurate and efficient. 6 Removal of the punctuation keys will serve the same purpose. caps lock can go 2, and so can one of the shift keys, b/c we don’t rly optilze tht much.

To the future linguists: i propose that we develop a spokn version of our new language. in a world of instant food and fast-see “TXT TLK” NXT PG.
**HOROSCOPES**

By: Jennifer Shubilla

Astrology, as defined by Webster, is a study of the positions and relationships of the sun, moon, stars, and planets in order to judge their influence on human actions. Although astrology is said to have no actual scientific foundation, many, many devout followers believe astrology is a valid method for better understanding earthly occurrences and human nature. Even larger a group than the believers and naysayers, however, are those who are completely indifferent when it comes to debating whether or not astrology is a true science, take it with a grain of salt, and enjoy reading their horoscopes for pure entertainment. Whatever category you fall into, we hope you enjoy our astrological predictions. This issue is an overall look at the month of February.

**Aries (March 21-April 19):**
Your fiery personality will be greatly appreciated around the middle of the month, particularly in the workplace. Take this opportunity to display your assertive and ambitious side, but don't overdo it! Others may be intimidated by your competitive drive, so assert yourself without being overbearing. People in higher positions than you will take notice of the zest and passion you put forth in all you do.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):**
Valentine's Day will reach its maximum enjoyment potential if and only if you put aside your stubborn tendencies in the days coming up to it. Not everything has to be your way! Give in a little bit, and you'll be pleasantly surprised.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21):**
Your gift of gab has done wondrous things for you in the past, but it has also gotten you into a bit of trouble too, hasn't it? Be sure you know where to draw the line because towards the end of the month you will be in a position where your opinion will be needed and you can either speak eloquently and gain the respect of your peers, or come off as a mischievous know-it-all.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22):**
Your nurturing spirit will be put to the test this month as the news of a new addition to your extended family comes up! Whether it's in regards to a human or just a new pet, your natural maternal/paternal instincts are always spot-on. You bring just the right amount of warmth to make anyone feel comfortable.

**Leo (July 23-August 22):**
You've been needing a vacation, right? This month the stars align to help put travel at the top of your priority list. With a little research, you will finally plan the perfect getaway that will be both cost efficient and fun!

**Virgo (August 23-September 22):**
You may run into a little controversy with a close friend at the beginning of the month. Though you'll both be frustrated and say some harsh things, your heightened intuition will help you find a peaceful resolution and your relationship will be stronger than ever.

**Libra (September 23-October 22):**
You've never had too much of a problem keeping up with your coursework, but this month you find school actually empowering. Your charming energy really impresses a professor mid-month and with his aid, you uncover a few hidden talents you never knew you had! You might even reconsider your whole career path because of this discovery.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21):**
You're always practical when it comes to money. This month, your cash earning potential is sky-high, so feel free to make a few minor indulgences that you normally stay from, for example, a massage, a weekend away, a good concert, a fancy dinner, etc. Don't worry, you won't be put out.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21):**
Sometimes you seem like a contradiction, adventurous yet extremely guarded. This month, throw some caution to the wind. The planets have aligned to create some great adventures that you'd likely enjoy, if only you follow your gut instinct and partake in them!

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19):**
People always say you've got to go through the bad to get to the good. Following this logic, you shouldn't be shaken when you fall upon a few days of bad luck around the beginning of the month, because almost immediately after you will notice a drastic change in fortune – specifically in the money area!

**Aquarius (January 20-February 18):**
You've been feeling a little stressed out with a certain job, but have swallowed your pride and continued to try to work it out, but these attempts have been in vain. Take a stand already! You've never been shy about defending yourself before. This could be amazingly liberating and don't fear that you will lose out – opportunity will come knocking shortly after.

**Pisces (February 19-March 20):**
You are magnificently artistic, but sometimes you shy away from letting others see your creative spirit. This is the month to break out of your shell and show the world what you've got! Keep working on those stories, paintings, whatever it is that you're passionate about – they can open many doors for you!
By Mike Smith

Everyone has watched MTV’s True Life at least once. The show that follows young adults around and captures their triumphs and hardships hits very close at home to some viewers. The different perspectives and aspects of life that are shown make even the most docile teen feel invigorated to change their ways, or embrace a new lifestyle. Showing what it’s like to be a sumo wrestler or being addicted to crystal meth can be a very eye opening experience. What about different stories that have not yet been told? What about the students who think their own situation is worth showing the world? We’re commuters.

I knew that by living at home and commuting I would be putting a lot of miles on my car and spending plenty of money on gas. I live in Bloomsburg, which is the second farthest commute I have encountered from talking to students on campus. From my house to the campus here, it is 44.6 miles according to MapQuest.com, which translates to 54 minutes of driving time. Over the whole semester this adds up to 10,704 miles, and $1,056 in gas.

After the realization of gas and miles set in, I found another predicament that made me uneasy. I never realized how much time I would lose just in traveling. Going to and from school four times a week means I spend seven and a half hours behind the wheel. This could be time spent sleeping, studying, or anything else productive.

By getting up earlier for classes (6:00 AM alarm for an 8:00 class) and getting home later at the end of the day, similar tasks such as meeting with professors, working on group projects, or just meeting friends are made much more difficult.

There are pros and cons of commuting, living in an apartment, or living on campus. Each living situation has its own advantages and disadvantages and choosing which combination best fits one’s needs is crucial to being comfortable and happy with school. These circumstances would make or break a student’s college career, and need to be thoroughly considered.

INSIDE LOOK
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

New York City student life for four months, after four weeks in Italy, she is pleased with her choice. Though the program has only just begun, Sarah has attended classes, spent a weekend in Florence, gone to the opening of an art show in Siena and shopped at the open-air markets. She, too, feels the language barrier is difficult to get past, but in her limited time in Italy, she has been able to communicate with the local people and learn the value of studying another culture hands-on.

During this semester, Sarah will also visit Brussels, Luxembourg, and Strasbourg for the European Union Study Tour, as well as numerous excursions.

There is a study abroad program for nearly anyone wishing to broaden the horizons of the major, or even just spend a few months immersed in another culture. If you’re not sure if studying abroad is right for you, just think about whether or not you’d really like a chance at learning about another culture from the people who live there, and then talk to your advisor.

Members of the Wilkes-Barre Collegian:

Matthew Biscontini
Marc Cosgrove
Kristen Durso
Sarah Ferrier
Alexander Freeman
Melissa Gunshannon
Marzitte Kome
Gregory Kostobala
Tessa Lyady
Tessa Maciejaszek
Amanda Panuski
Jennifer Shubilla
Donna Smith
Mike Smith
Nicholas Sutrisko
Desiree Thorne
Jaquana Windsor

Steven Putzel
Jackie Warnick-Piatt

Events: in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Area
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

ture performances by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, Sara Evans, the Best of Broadway – Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Engelbert Humperdinck.

If you’re willing to travel that extra 20 minutes to reach Scranton, you won’t be disappointed. The Scranton Cultural Center has added the NEPA Philharmonic, Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy from the NEPA Broadway Theatre League, A Stitch in Time, Michael Flatley’s Lord of the Dance, Sweet Potato Pie & Such, and a performance by comedian George Carlin.

You can find more information on the Lands at Hillside Farms at www.thelandsathillsidefarms.com or by calling 570-696-4500. Information and tickets for events at the F.M. Kirby Center or the Scranton Cultural center can be purchased through www.ticketmaster.com or by calling the Kirby Center Box Office, 570-826-1100 or the Scranton Cultural Center Box Office, 570-344-1111
The scent of succulent turkey seasoned with nothing but poultry seasoning and the homemade stuffing wedged inside it A made-from-scratch pie finishing its last few minutes in the oven The juices of fresh blueberries bubbling in the pan The dough cooking to a perfect golden-brown The scents did no justice to how the food actually tasted Sweet, cooked carrots; light, whipped, but tery mashed potatoes; seasoned turkey cooked to perfection I cannot remember the conversation at dinner Nor can I recall why we laughed so hard while we played cards at the table for two hours after dinner But four hours in a car was hardly a price to pay For a delicious meal, a warm, soft bed, and a place where I was welcomed Open armed and no questions asked
My Antique Hourglass
By Sarah Ferrier

My antique hourglass
resting on my bedside table.
It fills me with such worry;
what if it shatters
before the black sand stops falling?

A gift from my dear old mother;
she told me to keep it safe
until the sad song of the sand
can never be heard again.
She had one too, just like it;
a gift from her mother.
It will be my job to give one to my child.

As I watch the sand steadily descend,
memories fade in and out.
I have seen many things with this beautiful antique.
It is so old and fragile; with a simple
bump of the table,
black sand is freed from its glass prison.
My antique hourglass.

more poems on page 11

Unchanged Beauty
By Melissa Gunshannon

Long, sleek, flowing black hair,
Wrapping around a slender body of milk white.
Piercing brown eyes shine out to survey the world.
From birth, she was affectionate, caring, unjudging.

Now, 70 years later, her brilliant black hair flecked with spots of white,
Her movements slowed by the pains of arthritis and aging,
She is even more affectionate, caring, and unjudging.
Always seeking to please others because it makes her truly happy.
Few are lucky to such a beautiful best friend.