Sarah Yarnell, a freshman at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, joined for different reasons. “With my friend Ashley already sick, it was kind of neat to help other kids with the same problem,” Yarnell said. Yarnell’s friend is 16 years old and suffers from Ewing’s sarcoma, which, according to www.cancerindex.org, “can occur in any bone in the body; the most common sites are the pelvis, thigh, lower leg, upper arm, and rib,” and can also affect the soft-tissue of the body. “I’m really excited to be with all those kids who for one day can just forget about how sick they are and just have fun,” Yarnell said. “I’m amazed at how well Ashley’s attitude is for her situation, and I think children who deal with this are so strong and such an encouragement.”

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My fellow Penn Staters,

For five consecutive semesters, it has been the privilege of the Collegian staff to provide you with interesting, informative, and at times unusual reading material covering a vast array of campus news, sports, feature stories, opinion pieces, and entertainment. It has been our goal to keep the Penn State Wilkes-Barre community up to date on the most recent campus happenings and upcoming events, thereby encouraging greater interest and participation in campus affairs. Run by students, for students, and starring students, The Collegian strives to fairly represent the whole of the Penn State Wilkes-Barre student body. Still, we on The Collegian often find ourselves limited to our own experiences, and at times may represent only the views, values, and interests of a small factor of our student body. We are not here to represent only the contributors to The Collegian. We are here to represent the student body as a whole. We are here to represent you.

What matters to the students of Penn State Wilkes-Barre? What are our dreams, fears, hopes, plans, insights, and motivations? The small handful of Collegian reporters is scouring the campus with cameras and notepads, conducting interviews and preserving the best and worst of our findings in print, but we continue to seek new ways to receive more feedback from you. It’s time our readers were given the opportunity to respond to and interact with The Collegian. Disagree with something you’ve read in our paper? Want to see us cover something specific? Feeling inclined to chime in and give your two cents on an issue without becoming a full-fledged, nosy, notepad-toting Collegian reporter? You now have a chance to do just that. In fact, we need you to if we are to achieve our goal of representing the varied voices of our fellow classmates from one pole of this campus to the other, from the secluded basement of the Tech Center to the bustling gymnasium.

The process leading to the completion of each issue is a challenging one, but no less educational and entertaining. While we on the Collegian develop our skills and gain valuable experience in the production of a newspaper, we are asking you the readers to provide a source of feedback, encouragement, and (if you’re brave enough to mess with the press) criticism. However, The Collegian isn’t just a compilation of practice articles put together for our own personal enjoyment, but a campus-wide conversation: a forum where students can respond to students, voice their own opinions, debate, encourage, and learn from one another. A good newspaper gets people thinking; a successful newspaper gets people talking. We are here to get you talking, and to provide you the space to let your voice be heard.

The staff of the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Collegian invites you to join in the discussion and contribute to upcoming issues by emailing us at wbcollegian@gmail.com. Questions, comments, letters to the editor, and reactions to anything you’ve read within these pages are encouraged. Anonymous submissions will not be printed. We shall eagerly await your reply.

Sincerely,

Donna Smith
Editor-in-Chief

Happy Valentines Day
From The Collegian!

Matthew Biscontini
Hollie Browning
Jeremy Burgess
Chad Dewing
Brian Dowd
Suheiry Feliciano
Melissa Gunshannon
Tammara Lewis
Raven Little
Michelle Llewellyn
Richard McGavin
Briana Mitchell
Amanda Nolan
Andrew Race
Gencina Ricca
Matthew Rutschky
Kali Sanders
Donna Smith
Roger Sporre
Desiree Thorne
Dr. Steven Putzel
PS W-B Student Performs at the Inaugural Parade

Donna Smith

Penn State Wilkes-Barre engineering major Bryan McLaughlin didn’t watch the Inauguration on Tuesday, January 20. He didn’t have the luxury of sitting comfortably in the Barry Auditorium where the live event was displayed on a large screen. From where he was situated, McLaughlin could hear the President’s voice on some loudspeakers, but couldn’t quite see the television through the surrounding crowd. He didn’t get to enjoy our free hot dogs courtesy of the Campus Environment Team and the Student Activities Fee. Instead of a free hot dog, McLaughlin was treated to a turkey sandwich (“a really bad turkey sandwich,” actually) courtesy of the United States government.

While our students, staff, and faculty congregated to watch the show, McLaughlin was in Washington, D.C., preparing to be in it.

A baritone player for only the past year of his life, McLaughlin found out in December of 2008 that he would have the chance to march in the Inaugural Parade on January 20 with the renowned Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps of Allentown, Pennsylvania. McLaughlin auditioned for the Cadets in November of 2008 and was asked shortly thereafter to be a part of the group’s Inaugural Parade performance. The Cadets, comprised of 150 members from around the world ranging in age from 18 to 22, travel throughout the summer performing for audiences of thousands on a nightly basis, and frequently perform at major events such as the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, Bowl games, and the Olympics. “It’s basically like a marching band on steroids,” McLaughlin said. “It’s really an honor to be in this group anyway, and then to do it in the parade was really incredible!” McLaughlin pointed out that the Inaugural Parade was his first performance with the Cadets.

“We only had to know two songs for the parade, and we just alternated between those,” said McLaughlin. Though the group knew in December that they would be performing in the parade, they only rehearsed on the two nights prior to the event. “We did have a mock parade the day before in Woodstown, New Jersey. We did that just to get a feel for what playing in that weather is like, because usually we only play in the summer or indoors.

“The actual day was hectic,” McLaughlin said. The group pulled out at 2:00 on Tuesday morning, arriving in Washington around 5:30 AM, where they were awoken to stand outside for an hour at a security checkpoint. “Then we got a breakfast and a boxed lunch from the government because they had to throw out all of our food. They gave us muffins and juice for breakfast and a dry turkey sandwich for lunch, which was all we had to eat that day.”

After several hours and two meals on a parked bus, the Cadets were escorted to the Ellipse where they congregated with the other performing groups who would be in the parade. “We got off the bus and went into the ‘warming tents.’ There were probably 300 or 400 people in the tent, and there were two TVs in there.

Continued on Page 4
Everyone was trying to crowd around to watch the ceremony. We could hear it through the speakers, but I couldn’t see the TV. When he took his oath, you could hear cheering from all around, not just in the tent but from literally the whole city.”

McLaughlin and his fellow Cadets left the warming tent following President Barack Obama’s inaugural address, and, after four more hours of waiting outside in the cold, finally began marching around 4:45 PM. “We had no idea what time it really was, because we didn’t have watches or cell phones or anything. The parade was only 45 minutes long.

“We had one drummer who left early and came back right before the parade started, because he had some pretty bad frostbite setting in. It was really tough to play in that temperature with a wind chill of five below. With a brass instrument, you have to buzz into it with your lips, you can’t just blow into it, so your lips are really tense. It’s tough to keep an instrument in tune. The valves freeze when it’s that cold.”

McLaughlin explained that keeping in step and maintaining good posture were his biggest concerns during the parade, and the hours of waiting in the cold had caused his muscles to become cramped, making the march more challenging. “The instrument that I play – the bari...
Girls’ Basketball

Terrysha Lewis

Who are we? Penn State! Who are we? Penn State, 1, 2, 3... W-B! This is what the women of the Penn State Wilkes-Barre women’s basketball team chant as they go into each game. New this semester to the team is # 40, a junior by the name of Mary Kirlan from Tunkhannock High School. For those in the dark about the Penn State Wilkes-Barre women’s basketball team, they did in fact bring home their very first victory ever on the Wilkes-Barre campus. On December 12, 2008, the women ended the fall semester with a win that will go down in history against Penn State Hazleton. This victory touched the heart of Coach Jack Monick in a special place that night. As the minutes and seconds counted down, Monick danced on the side line, watching as the women excitedly ended the game with a score of 53-45. This is what sophomore Jason Goodridge had to say when asked to analyze the team since the start of the season last year: “This year there was a victory. That’s a big step in the right direction. Last year there were less points being made and less intense games. I was here last year when this women’s team was new. It’s nice to see the vast difference between the two years.”

We can all learn a thing or two from the Penn State Wilkes-Barre women’s basketball team. No matter what, these dedicated women give their all, they never lose hope, and they fight until the end because they know the day will come for them to shine in the spotlight. This was confirmed by freshman Brieana Mitchell. When asked what comes to mind when she thinks about the women’s basketball team, Mitchell said, “A group of individuals who are able to rise above losses and still work as a team.” At the end of the day, the Penn State Wilkes-Barre women’s basketball team is more than a team; they are a family. Goodridge added, “[They are] a great group of girls and good friends of mine.” If you haven’t been to one of the women’s basketball games, you are definitely missing out. It’s an hour of dribbling, boxing out, three point shooting, and entertainment that is unmatchable. Look for the upcoming games on the blue screen and support our campus teams!

Bored? Join a Club!
Penn State Wilkes-Barre’s Student Clubs

Suheiry Feliciano

How often do you find yourself wishing you had a chance to meet and bond with your classmates at Penn State Wilkes-Barre? It’s hard to get to know your peers if you only see them in class. The solution? Join a club! There are thirteen active student clubs and organizations at PS W-B. These are generally open to all students on campus and funded by the Student Activity Fee (SAFee), a.k.a YOUR MONEY. Clubs provide a fun way to enhance your education and meet new people with similar interests.

The Collegian

The Penn State Wilkes-Barre Collegian is a student-run monthly newspaper that covers past and future campus events, features, creative writing, and much more. Anyone can join. “There seems to be a misconception that you have to be a writer to join, but in fact we always welcome help in areas such as photography, layout, and advertising,” assures president and editor, Donna Smith. This club meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:10 in H212. For more information, contact Donna Smith at dss235@psu.edu.

Engineering Club

“It is meant to provide a place for engineers to meet and discuss class work or homework, and explore various engineering firms to ensure that they are in the right major,” explains President David Gernhart about the Engineering Club. Membership is open to all students, but is most beneficial to engineering majors. This club meets Fridays at 12:30 in Tech Center 24. For more information, contact David Gernhart at dag5112@psu.edu.

Four Seasons Club

The Four Seasons Club is an all-season activity club. Activities include hiking, camping, canoeing, white water rafting, and snowboarding. “It gets people involved on campus outside of the classroom environment,” says President Tom Van Horn. This club meets Mondays at 12:15 in GYM 101. For more information, contact Tom Van Horn at tvn5000@psu.edu.

Lazy Artists Surviving Society

Lazy Artists Surviving Society “promotes both individual art and art on campus,” explains Jeremy Burgess, club president. Current projects include a mural painting in the Radio Club room. Upcoming events are being planned. This club meets Fridays at 12:00 in the lower level of the Academic Commons. For more information, contact Jeremy Burgess at jdb426@psu.edu.

Lion Ambassadors

The purpose of the Lion Ambassadors is to provide services for the campus and admission for various activities. “[It] provides communication between students so that way students don’t just come to school and go home,” says David Gernhart, president of the club. This club meets at 12:20 on Mondays in the ARB. For more information, contact David Gernhart, at dag5112@psu.edu.

Penn State Wilkes-Barre Business Club

The purpose of the PS W-B Business Club is to educate its members about the many aspects of business, and further their professional development. According to Jim Haggerty, club president, members have the opportunity to take “the knowledge learned in the classroom and apply it to real world situations.” The PS W-B Business Club also brings in business professionals as special guest speakers. This club meets Tuesdays at 12:15 in ARB 101. For more information, contact Jim Haggerty at jdh5124@psu.edu.

Student Government Association

“I got involved because I wanted to serve my fellow students,” states Mark Calore, SGA president. SGA provides a medium for students to voice their concerns, while providing support to campus clubs, explains Calore. Anyone can join. SGA meets Wednesdays at 12:15 in Hayfield 105. For more information, contact Mark Calore at mrc5117@psu.edu.

Additional Clubs Include:
ARK
College Democrats
Honors Society
Lambda Sigma
Students for Justice
Surveying Society

For more information on these clubs, see Jackie Warnick-Piatt, Coordinator of Student Activities, in the Student Commons.
A.J. Race

On Thursday January 29, Penn State Wilkes-Barre THON hosted a dodgeball tournament. Teams were comprised of six members each, and the cost to participate was $5 per person. All proceeds go to the PSU W-B THON, which donates money to the Four Diamonds Fund for children with cancer. The organizer of the tournament, Dan Elbich, said, "I think it is great! Everyone is invited to participate in this tournament, no matter what school they may attend. This will hopefully bring more attention to our campus and location. Also we can build a strong foundation of support to all students to participate in fun events to fundraise. The goal is to raise money for THON and have a blast doing it."

THON Chairperson Courtney Senghaas said excitedly, "This was a great way to raise money for a great cause. Hopefully students from the other colleges coming here will get motivated to join the THON cause. This showed everyone how great our campus really is and how great and generous our students are!"

The dodgeball tournament was really a fun time, and we would like to thank Penn State Worthington-Scranton for previously holding a successful tournament that gave us the idea to hold this one. Remember, "If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball!"

Gencina Ricca

Maybe you served in the military for a few years and came home to start your life again, or perhaps you were home raising a family and taking care of your house, or maybe you were like me, not sure what you were doing and not wasting any more money trying to figure it all out. Whatever reason you had for waiting to further your education, coming back to school is a choice that you have made. Here at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, adult learners make up about 26% of our student body. This campus has students from all stages of life, but with the same common goal: to continue their education and fight like hell to get that degree!

If you are a traditional college student, you’re probably wondering why anyone would choose to come here to further their education as an adult learner. For one thing, the faculty at Penn State is willing to do whatever they can to help you reach your educational goals. You also have the choice of enrolling as either a part-time or full-time student, with the option of taking daytime or evening classes. Another advantage Penn State offers students is a variety of programs and online courses you can take that will work best to fit your schedule. Even though most adult learners have many more responsibilities vying for their attention than the average college-age student, research shows that most adult learners succeed in reaching their set educational goals, and are typically more successful than younger students. This is mainly because adult learners have a great of what’s at stake if they don’t succeed: a lot of hard-earned money, and maybe even their jobs or families.

If you are a non-traditional student, like me, you may feel strange being older and sitting in a classroom with 18, 19, and 20-year-olds. However, there is a level of maturity, as well as your life experiences, that you can bring into the classroom. Who knows – maybe you can teach other students a few things as you go. Other people may be relying on you to finish and reach the goals that you have set for yourself, or maybe you’re sick of your job and want more out of life than the mundane routine you’ve been living for the last couple of years. Whatever your reasons for coming to school here at Penn State, you made a good decision. Hang in there. The end may be further away than you were hoping for, but it’s still in sight!
Love around Campus

Raven Little
Name: Nicholas Finelli
Major: Animal Sciences
Q- What is your ideal Valentine’s Day?
A- “I would have to say it would start off with a girl sending me flowers, and then she would take me out to eat, which she will be paying. I haven’t had anyone to buy me dinner in a long time, but sorry girls, I’m taken.”
Q- What are your true feelings on Valentine’s Day?
A- “To me, Valentine’s Day is another day where I spend more money than I would on any other day out of the year.”
Q- Why isn’t Valentine’s Day as important to guys as it is to girls?
A- “The day has no sentimental value to me. It’s not our anniversary, so why put so much energy into this particular day?”

Name: Shelby Murren
Major: Molecular Bio
Q- Do you believe in love?
A- “Yes! The way I see it is if you put your heart on the line or want to love someone, if that person really cares, then they will be there to love you. I think that’s where love comes from: the inside.”
Q- Are you in love?
A- “Yes.” Shelby would not give any details, but I hope that special guy knows who he is.
Q- Do you believe in love at first sight?
A- “I kind of believe in love at first sight. It’s like when you first see someone, you just… you get a funny feeling inside. For me, it’s like when I see bold words on a piece of blank paper; they just jump out at you, the same thing like love at first sight.”

Name: Danielle Grasso
Major: Pre-Medicine
Q- What are your feelings on Valentine’s Day?
A- “It’s just about being with that special someone. For a girl like me, it’s not all about the gifts, even though I love getting chocolate-covered strawberries. It’s just a day out of the year when my boyfriend and I can be together and show each other more love than we would on any other day.”
Q- What’s your most memorable Valentine’s Day?
A- “Last year would have to be the best and most memorable Valentine’s Day. It was my senior year in high school and my boyfriend’s first year in college. He came back home and surprised me with chocolate-covered strawberries, of course, and flowers.”
Q- In your own words, define love.
A- “Love is that butterfly feeling that you get every time you see them. It is knowing that you can just be yourself and not have to always look your best. Being able to wear sweatpants instead of jeans. It’s knowing that they will always be there no matter what happens, and not only are they your boyfriend or girlfriend, but your best friend, that one person you can tell everything to, and will be by your side forever.”

Name: Terrysha Lewis
Major: Psychology
Q- What are your feelings on Valentine’s Day?
A- “Well this year Valentine’s Day is kind of making me feel sad, because people are making plans to be with a loved one and my boyfriend is so far way at school. So I won’t be able to see him, let alone be with him. So I’m not really looking forward to it.”
Q- What’s your take on blind dating?
A- “I would never blind date, because you don’t know the person. It would be like walking up to a random person off of street and saying, ‘Hey, let’s go out to eat tonight!’”
Q- If you could pick anyone to be your Valentine this year other than your boyfriend, who would it be and why?
A- “I would definitely have to be Obama, because he’s a good dancer and he’s a handsome, intelligent black man.”

Name: Jimmy Wynd
Major: Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology
Q- Do you believe in love?
A- “Yes, you could have good feelings toward someone and be in love.”
Q- What’s your most memorable Valentine’s Day?
A- “Last year, because it was the most recent, and I like that girl a lot.”
Q- Do you prefer being in a relationship or dating around?
A- “Dating around, because it’s hard for me to make a commitment. There are too many women in the world.”

Name: Malik Walker
Major: Women’s Studies
Q- Do you believe in love at first sight?
A- “No, because you can’t love someone if you don’t know them.”
Q- Are you in love?
A- “No, I am not. I find it hard to trust someone with my heart so it’s hard for me to love someone.”
Q- In your own words, define love.
A- “BLIND….”
**Reviews**

**Identical**

*Ellen Hopkins*

Told through the eyes of the novel’s two main characters, identical twins Kayleigh and Raeanne Gardella, *Identical* by Ellen Hopkins explores the lives of the two sixteen-year-olds while they struggle with high school. The twins are the daughters of a district-court judge father and a Congress woman mother. Outwardly, the family appears to be the picture-perfect, all-American family, however, looks can be deceiving and this family is not short on its own personal demons.

Ray, the twins’ alcoholic father, caused a horrible car accident when the twins were just 8 years old, and tore his loving family apart. Their mother, Kay, was severely injured and disfigured. After having many rounds of plastic surgery, Kay withdrew herself from her family by becoming a politician and spending all of her time on the campaign trail.

Although the twins are identical in every physical feature, they are polar opposites in personality. Each daughter has her own dark secret that she struggles with throughout the novel. Kayleigh is very much her mother’s daughter in personality, and as such is the outpost of her father’s misplaced love and affection. Raeanne, on the other hand, is Daddy’s little girl at heart and pines for his love and attention.

Kayleigh binges on food in a misguided attempt to disobey her father by trying to gain weight and make herself unappealing to him. Kayleigh is unable to accept pure love when it is offered to her by her life-long best friend Ian. In an effort to alleviate some of emotional pain, Kayleigh inflicts physical pain on herself by cutting. Despite her struggles against her horrid secret, Kayleigh remains a very good student and finds comfort in the company of an old woman who lives in the nursing home at which she works.

Raeanne on the other hand, is much the opposite of her sister. While Kayleigh feels guilt over her father’s sexual abuse, Raeanne finds herself jealous of her sister. Kayleigh is on the receiving end of her father’s affection, a place where Raeanne can only dream of being. Raeanne turns to sex, drugs, and alcohol in order to deal with her jealousy. Being the opposite of her sister, Raeanne purges her body in order to keep her perfect figure and attract her father.

The twins’ lives are quickly spiraling out of control, unnoticed by others in their lives. The secrets they are harboring are tearing them apart and they will need to rely on each other to overcome their addictions. Will they be able to ask for help in time? Or will it be too late for one of them?

The novel is full of twists and turns. The only thing the reader can come to depend on is to expect the unexpected. Hopkins’ use of free verse is truly unique, as is the alternating narration by each twin. The pattern of the words on each page reflect the tone of the story by forming pictures of letters, hearts, teardrops, or by becoming tighter in intense situations and more jagged and scattered for more complicated situations.

Having read all of Hopkins’ previous novels, I expected a captivating read and I was not disappointed. From the moment I picked the book up, I did not put it down until I finished the last page. The unexpected plot twist in the middle, and the final page of the novel give are truly the work of a literary genius. Hopkins truly created an original and compelling story line. She does not try to mask the sordidness of her tale, and vividly depicts explicit scenes of sex, eating disorders, and drug, and sexual abuse. The dark pressures and reality of teen life are beautifully and painfully depicted. Overall, it is my favorite of the Hopkins’ novels thus far, and the others were not at all disappointing. Most definitely a five-star read.

**Underworld: Rise of the Lycans**

*Chad Dewing*

Claws, hair, and teeth everywhere. *Underworld: Rise of the Lycans* is the latest installment in the Underworld film series. This episode is all about the revolt of the Lycans, basically werewolves, against their vampiric masters. If you have seen the previous two Underworld movies, you already know the gist of the story. The whole plot is based on the love story that is told in the first two movies. Despite the focus on the love story, there is still a good deal of action – tooth to claw and claw to sword. The plot of the film moves along smoothly, keeping its focus. If you have seen the first two films, you already know what is going to happen in terms of who wins what fight, but the new details make the battles and the love story more interesting. Fans of the Underworld series will appreciate the more in-depth back-story outlining what happened to bring about the Lycans, and how Lucian is the first real Lycan since those before him were stuck in their wolf forms.

If you, like me, happen to be a fan of monster movies, you will enjoy this movie, and if you are a fan of the series then you should really like it. But if this is your introduction to the series, you will probably find yourself a little confused, though you will still know what is going on. I give this movie 3 out of 4 lion paws. I personally like the Underworld series, so I like this movie. But for people who have never even heard of the series, I suggest they see something else.
Suheiry Feliciano

We generally view our commutes as merely a means of getting from one point to another. Some of us do not even consider them useful periods of time in our days. Concluding that my forty-five minute commute from Scranton was a waste of time, I decided to use it productively to explore different kinds of music. On those long drives, I’ve listened to everything from Bollywood soundtracks to a band called Salsa Celtica, from Mozart to Muse, from Leonora Lewis to the Beatles.

“It’s a Beautiful Morning”

I am by no means a morning person, so a 30-mile drive first thing in the morning is not the highlight of my day. To keep from swerving into the path of a destructive truck, I listen to upbeat music at this time.

Ironically, I discovered Salsa Celtica while watching the English movie, Driving Lessons. This band blends traditional Latin, such as salsa and cumbia, and Celtic music to produce a distinct sound. Salsa Celtica’s rendition of the traditional Auld Lang Syne is a fun alternative to the old favorite. It starts off with the familiar violin and transitions seamlessly into a slow cumbia, before jumping into an upbeat salsa beat. Esperanza is another great song that epitomizes their sound.

Mornings are also when I blast Bollywood soundtracks. Bollywood refers to Mumbai’s film-making industry. The name is a hybrid of the United State’s mecca of film (Hollywood) and Mumbai’s name during British colonization (Bali). Bollywood soundtracks generally feature dance numbers during the movie. These songs are usually upbeat, and blend modern and traditional Indian music.

“A Hard Day’s Night”

After a hard day at school or at work, a long commute can add to stress. Music can be a means to alleviate this stress. I recommend that all commuters make a special mix of songs to listen to after class, after work or any other time you need to unwind. My eclectic, but relaxing mix includes Somersault by Zero 7, Three Wishes by The Pierces, Burn that Broken Bed by Calexico and Iron & Wine, New Slang by The Shins, and Fall Into Me by Sepi music.

“New Classic”

Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, and so on. If you seriously plan to use your commute to educate yourself on different kinds of music, then you have to include a session on Classical music. Everything we listen to today has its roots in Classical music. NPR (National Public Radio) plays Classical Music in the mornings, doing a good job of playing music from different periods and by a variety of composers. They always give the name of the composer and composition.

“Classic” is a word with multiple meanings that gets thrown around with utter disregard to the actual age or quality of a song. Mozart is classical and the Beatles are classic. I like them both, and in this case support the use of the word “classic” to describe their music. The Beatles are brilliant in another way. They went from a boy-band that filled the world with silly love songs to bad boys who sang about hallucinogens, and still retained their status as one of the greatest bands of all times.

Good music transcends time and genre. Good music influences and inspires. Good music should be enjoyed and explored. Next time you are on a long and winding road, take advantage of the time you have and listen to something you have never heard before. You may learn something.

Success in a Faltering Economy

Michelle Llewellyn

A December report by MSNBC’s senior producer John W. Schoen stated, “Friday’s report showing the biggest monthly job loss in 34 years confirmed forecasters’ worst fears that the decline in the U.S. economy accelerated in November, after the financial system seized up and consumers hunkered down.” Most experts believe that the economy is still getting worse, as is the resulting and inevitably closely connected job market. So what does this mean for those of us who have recently graduated from college, and those of us who will be graduating soon? The answer is simple, but the solution is harder. Because there are fewer jobs available than there were in previous years, most jobs will be harder for us to get now. We need to be more competitive than those graduating before us have to get. We need to be smarter, more prepared, and generally better than everyone else applying for each job we apply for.

We can’t help but to be aware that our economy is close to, if not already in a recession. People aren’t spending, businesses are closing rapidly, the stock market is constantly crashing, the housing market is barely functioning, everyone is in debt, people are losing their jobs, and all of these problems are connected in a terrible economic cycle that affects us all.

William F. Engdahl of Global Research Ca in The Real State of the US Economy asks, “Can we have a sound banking system where the only functioning part is literally insolvent—its debts greater than its assets?” The answer to this fundamental question of economics is, of course, no! The economy can’t function, or at least function properly, if it doesn’t have any real money.

Because the economy is struggling, so is the job market, which is likely the aspect of the economy most important to the individual. According to the Bureau of Labour Statistics, the Unemployment Rate in December of 2008 had risen to 7.2%. Notably, in July of 2008 it was only 5.8%. We can see that at this rate of increase, unemployment may reach a staggering rate of 10% very soon. Only 90% of us may be employed.

President Barack Obama does have a plan to combat the rising unemployment rate. The plan is grand and ambitious. Obama warns that “the nation’s economy could become dramatically worse without major federal investment,” and his plan includes “a stimulus package that would cost at least $820 billion,” we are told by Phillip Rocker of The Washington Post.

Even if President Obama’s plan is approved it will undoubtedly take time to change our current economic situation. We will still have to face high unemployment rates when we graduate from college. We will have to compete with several, if not many others for the jobs that we want. So what should we do to guarantee that we are not one of the 7.2%, or 10% who may be unemployed? Randall S. Hansen, Ph.D., in Job-Hunting in a Weak Job Market: 5 Strategies for Staying Upbeat (and Improving Your Chances of Success), says, “When you are seeking a new job you are basically marketing yourself to prospective employers.” Hansen tells us to review and perfect our product, which includes our accomplishments, promotion, cover letters, resumes, interviewing technique, distribution channels (which are our contacts), and finally, our pricing, or our idea of our value in relation to a prospective employer. If we review and perfect these things, we will improve our chances of getting the jobs that we want in a job market where this is much harder to do than it once was.

We can get our dream jobs; we just have to work a little harder to get them than we would have had to a few years ago. The economy is struggling, and consequently and in relation so are we, but if we plan and then work, change will happen, and this change will eventually be economic improvement.
**MY SISTER, MY BEST FRIEND**

Raven Little

Since fourth grade you were there for me from our first fight to our first date
We shared every thing.
We were like one and two if there was no me there was no you
Best friends till the end we just knew we would be
so why aren't you standing right by me
I told you that boy was no good
He was trouble
I told you stay in school and I'll help you
We'll stick together like jello
My sister, my friend, why did this happen?
I got the call two days before your birthday
I drove for hours not knowing where to begin
Because it was supposed to be the beginning,
not the end.
My best friend, my sister, why did you leave me?
You're a child of god and your child a product of you
but he never got to see his aunt not even his momma
I play back the night we went to red lobster
We talked about everybody even the sun
I miss my best friend
I miss my sister
I would of gave my life for you and that baby boy
All I can do is pray to my angel and think how
different life could've been
ASHLEY S. STEPHES I'm going to live for us.
I'll never let you down.
Take care of my godson and save me a spot
where we can talk and watch the angels play.

**The Creative Mind**

Hollie Browning

Sometimes this gift is too hard.
You feel and think too much.
Sometimes words come to me at odd hours
and awkward moments in time.

Yesterday I drove passed a frozen lake
The sun big and bright stood still upon its' surface,
blinding my sight, and finally I knew I could write.

Into my head the poetry came
and along with it, a predictament;
Do I drive and write or find a place to pull over
and chance the loss of such beautiful words?

A writer describes the day.
An artist paints or draws her description.
We both work close together.
We both have dry spells
and we both overcome them.

The modern-day writer has no shame,
her boundaries are limitless,
her competition; endless.

Sometimes these gifts are too hard.

**Time's Lullaby**

Nicole Navoczynski

Time sits, an old man in a rocking chair
Outside a house as decrepit as he
No patience to rebuild the broken,
not the strength,
For age has made him weak and his bones, brittle
His heart stings as though pierced by a hive of bees.
He sports black slacks with grey socks
and perfectly, polished shoes, so bright
that neighbors could surely see their reflection
But no one ever really did.
He became bitter and grew accustomed to reeking of Jack, Jim, Jose
and grape-flavored cigars he chewed as minutes were swept under the rug.
His blushing bride left the day he became obsessed
with his reflection
Everyday, watching the youthfulness deteriorating,
Searching beyond his sunken, empty eyes
or the way his skin began to sag,
Applying all types of creams in the vain hope of curing the inevitable
At 3:00 am, the devil came.
Time stood still. Silent and uneasy.
He took a gulp of the air and tasted death
A life wasted away,
As the clock still stands defiant.

**FEELINGS OF LOVE**

Raven Little

Her palms get sweaty when she thinks of his name.
He walks into a room and everything around her is in vain.
Just to feel his touch completes her, as he walks up to greet her.
Her knees get weak when he kisses her on the cheek.
His smile makes her melt something she never felt.
Their eyes meet and she feels her heart drop to her feet.
Their eyes are lock saying something they can only understand
I love you and you'll always be my man.

**MY BRAND MAN**

Raven Little

On the outside hes as tough as bounty just like Scott he's so soft at night,
like Tony the tiger “he likes the things i do”
his personality is like the fruit loops in my bowl;
colorful as the rainbow but like Snapple hes all natural
and like Colgate he regains his freshness
i love him like crest cuz he's alcohol free and gives me vitamin E
like Ronald McDonald he has a smile on but like my Dori-tos
he'll always be my favorite cuz he's spicy, sweet, and free.
The Penn State Wilkes-Barre Collegian

Advertise In The Collegian

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To request information or to place an ad, contact Dr. Steven Putzel at 570-675-9136. (Sdp4@psu.edu)

*All ads are subject to approval by the Collegian staff.*
Fun Page!!

**THON Word Search**
Melissa Gunshannon

P B L R H K Y C A K J R Y R C D Y H E E L P L K
N O D H F C Y B W W C H P Z M Y C Q W Z B G W J
D Q D R K N S H R K P B L V E R S Z W J I F N
E G A R U O C N C N F K G H L Y R V S Z T G B
K D V O L D Y P W D N S T E C L M D G O I E
H K H M T I N Z G T Y R L F U M S K O S T N W M
Z Y W H H S F X I V E A D M P D K M T G B N P
M D L G K L J I H R P M A Y Q K F N C D E H
I G O S S H O X T L H Q R L B T J Q O T J O R S
K N W J C T D K F N U L U V F H G I M Y P S P F
O S V P D H R I B J T V M O J E R J U R A D
P X R M O C G N U A O I T F V P B C L W O J B
E H N E R Y J D F G X U P N V C I T W V E H N R
F B P O C R C B K T C A J H V B U K M X T F
G U P D Q N V H A F L H O N E S T Y I G K I M D
F D Z N X U A F M H E G I D N J I F S T R S U W
K P J L B L C C P W X R H F P L H I H F Y R T
D D K N Q I M X K S I K E H T R O F K F T C U
L F B K W X P O J D O F P K M X J F B M Y R E D
K V F O U R D I A M O N D S V W B Z K N D O P Y
L J C H D P W S D F V N U B U C L M I A N F J U
D T E H B I C O L L E G I A N J C T W M G B F P

Back Page Feature

**Valentine's Day Word Search**
Melissa Gunshannon

H A J I F K C D A H C X C M D J L M C W P Z N
X U N S G Q M V Y F H L M R T X C V C Z B Z V N
L D N R K N S H R I P K E V Y A P H S U N S K F
B H D I L B V F O S M J E R P I D U X K W L F G
F J L R M U C S D S V N U T D C E G H Q D E R C
M D Z N X E K E F W C T R H N P F O U G C A I
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N P V G I D N J I G S H F B U T W J K M V G P F
G U E A D K N Q I M X G I K H R O S E S H O J P
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L J D U M L N V H C N F K G B E D L D M I T G K
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U D B K W X P O I N D K E Y F B N K G U J
N A R M F C Y B W H E P B Z C E Y T I S A Y K G
T E W X R H F P L N I A E S T R C B O Y L D M J
R P O B L M J R V K A X K F D U R V C J G A P G
K P V T V L D Y P M E H J C U K L D O C Z E
N P E I T R A E H F P J Q C P R E K M B U S L N
S Q P N B L D H O H E B L R O M A N C E G J I P

Be Mine
Candy
Heart
Kiss
Love
Red
Romance
Roses
Valentine