Are We Fair Yet?  
Brieana Mitchell - bsm5078@psu.edu

In the year 2008, America took one of its largest political strides ever. The people elected the first African-American President of the United States of America. You would think with such a tour de force, the narrow minds of some in our country would finally be agreeable to change. But so, President Barack Obama has worked very hard to win over America’s skeptics, starting with trying to undo the damage done his predecessors. With his numerous transformational ideas, Obama has done everything from trying to improve the status of health care for all Americans to creating a “stimulus” package called American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan. This particular plan creates jobs in the short-term while promoting longer term economic growth and competitiveness. The package will focus on providing assistance to both low and middle-income Americans, strengthening the nation’s infrastructure, and investing in states that are struggling with falling revenues. The goal is to create and preserve at least three million jobs over the next two years. This plan was created for everyone alike; too bad the President does not always receive the same respect.

Many believe that because of this advance in America’s history, race is no longer an issue in our country. However, many contributing factors show that minorities (not just African-Americans) in the US, no matter how prominent they are, are still not getting the treatment they want and deserve, even after being a part of the United States fellowship just as long (or as even longer) many of our white counterparts.

Discrimination within the workforce may be the best place to start. According to the Bureau of Labor Statics, the national unemployment rate declined in January to the seasonally adjusted rate of 9.7% from 10.0% in December. The rate beat consensus expectations that it would remain unchanged at 10.0%. With the unemployment rate beginning to decrease, one would expect that jobs of 9.7% from 10.0% in December. The rate beat consensus expectations that it would remain unchanged at 10.0%. With the unemployment rate beginning to decrease, one would expect that jobs of 9.7% from 10.0% in December. The rate beat consensus expectations that it would remain unchanged at 10.0%. With the unemployment rate beginning to decrease, one would expect that jobs of 9.7% from 10.0% in December. The rate beat consensus expectations that it would remain unchanged at 10.0%. With the unemployment rate beginning to decrease, one would expect that jobs of 9.7% from 10.0% in December. The rate beat consensus expectations that it would remain unchanged at 10.0%. With the unemployment rate beginning to decrease, one would expect that jobs of 9.7% from 10.0% in December. The rate beat consensus expectations that it would remain unchanged at 10.0%. With the unemployment rate beginning to decrease, one would expect that jobs of 9.7%

Rosa Parks  
Cait Akins - cla198@psu.edu

Slavery in the United States began in August 1619 at Jamestown, Virginia. Slavery was abolished by Congress in April 1862, and the thirteenth amendment was ratified in December 1865. Even though African Americans were no longer slaves, they were still treated poorly by white citizens of America. It was not due to lack of trying; people did not give them a chance to make something of themselves. Rallies were held and protests were started, but there were still two separate bathrooms, water fountains, schools, playgrounds, and busses. After a long day of work in 1955, a brave woman decided nobody was any better than she was, and she was not going to give up her front seat to a white man.

Born and raised in Tuskegee, Alabama on February 4, 1913, Rosa attended all black school within walking distance from her home. Approximately sixty students taught by one teacher were all crammed into one room. This one-room school house was not as nice as the white kid’s school, which was only a town over. The black school had no heat; in the winter the older boys had to chop wood for the small potbelly stove, though the warm air escaped through the wood shutters on the windows and the holes in the walls before it could warm the shivering students.

The white school was brick with no holes in the walls; it had glass windows, heat, running water, and electricity. The black school was in a converted run-down building for which the city had no use. The white school was built with the taxpayers’ money; taxpayers consisted of both black and white parents. Rosa came from a poor family, and when she realized it was her parents paying for the white school through taxes, she began to realize blacks and whites were not treated equally.

When Rosa was in sixth grade, her walk to school was longer. On her way to school she would see black people being treated very differently from white people. As days passed and Rosa continued to walk to school, she began to see and feel the effects of segregation. She began to notice the two water fountains, the two diners, the bathrooms for blacks and the bathrooms for whites. She really upset her. Most of the time Rosa realized there was nothing she could do about it and just kept walking, other times she tried to test the limits, but shied away. Rosa eventually dropped out.

In his issue

2. Continuations of Articles & Upcoming Events
3. Advertisements and Continuation
4. Haiti, Legalize it!, Whose your match?
5. Jersey Shore, MLK Day, Gambling
6. Writers Corner, Letter to Cupid, Personals
7. Dr. Stefon, Letter from the Editor
8. A Lifelong Mistake

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Hanging out with other local college students at this social event brought to you by PSDWB SGA!

For more info contact Alex Seasock at ams6064@psu.edu
Olympics - Continued from Page 1

most decorated figure skaters of our time; given she keeps up the pace she has set herself with.

Ice hockey is another main attraction of Winter Olympics, boasting more superstars than any other sport within the U.S. These top hockey players are sprinkled throughout almost every nation participating. Sidney Crosby, the NHL’s top player, is lacing up his skates for team Canada, just a year after winning the Stanley Cup with the Pittsburgh Penguins. Just his presence in the lineup sets the Canadians up as the early favorite. It is not far-fetched to picture the Americans winning a medal, though winning Gold seems highly unlikely. The U.S. player to watch is the presumed starting goalie Tim Thomas.

Arguably, the most popular sport in Vancouver for the 2010 Winter Olympics will be snowboarding. A case can be made that it is so popular because it is fun to watch, and a solid portion of viewers know how to snowboard. Between the gravity-defying jumps and high-speed dashing the ‘boarders do through the snow, it is easy to enjoy the thrill of snowboarding, with a suspenseful lack of knowing whether the athlete will lose his balance and wipe out at the speed of a car on I-81. Not like we need another reason to watch the snowboarding competition, but how can an American not love Shaun White? He is the closest thing Americans have in the Olympics to a household name. In light of his hype, media image and large fan base, he remains a humble guy still doing snowboarding because he loves it.

Overall, America could be walking away with a dozen gold medals, but do not count on it. Vonn is a key component to the U.S.’s success in Vancouver, as she can steadily grab three to four medals by herself. The other huge factor in America’s triumph is Apolo Ohno, whom I did not mention, but he is a favored short-tracked representing America. In 2006, America walked away from the Winter Olympics with twenty-five medals total, and analysts are predicting the same outcome for 2010.

Student Food Bank! Now Open :)

Located in the office area of the ARB on campus. If you are starving your body you are starving your mind! Who can learn that way?

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*All ads are subject to approval by the Collegian Staff
Legalize It!

Jennifer Shubilla - jls5355@psu.edu

One warm day, I was sitting in the grass, among the birds and the herbs, and all of nature's creatures and greenery. I suddenly began thinking about marijuana and how it has been outlawed. Ever since marijuana was first made illegal in the United States in the early 1900s, there has been much controversy and debate surrounding its use. Now not to be blown, but I believe, for a number of reasons, we should just legalize it. Without aiming to plant any ideas in your head, there are currently fourteen states that have enacted laws legalizing the use of medical marijuana. If Pennsylvania had an ounce of sense, we would follow suit. What is our governor thinking? He must be a dope. The world will not blow up. Perhaps we should initiate a joint session of Congress to further push the issue. Aside from allowing the use of medical marijuana, I feel as though our country should legalize it for recreational purposes as well. For one thing, our economy would greatly benefit from the regulated sale of marijuana. Profits would be sky high. Marijuana outlets would smoke all the competition. Additionally, legalization would aid in ridding the negative stigma of marijuana. Society thinks in a way where people who participate in “illegal” activities are labeled uneducated, and the dregs of society; that they are to be crucified or stoned. This way of thinking is burnt out. I must pipe up and say that there are many professional and intelligent marijuana users. Enjoying marijuana does not necessarily make somebody a bad seed. Marijuana is not relegated to slums and alleyways; in fact you shouldn’t be surprised if regular old Mary Jane down the street is a user. Also, as far as I’m concerned, particular government officials calling marijuana users degenerate is like the pot calling the kettle black. Some people should lighten up. The ban should be lifted. My hope is that if we continue rallying, eventually the government will be hit on the head with the positive benefits, turn on a dime, and cut a deal.

Who is your match?

“It’s always wrong to hate. It’s never wrong to love”

For those of you who like women:
1.) Do you like purple teacups and saucers?
2.) Do you like dark hair ladies that want nothing to do with Amy Winehouse?
3.) Do you like Go-Go Dancers?
4.) Do you like short chicks?
5.) Do you like musicians?
6.) Can you deal with crazy wardrobe changes every 10 minutes?
7.) Do you like women that are into fashion?

For those of you who like men:
1.) Do you like men in black leather pants?
2.) Do you like men who wear heavy make-up with jet black hair?
3.) Do you like musicians?
4.) Do you like men who speak Russian?
5.) Do you like men who cause controversy wherever they go?
6.) Do you like men with tattoos?
7.) Do you enjoy art that may possibly give you nightmares?

If you answered yes to any of these questions than Marilyn Manson’s your boo!
The Jersey Shore—if you’re from Pennsylvania, it’s more than likely you or somebody you know has visited there before. It’s not necessarily home of the nicest beaches in the country, but the Jersey Shore is definitely filled with character. Recently, MTV decided to film eight so-called Italian “Guido’s” (this is not a derogatory term to these kids) at the beach town Seaside Heights, New Jersey for their newest reality show: Jersey Shore. MTV didn’t know what a gold mine they had on their hands, because their cast was as ridiculous and entertaining as they come, giving us all a glimpse into the “Guido and Guidette” culture as they participated in all types of shenanigans at the shore. If you’re one of the few who missed the show’s run (or won’t admit to watching it), here are some of the valuable lessons learned from the lovable and laughable Jersey Shore Guidos:

1. It is perfectly acceptable to dance suggestively and inappropriately with someone other than your boyfriend/girlfriend as long as the said dancing is being done to “House Music.”
2. If you’re feeling aggressive and physical, you could go to blows with music. Yes, “beating up the beat” is a well respected past time among Jersey Shore Guidos.
3. Do not bring zoo creatures of any kind back to your house. This includes hippos, elephants, grenades (see #4 for details,) and grenade launchers. It will only end up in an altercation.
4. Watch out for grenades. A “grenade” is the annoying friend of an attractive girl you’re trying to hook up with. The grenade will potentially blow up your chances with the girl if not detonated by a loyal wingman.
5. GTL is the Guido Mantra. GTL is the most important part of a Guido’s day. It stands for “Gym-Tan-Laundry” and is the key component of the organizations who participated in our event included: Meadows Manor Retirement Center, Back Mountain Food Pantry, Catholic Youth Center (CYC), Hoyt Library, Jewish Community, Lands at Hillside Farms, and the Luzerne County SPCA. The students, faculty, and staff did everything from aiding senior citizens with exercising to packing meals for the down-trodden. All who helped that day were welcomed with open arms for their acts of kindness and taking the time to be of service to those that may have been forgotten.

The students who volunteered from our campus enjoyed the experience along with the others. When asked how he felt about his volunteering experience, first year student Alex Seasock was excited to share: “It was a great and constructive way to spend MLK Day. I got to spend time with day-care kids at the CYC and organize games. It was a lot of fun!” Sophomore Tamara Brown also had a good time. “I usually wouldn’t wake up on a day off. Especially not at 8am, but since I saw the smile on the faces of the senior citizens, it made me feel good. I may even go back in my spare time.”

The MLK Day “On” Event was a true success. All of the people who participated felt good about their selflessness; and the local businesses, and establishments were glad to have the Nittany Lions present to brighten up their day. The northeast regional campuses of Penn State truly showed their pride for their community, and commemorated a great figure who showed us all that bringing kindness to a community together is just another way to establish unity.

What’s Your Wager? PA Passes Table Gaming Bill

Dick Smith - rvs5027@psu.edu

(All characters are fictitious, but anecdotes and situations are factual)

Albert: Ah man, I graduate this semester and I have no clue how I’m going to find a job.
Alexis: Why don’t you try getting a job at Mohegan Sun? I hear they’re hiring a bunch of people.

But why? The state has officially approved the bill that would allow table gaming on January 8th. Times of economic stress are often countered with the amending of the law. The Great Depression led to the repeal of Prohibition, and today’s economic crisis is locally enabling the state of Pennsylvania to allow table games within licensed casinos such as Mount Airy and Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs.

The Times Leader quoted Governor Ed Rendell as stating “People of Pennsylvania should breathe a deep sigh of relief today – but no sense of celebration,” moments after signing the bill. The passing of the bill will provide the state with well-needed supplemental income, but at what cost? Rendell projected state revenue to reach $250 million in the first year alone from state gaming. This financial projection will undoubtedly provide the state some amount of economic relief, such as preventing 1,000 state employees from being laid off as well as avoiding budget cuts in education. The Citizen’s Voice has also claimed a portion of the revenue generated will be reinvested into the community, helping the state with projects such as funding hospitals and schools. Mount Airy Casino of Monroe County has already proposed to provide $600,000 between the Commonwealth Medical College and Northampton County Community College in Tannersville.

Continued on Page 7
Dear Valentine’s Day,
I kind of despise you with all there is in my heart, soul and mind. You remind us of those who are alone, how secluded we should feel and all those who have someone, to treat who they love extra special on this day. I find it kind of aggravating and stupid to name one day to show someone how much we love them with cutesy heart-shaped boxes, flowers, chocolates, expensive dinners, carriage rides, etc. The list of “romantic ideas for Valentine’s day” can be found anywhere on the internet which makes the holiday sound more unoriginal! Your mascot, the little baby wearing just a diaper, is more of a menace then anything. The story of Cupid has grown old and I think people are sick of being stabbed with those pointy arrows of his. Come to think of it, Cupid is a contradiction because he causes people pain to fall in love. Love is pain I guess and your Holiday pains me. To end, I just want to say thank-you in making me feel as though it isn’t normal to have someone to love on this one day of the entire year. I am not bitter; I’m just being honest, St. Valentine. I don’t mean to offend you too much but maybe we should just get rid of you. Woops, maybe that hurt you but in all seriousness, GO AWAY! Love,
Disgruntled Female

Dear Disgruntled Female,
I’m very sorry it seems you cannot get a date for your special day. Reading your letter it seems as though you’re an educated and articulate person, so I must conclude that you are lacking severely in either looks or personality. You say the day is meant to exclude you, but hopefully I’ll bring you comfort by saying shouldn’t feel excluded. There are plenty of losers out there. And “carriage rides???” What kind of overwrought, ridiculous, romantic comedies are you basing life off of? Perhaps if you spend less time watching The Notebook and trolling the internet for Valentine’s Day ideas (when you don’t even have a date) and start socializing, you would be a bit luckier in love. I don’t mean to offend you, either, but this hate mail is beginning to hurt my feelings. I’m only a baby. I’m just doing my job. Love Always, Cupid

Ah, Valentines Day!
The magic of the sun destroys the depression of the dull moon.
It is better to see you love me when the light comes through my window.

Dear Valentine’s Day,
I feel the depression sinking in; The dull moon tearing at my soul. I shouldn’t have to feel like this When I am surrounded by nothing but light.
The mirror on my wall shows a smile on this face, But beyond the mirror is a wonderland full of fear. Failure, rejection, loss, and death fill my head Causing this tight feeling in my gut to squeeze harder each day.
Let’s take a trip to the white, chilly outside world; This place; it holds no looking glass to steal my soul.
What is that I see when I look into the clear blue sky?
That would be the sunlight warming me despite the cold.

I should feel and of those who are alone, how
It seems so simple when I think about it with cold cheeks;
Even when the world seems frozen, sunlight is always warm.
The magic of the sun destroys the depression of
It is better to see you love me when the light

SUNSHINE
By Sarah Ferrier

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The dull moon tearing at my soul.
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Disgruntled Female
Love,

In all seriousness, GO AWAY!
Woops, maybe that hurt you but maybe

Secret Winter
By Nicole Navoczynski

Isolde drove past the lake and looked with admirable eyes.
Because of slightly warmer weather, the ice was becoming cooked, the lethargic crystals so inviting.
She thought of death, the final hour, the cold bones and frosted blood turned into icicles.
She grew transfixed and obsessed with the feeling of final escape, a filled stomach but a growing heart;
she wanted to quench a soul’s thirst.
After the second week of passing those silver waters, she pulled over to the side, even the soil and dirt was frozen with no signs of life.
Like a wild duck stripped of all possessions, she stood atop the thinnest layer, took a deep breath and waited like a child for lollipop.
The candy became chipped and cracked.
The child was satisfied — and so was she.

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Rockets and Flares
By Nicole Navoczynski

We are beams of inadequate light
Pickers of broken streams
Brightness that fades,
Bubs reborn as a Phoenix
We are shooting stars
trying so hard to run away from the sky
No one will find us,
No one with a net,
We run fast into the blistering sun.

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Within the past year alone, the Honor Society has been able to provide two club members with scholarships, raise money for Unicef, perform a collection for Toys for Tots, and bring guest speakers to our campus including former faculty member, Ken Fisher. The Honor Society also held a field trip of historical New England/Concord/Boston open to all students last April. This upcoming April the club plans to attend a field trip to Washington D.C. as well as New York City, which will be available to all Penn State students for a minimal price. Besides the educational outing, the Honor Society is proud to invite Dr. Chris M. Brady, Dean of the Schreyer Honors College at University Park, to our humble campus on Wednesday, April 7th. He will be speaking in the Barry Auditorium during the noon hour of that day. All students and faculty are welcome to attend. The Honor Society thanks Dr. Stefan for his years of dedicated service and pledges to continue his work in all of its programs and activities.

Albert: ...But aren’t these casinos kind of dingy places? Do I really want to work in an environment like that?
Alexis: There have been some shady incidents, but nothing big has happened so far.

Pennsylvania has already encountered minor problems from just slot play. Increased crime rates are typically associated with legalized gambling, and even though there is no direct correlation the state has provided measures to prevent this. Under the recently passed bill it will be prohibited to construct any gambling establishment within a thirty-mile radius of another establishment. Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh is probably the most notable area with a change in the crime rate. Rumors of prostitution have even surfaced after two incidents involving sex in a bathroom in December 2009, states the PA Observer. No arrests have been made on these charges. Although there is never a direct correlation between something such as crime and gambling, it makes a person ponder the possibilities. Desperate times call for desperate measures, and the state is most likely willing to overlook the long-term problems that may be encountered in order to immediately benefit from the extra cash.

Albert: Thanks for your help, I think I understand a bit more about gambling now.
Alexis: No problem, want to go to the casino and play some video roulette? I have some comp dollars!

Gambling - Continued from Page 5
I am not here to lecture you, or to try and stop you from drinking. I am here to tell you one person’s story, and hopefully that will be enough of an influence to make you think next time you get behind the wheel.

I welcome everyone back, and I wish you a safe semester. The Collegian staff is doing an incredible job to successfully put out three issues this semester. As always, I look forward to working with each of you, everyone on The Collegian, and our advisor, Dr. Putzel. If you would like to join us Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 to 1:30 please feel free. Hayfield 212’s door is always open.

A Lifelong Mistake

Alexander Seasock - ams6064@psu.edu (originally submitted as a class assignment)

On a typical Friday night I usually end up with my friends at one of the local nightclubs to shake loose some of the tension that would build up during the long week. This typical Friday would consist of going to the mall to purchase a shirt, eat at one of the local cuisines, change with my friend, and then drive over to the club. However, this night was not a typical Friday.

It was supposed to snow a great deal, or so the valley says. I sometimes think that the Valley has nothing better to talk about. If Ann says that we are going to get snow to Patrick suddenly it is High School where everyone knows the latest gossip by 2nd Period. The news of snow had everyone talking and I was convinced that there wouldn’t be many people at all. My prediction was incorrect, however, and the club was hopping. My friend and I made our regular stops. Go to the dance floor for a few songs, dance on the pole, and dance on the bar. Regular, normal stuff, right? Since we were dancing I had to take a break because I was getting really hot so I went outside for some air.

I walked out the door and I was surprised to see that a fight or something was going on. My first reaction was to get the security guard who was my friend, but I saw that he was already two steps ahead of me. Beginning to realize my body temperature went from a billion degrees to near nothing I was cold and it was starting to flurry. I headed to the back of the line so that I could re-enter the club and I realized that this guy who was starting the commotion was different. Different in the sense that he obviously was not in control of his actions; after the fact I found out that he was high, tripping on some drug, and drunk. This guy was about my age, obviously upset, and was doing everything that he possibly could to get back into the club that he had already been kicked out of several times that night. The things that he said did not make any sense, especially the bit about pink elephants. His craziness turned to rage to sadness to rage again. This was apparently bad for the girlfriend because of the past times when she was beaten by him. The girlfriend was standing at the back of the line and trying to keep away from her boyfriend. The boyfriend went over to the back of the line to “strangle the life out of her.” That is all that I had to hear so I quickly grabbed her and pushed her through about twenty people and then through the club doors. While I did that this guy quickly forgot about his girlfriend and began trying to bad mouth the security guards, exposing himself while dancing around, and attacking various people. Finally the security guard was able to get him up against a car until the police arrived. This guy still did not stop because he attacked and struggled with the police for at least another five minutes. Needless to say, he is now facing several different hearings and will be in jail for quite some time. If he only had not made the decision he did he would not have made his lifelong mistake. As I got back in line to enter the club, I stood by three kids who were obviously younger than eighteen. As the violent guy was taken away in the police vehicle these three kids were discussing their plans of the night where they would go back to their car and do illegal drugs and then return to their house where they would drink. Despite what they just witnessed they will not change their lives until that one time that they make their lifelong mistake.