Hollie Browning

I roamed down the walkway with my duffle bag full of clothes, extra socks, and baby powder. I felt liberated while walking between the lines of people that formed outside the Bryce Jordan Center. They threw confetti, clapped, and smiled as we, the anxious dancers, entered the building for what we didn’t know would be a life-changing experience. The weekend started off with good music, food, and a lot of really great people. THON dancers received their dancer numbers and hugged their friends and family before the forty-eight hour dance marathon began.

I didn’t know what to expect of the weekend or the upcoming experience. By the twelfth hour I started getting tired but I kept myself going. THON dancers played games, re-fueled every couple hours with good food and snacks followed-up by an hourly dance put together by everyone in THON at University Park. I was surprised to see so many people in such high spirits—there was joy and laughter everywhere. I thought after twenty-eight hours I would be a bit poor-spirited but I wasn’t because the support system given by THON overall, chairs, prior dancers, morals, professors, friends, and family was so terrific. There was no possible way to fail at staying awake. The strength and dedication of all those who came together in one room amazingly radiated the air.

I learned a lot about myself in those forty-eight hours. I am grateful for the exceptional experience the entire weekend had given me. I met young kids with cancer, their families, and even watched slide shows of those who had passed away. My emotions were like a rollercoaster, but somehow they balanced equally once I understood exactly what I had been achieving by dancing that weekend. I was sure I would walk out of the Bryce Jordan Center a different person and I did.

I am young and being young means not seeing the lines of people that formed outside the Bryce Jordan Center, a free screening of the film is in the works. The DVD and original soundtrack from Bachman, which included the presence of many of the actors from the film. March 30, 2008, there was also a showing at the Dietrich Theatre in Tunkhannock. Both these events received wide reception, and there are plans to show the film at many more venues in various locations across the country.

The story of Frances Slocum has great historical significance that residents of this area should be aware of. The DVD and original soundtrack from Bachman’s film, as well as additional information on the film, which included the presence of many of the actors from the film. March 30, 2008, there was also a showing at the Dietrich Theatre in Tunkhannock. Both these events received wide reception, and there are plans to show the film at many more venues in various locations across the country.

The story of Frances Slocum has great historical significance that residents of this area should be aware of. The DVD and original soundtrack from Bachman’s film, as well as additional information on the project, are available on the official website at http://www.frances-slocum.org.

Desiree Thorne

With Pennsylvania’s primary election being just a few weeks away, one student here at Penn State Wilkes-Barre has high hopes of reaching out to get other students involved. Paul Osolnick, current freshman, has taken the appropriate steps to start a club called the College Democrats.

While Osolnick’s main purpose for starting the club is to encourage voter registration on campus and to get more students politically involved, he has some other ideas as well. Aside from Democrats, Osolnick is inviting everyone who is interested in the upcoming election to join the club. Approximately 12 students have already signed up, and Osolnick hopes to see many others do so as well. As the number of club members increases, Osolnick would like to see more political conversations on campus, more debating, and perhaps even someone to go ahead and start an opposing group for the Republicans.

Osolnick has been interested in politics for quite a while, and he has attended political rallies for both major parties. Osolnick has strong political views of his own, but he is open-minded enough to hear anyone out, because his main goal is to encourage others to form opinions about politics as well. The College Democrats will be meeting at a date that is to be announced. If you would like to be a part of this new club, please e-mail Osolnick at PRO5004@PSU.EDU.

Brent Ninneman

Since December’s premiere of the film Frances Slocum: Child of Two Americas, William Bachman’s project has been gaining momentum. There is now a coloring book written and in the artwork stages about the life of Frances Slocum as documented by Bachman, which will be available for elementary through middle school students. For high school students, a study guide to accompany the film is in the works.

On March 6, 2008, there was a free screening in Penn State Wilkes-Barre’s Barry Auditorium, which included the presence of many of the actors from the film. March 30, 2008, there was also a showing at the Dietrich Theatre in Tunkhannock. Both these events received wide reception, and there are plans to show the film at many more venues in various locations across the country.

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Game Review

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Check us out on the web:
http://wb.psu.edu/collegian.htm
My Fellow Collegians,

I have seen some of my classmates wearing flip-flops since March, apparently oblivious to the fact that their toes are frostbitten. Is this just Spring Fever, or have we jumped the gun and started observing summer already? Don’t gear up for the good old summertime just yet! There is still a month full of campus activities to enjoy, and as always, your faithful Collegian reporters are ready to capture the moments in pictures and print. This month’s issue of The Collegian offers not only stories of the past few week’s activities, but also updates on those upcoming events that you’ll want to participate in!

We can expect, as usual, that April showers will precede May’s flowers, and those rainy days will be perfect for reading all your favorite features in The Collegian. This month’s issue offers a new array of book reviews (page 7), as well as reviews on some of the latest movies (page 8). Back by popular demand, your horoscope is once again available on page 10. Among the news articles, you’ll find information on two brand-new campus clubs formed within the past month, so be sure to check out the articles (pages 1 and 3) and drop in on the club meetings! Before the semester draws to a close, the Student Support Services will be holding their annual White Elephant Sale, and our campus will be opening its brand-new Digital Commons for students and faculty use. More information on each of those events can be found on pages 2 and 6, respectively.

As the semester slowly comes to an end, your favorite reporters will be wandering the campus covering news and events. As always, your tips, ideas, and opinions are welcome. We are, after all, your paper, and your chance to let your voice be heard. Submissions can be made to the editor at dss235@psu.edu.

For some of you, these are your last few weeks to make memories at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. Make them good ones. The Collegian has done its best to provide the information you need to participate in campus activities. As for the rest of you, put the flip-flops away until the ground thaws and don’t rush the semester; these are the best days of our lives. And honestly, blue toes look ridiculous.

Sincerely,
Donna Smith, Editor-in-Chief

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**White Elephant Sale**

Do you have an old table in your attic that is just collecting dust, or some jewelry sitting in your jewelry box that you don’t wear anymore? Are you asking yourself, “What should I do with this stuff?” This year marks the eighth year for the annual Student Support Services White Elephant Sale. The White Elephant Sale started in 2000 and was developed by upper-classman as a gift to incoming first-year students. The sale is usually organized by students who solicit surrounding businesses and receive donations of new to nearly-new items from the community. All money that is raised from this fundraiser benefits the Legacy Award. Each September a lottery drawing for the Legacy Award is held at the Student Support Services Welcome Barbeque. Those students who win the award receive store credit at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Bookstore to purchase textbooks or school supplies. This year the White Elephant Sale will be held on Tuesday, April 22. If you would like to donate new or nearly-new items or buy tickets for the sale, contact student chair Kristen Durso at kmd306@psu.edu.

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By the time the campus bells chime seven o’clock on weeknights, the Hayfield House is more or less dead. With the exception of security personnel in the basement and ghosts upstairs, the halls of the stone mansion are generally silent at night. That is, until Thursdays roll around. Since the start of the new Nittany Paws Dance Club on campus, the living room of the old mansion has come alive on Thursday evenings as tunes like “The Wanderer” and “Mambo No. 5” echo throughout the house. Since February 21, 2008, students, faculty, staff, and community members have been gathering to take part in the newest trend on campus: dancing like the stars.

Started by Penn State Wilkes-Barre student Benjamin Steeneck, the Nittany Paws Dance Club regularly recruits the help of professional dance instructor Paula Buholski. “Paula is a dance instructor from the Let’s Dance Studio in Pittston,” said Steeneck. “She was sent by studio owner Jack Martin as our dance instructor. Jack told me that he ran the Let’s Dance Studio, and I asked him what it would take to have an instructor come to our school. We set up the first dance, and Paula came to teach us.” Buholski, who also teaches a dance class at Luzerne County Community College, is currently teaching the campus dance club, Steeneck replied. “Dare I say it? To have a swinging good time! Actually, the ultimate purpose of the club is to change the setting of everyday college life. Dancing is very formal and forces us to act differently than we normally do.” Steeneck also noted that he wanted to see more interaction between students and members of the community, something the club successfully accomplishes each week. “Everyone, including community members, faculty, staff, was interested in joining us! Though there are still some people out there that are a bit scared of taking the first step, we had about twenty people join us for the first dance lesson, and about seven-teen for the second lesson. The people who have come to the dance lessons over the last few weeks have expressed, not only verbally but with their attitudes as well, that they had a lot of fun.”

Though the club has been a hit with students and non-students alike, Steeneck explained that forming the group was not an easy endeavor. “There were many frustrations in forming the Nittany Paws Dance Club. Mainly the most frustrating thing was the lack of follow-through on the campus as a whole. Everyone said it was a good idea, but no one wanted to commit to anything, and trying to get people to show up at the meetings was hard. Most of my effort was spent not in planning things, but in putting up enough posters so that someone would decide to come. There were a few times when I wanted to give up, but if I had, I would have never known that it could be this fun!”

Eager to begin the dance lessons, the group began dancing two weeks before officially becoming a campus club. On Wednesday, March 5, Steeneck and three other members of the group made a presentation at an SGA meeting, requesting official club status. “The group has officially formed into a club as of March 05, 2008. We are currently under a probationary status as a club,” said Steeneck, elected President of the new club. As an official campus club, the Nittany Paws Dance Club has access to funding not only for the dance lessons, but also for other activities that will be open to the student body. “There is an end-of-the-year-dance coming up,” said Steeneck. “Though specific details have not been decided on, there will be food there, and the dancing will be free for students.”

While each dance lesson does build upon skills learned the previous week, late-comers can easily catch up to the group with the help of the more seasoned dancers. The group is still readily accepting new dancers from both the campus and the community, and Steeneck explained, “It is not too late to join! Anybody is welcome to join, and they are encouraged to join. Would they be behind in the lessons? No, fortunately we have a great group of students who are energetic, and are just as excited to learn as they are to teach people what they have missed. Just ask one of the members to help, and they will teach you what to do, or send you to another who knows.”

“The club meets every Thursday at 6:45 p.m. in H105 for the club meeting, followed by a lesson at 7:00. We are also meeting on Tuesdays to practice what we learned on the previous Thursday.” The Thursday night lessons end at 8:30 p.m., but dancers have enjoyed staying late into the night to let out their remaining energy with dances such as the hustle and the chicken dance. Though the formal lessons are provided only once a week, dance instructor Buholski remarked that the group is progressing more rapidly than most ballroom dance classes. “I’m doing a lot with you,” she told members of the group. “I throw a lot at you, but you guys pick it up!”

To join in on the latest campus craze, grab your dance shoes and be on the floor of H 105 by 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Just follow the music.
From February 22-24, 2008, thousands of students from within the Penn State system gathered at the Bryce Jordan Center in State College for Penn State’s annual dance marathon. The Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, known as THON by the Penn State community, is a two-day dance marathon with the sole purpose of raising money to combat childhood cancer. THON has caused such an impact that it is seen as the largest student-run philanthropic event in the world. The money that is raised from THON is donated to The Four Diamonds Fund, a charity devoted to defeating pediatric cancer through research and caring for patients at the Penn State Children’s Hospital. More than 10,000 students get involved in the event each year, organizing it and raising funds with the rallying cry, "FOR THE KIDS!"

Each year a few students from the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus are chosen to dance in THON. This year the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus was happy to have had two of our students dance. This year’s students were Courtney Senghaas and Bryan McLaughlin, freshmen here at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. As many of us know from past years, students who dance in THON go through an arduous process mentally, physically, and emotionally. It really makes you look up to those who are participating in this renowned event. For McLaughlin and Senghaas, this was a huge experience in their lives. McLaughlin said, “I didn’t really know what exactly to expect, since it was my first time even going to THON. But I followed the suggestions from former dancers and I completely cut out caffeine and limited how much sugar and junk food I ate for at least a few weeks. I also tried to get more sleep the week leading up to THON. Forty-six hours is a lot longer than it seems!” Senghaas said, “Well, since I am a freshman, I have obviously never had the chance to dance in THON before. The only way I was able to prepare for such an experience was to just take advice from the people I knew who had lived through the experience before me. I went into THON pretty much blind, and had to live through the experience for myself.”

THON Weekend isn’t the only event that happens in the academic year benefitting children with cancer. There are many other events leading up to the major dance marathon. Throughout the year, there are many tours that are carried out at the Penn State Children’s Hospital that give student volunteers the chance to connect on a personal level with those whom they have the opportunity to help. “100 Days until THON” is another pre-THON event that helps encourage student involvement all through the Penn State system. Each year during Penn State’s Homecoming Parade, the new THON theme is announced to the Penn State community. “The THON Family Carnival,” “The THON 5K,” and “The Road to THON Celebration” are also other pre-THON events that take place throughout the year to help bring the THON spirit to a momentous peak, which is the dance marathon itself.

While the pre-THON activities bring together all of the fundraising and spirit activities held throughout the year, THON Weekend is the actual marathon itself, taking place during the third weekend in February. THON is truly a life altering experience as both McLaughlin and Senghaas both expressed. “I was proud of what I have accomplished personally, but more proud of what we all accomplished…. It is one thing to hear that the money goes to fight cancer but it’s another to actually meet the parents and kids who are helped by the Four Diamonds Fund. It gives it a whole new meaning and just makes you want to help even more,” said McLaughlin. “I absolutely felt different after THON. It took participating in THON for me to realize that I cannot take life for granted anymore. I finally realized that I need to be more selfless and help others as much as I can, and in return, people will help me when I need it,” said Senghaas.

For two days straight, THON dancers, who are picked by their representing organizations, have the honor and privilege to dance for forty-six straight hours. The dancers aren’t the only ones who have to suffer through the forty-six hours. There are thousands of Penn State students and organizations there to cheer them on. Some organizations are also able to go onto the floor to visit their dancers. Organizations aren’t the only groups that are seen throughout the Bryce Jordan Center during THON weekend. THON families are also present. Besides dancing at THON, there are many other activities that go on throughout THON weekend such as Color Wars, The Line Dance, The Pep Rally, Theme Hours, and Mail Call. In between these major events, there are also smaller events that happen throughout THON weekend to keep the dancers in high spirits.

Being in THON brings wonderful memories that will be cherished for the rest of Senghaas’ and McLaughlin’s lives. “The moment I’ll remember most was when they announced the grand total at the end of the weekend. There was just so much excitement and energy in the building, it was unbelievable,” McLaughlin said. “I actually had two memorable moments from THON. The first was when I was running through the human tunnel outside and inside the BJC (Bryce Jordan Center). It just gave me chills hearing so many people cheering us on. I knew I had finally made it to THON and I was about to be part of something huge. The second was leaving the BJC at the very end because I knew that I had just accomplished something that I never knew I would be able to finish. It felt amazing to finish and to not quit halfway through,” Senghaas said.

The Penn State Wilkes-Barre Collegian would like to congratulate Bryan McLaughlin and Courtney Senghaas on a job well done!

$6,615,318.04 Donated!
Everyone walks around with their heads down, hands stuffed deep into pockets. The smokers cluster around doors, making sure not a single person gets by without a whiff, like it or not. Surely, silent men clean sidewalks. Eye contact is fleeting and never offered freely. Snow seems to always be falling. Even if there is no snow, the temperature is bordering on sub-zero. The only thing people talk about is what they dislike; the weather, their betters, or being at the much maligned here. Sounds like the start to dystopian fiction, doesn’t it? This is your campus. Those are your best years of life. Penn State Wilkes-Barre has a problem. There’s something deeply ingrained in this campus that is slowly turning Lehman, Pennsylvania into Frowntown, USA and no one seems to be able to figure it out. Perhaps it’s that our campus is a purgatory of sorts for many waiting to get out of here and get down to the big leagues at University Park. Maybe it has something to do with the campus being a collection of disjointed commuters who have these wondrous things called lives beyond being at school. It very well could even be that we’re all a generation of delayed hope due to expensive stepping stones that we must take to get into the real world. No matter what it is, if you look for it, you’ll find it all around you. This place has to be cursed, right?

The unfortunate truth is that there is no curse to this campus or any particular reason that student apathy runs thick in Wilkes-Barre. No matter how trite it is, our college experience is ultimately what we’re willing to allow it to be. Apathy breeds apathy in a vicious cycle that we, as students, should be more than eager to break on our own. For every snippet of conversation that begins with “I hate this place because of….” there’s something good that is going unsung and unrecognized that’s just dying for more of the student body to participate. Our SGA president, Amber Kaminski, may have explained this best when she told me, “It’s not that there is no community on campus, it’s the students who don’t look for the community on campus.” This message, perhaps spun under the guise of Latin, could easily be the PSU: WB motto. Undeniably, things are happening on this campus. There are active clubs, frequent community gatherings, and many chances to become more involved in our own college experiences. The sad truth about our apathy is that it is our apathy. We, as a campus, have all the abilities to break this listlessness and make the whole experience better for ourselves and each other. Really, it’s all just a matter of being active and embracing the community that already exists. Really, it’s up to us.

Of course, not a single word of this is going to make class at 8 a.m. any more appealing. Sometimes, I just hate this place because…

## An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

### Crystal Tillery

As many of us have experienced, the Cross-Valley Expressway has been a Gift from the Gods of Urban Development for those who live in or commute to the Back Mountain area. Over the years this road, like many others before it, has become littered with advertisements. Most days, I just ignore them as I drive by. Several weeks ago, however, I saw an unusual billboard next to the Cross Valley on my commute to Worthington-wards for my daily dose of French. It was a cream-colored billboard, stating only, “If there’s an emergency, will your family be ready?” This ominous question was followed by a web address: www.ready.gov. Instantly, my mind filled with questions: “What the?? Where’d that come from? What are they talking about?” But it was the simplicity of this billboard that caught my attention. So, like any curious American, I went home and followed this link to see what the heck it was talking about.

The main page greeted me with an article about the hazards of winter driving. Further reading, though, uncovered a site containing suggested guidelines and plans of action for pretty much every disaster known to man, including both natural and man-made varieties, whether chemical or biological. The information was shocking and intriguing, though it first struck me as overkill. I mean, the world isn’t cake, but is it really burnt toast?

But then I think of the devastations left by Hurricane Katrina, and all of El Niño’s children. I think of the flooding we’re seeing now west. How many people were killed or lost loved ones due to lack of available information on preparing for these disasters? Okay, so I understand that, but how likely is nuclear meltdown? My father, a nuclear-qualified boiler inspector, assures me that I’m more likely to win the lottery and graduate debt-free. He’s also told me, though, that if the plant in Berwick were to melt down, it would only take about five to ten minutes for the fallout to reach the Wilkes-Barre area. I once read on a bumper sticker that “paranoia is total awareness,” so I guess I can see how it’s good to know the tiger whether or not you’re forced to sleep in its cage. That would go for all the disasters covered on the site, so I suppose it’s all beneficial information on some level.

But why now? Why have we waited? Why wasn’t a preventative program like this instituted years ago when it could have made a huge difference so many times? Was it from neglect, or lack of available information? Either way, knowledge is power, and any knowledge can be used somehow. So regardless of how you obtain your information, make sure you’re prepared for this spring’s flooded basement or an erupting volcano down on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre.
We expect the next President of the United States of America to work toward creating the utopian safe-haven that America was originally meant to be. He or she is responsible for generating plans that will make our country a better place for its citizens. You look in the phonebook for employers in your area. There are excellent resources online such as Vault Career Library, which can be accessed through the Penn State Library website at www.lias.psu.edu/alallpsu.html, and WetFeet Career Resource Library, via www.sa.psu.edu/career. Schedule an appointment with your faculty advisor, as advisors usually get information regarding internships and jobs that pertain to your major. Once you have spoken to your advisor, he or she may suggest that you head over to Career Services. Career Services can help you prepare a resume and show you how to write a cover letter. Call the employers you are interested in to find out if and when they have deadlines. Find out who the cover letter should be addressed to and their exact mailing address. Also be sure to find out how they prefer to receive the documents. Some employers now prefer an e-mail attachment. Send out your resume and cover letter, as well as any additional documents required, by the deadline. Be sure to apply for more than one internship. Follow up and try to schedule as many interviews as possible. This allows you to keep your options open.

Once you get an interview, set up a mock interview with Career Services or even email the interviewer. Employers appreciate the professionalism, and even if you are not hired you may be considered for future opportunities. For more tips, stop by Career Services, now located in the Athletics and Recreation Building, in room 119. Geraldine Wall and Tina Rose can answer any questions and provide any literature that may help your endeavor.

**Shangri-La**

**Michelle Llewellyn**

We expect our next president to organize and put into action a plan to reverse the damage we’ve done to the environment, or at least to prevent any further damage. Every candidate has proposed a plan, including ideas to reduce carbon emissions and control waste management, and we scrutinize each plan to find the perfect one to support. How different would our country’s economy be if each of us tried actively to keep the environment around us healthy, instead of locating the perfect environmental-cleansing plan to support and waiting for a President to clean it for us?

Although our country is powerful and wealthy, it is in debt, and many are poverty-stricken. Our country’s economy is suffering because of war debt, because of stock market crashes and oil shortages, among other causes. Our people are suffering financially because of the economy’s suffrage, because of personal disabilities and loss of jobs, among other causes. So, to improve the conditions of our personal finances, we, again, support presidential candidates. We support a candidate who supports the war, and suggests specific plans to rejuvenate our economy to provide the country with more local wealth. Or, we support a candidate who wants to end the war immediately, and whose proposals specifically concentrate on social improvements such as universal healthcare and welfare program reform. How would the state of our economies change if each of us enacted personal plans to organize our finances, and plans to help those whose financial situations are uncontrollable? How different would the state of our economies be if each of us, instead of only supporting a candidate’s plans, actively supported our fellow Americans?

For, our economy is controlled by and comprised of people. Our environment is inhabited and can be improved or destroyed by people. So if we, the people, take action, instead of passively supporting action, we can change the state of things now, ourselves. We don’t have to wait for a President to change things later.
**Book Reviews**

**Sandra Kobos**

**Duma Key**
*Stephen King*

I do not know exactly what to say about this book. The reason for this need for ambiguity is the simple fact that the best part of the book is the suspense. So, to not give away too much I will only say three things about this 600+ page novel. First, a short description. Edgar, the main character, is a very rich man who has been in a horrible accident. As he is struggling to find a reason to continue living, he decides to move to a secluded area in Florida named Duma Key. Odd incidents then ensue. Honestly, that is all I want to give away. Secondly, I have not read too much of King's work in the past. I have only read four of his other novels. This is my least favorite. However, it was still enjoyable. Finally, I had a discussion with an older man with whom I work, and whose opinion I trust, about the novel. He told me that he did enjoy the story immensely. My co-worker said that King is getting older, like the character in the story, and that is what he liked about the novel. It was written for an older generation. So although Duma Key was an easy read and had an interesting concept, if one was only beginning to read Stephen King, I would highly recommend my favorite, The Stand, or my boyfriend's favorite, It.

**Don’t Throw It Out**
*Lori Baird*,
*Yankee Magazine*

This book is about saving the environment in simple ways. It takes simple everyday objects and tells one how to save, reuse, or make them last much longer. It gives wonderful ideas such as how to take an old, unusable wedding dress and turn it into a picture frame for a lasting memento. It explains when to buy more expensive items, such as hand towels, and how to make them last for a decade with proper maintenance. It is a wonderful book for anyone looking to be more “green” by reducing waste and also to save money by correctly using the products one already owns.

**Armageddon Now: The End of the World A to Z**
*Jim & Barbara Willis*

The end of the world has been prophesied by cultures and religions all throughout history. This book takes many examples through history and explains what they mean to different people. From the "Abomination of Desolation" and "Aliens" to "Water" and "Zoroastrianism" and everything religious and secular in between, the authors try to take an unbiased approach to each topic. As Jim Willis is a pastor and both he and Barbara are ministers in Florida, I wondered that they would have a bias against readers who did not have an extensive knowledge of biblical history. This is not the case at all. They try their best to give all sides to each story, and their experience with the Catholic Church only gives them an edge in thoroughly knowing their subject matter. A somewhat easy read, it is not necessary to read each section back-to-back, so one may pick and choose which topics one is interested in at leisure. This is a great book to flip through and read whatever catches one’s interest.
**Michael Clayton**

When you hear the term “legal drama” you probably don’t think, “Wow, that sounds exciting!” (apologies to you aspiring lawyers out there), but in a surprising way Michael Clayton is pretty exciting. It’s not “action movie” exciting – it’s exciting in the sense that it builds suspense, keeps you guessing, and keeps you wanting more. This movie follows Michael Clayton (George Clooney) a “fixer” at a powerful law firm called Kenner, Bach & Ledeen. Clayton is not entirely satisfied with his career, but he’s good at it, and it’s his job to help grease the wheels of the legal system in favor of the firm’s high-paying clients. One of these clients, a chemical company called U-North, is in the middle of a high profile class action lawsuit after one of its products (a defoliant) caused several deaths. Leading the case for U-North is Karen Crowder (Tilda Swinton) directing a team of lawyers from Kenner, Bach & Ledeen, headed by Arthur Edens (Tom Wilkinson), a legal genius. U-North’s case takes a turn for the worse however when Arthur, a manic depressive, goes off his medication and during one of his “episodes” takes off his clothing during a deposition and apologizes to one of the plaintiffs frantically chasing her naked through the street.

Michael is sent in to deal with Arthur, get him back on his medication, and do some damage control on the mess of a situation that ensues. Arthur, however, esca- pes Clayton’s custody and makes his way to New York.

From this point on you enter a world of intrigue and deception as Clayton searches for the truth while trying to keep himself alive. The best, and possibly scariest, part of this movie is that it is a lot of it is really plausible. From the vastly powerful corporate empire of U-North, to the money hungry law-firm of Kenner, Bach & Ledeen, to the tortured genius of Arthur Edens. It all fits, and fits together well, a complement to the film’s screen-play, direction, and production. Michael Clayton is also well acted, with Clooney masterfully portraying the jaded and tired Clay- ton, who is really just looking for a way out. Tilda Swin- ton also brings the cunthater corporate lawyer who is slowly reaching her breaking point to life, as she strug- gles with saving face for her employers and saving her- self from her conscience. The best performance, however, was definitely Tom Wilkinson – he really plays the manic, desperate, conciliatory Arthur well, showcas- ing it.

**Be Kind Rewind**

Be Kind Rewind is Michel Gondry’s (of Sleep) latest film, starring comedian/musician Jack Black and musician-turned-actor Mos Def. The trail- ers for the film showcased a funny plot with an inter- esting concept holding a lot of comedic potential: What if you and your friends remake your favorite movies with just a run-of-the-mill camcorder and some homegrown special effects?

Our story begins by showing the ramshackle video store run by Mr. Fletcher (Danny Glover) and the dependable Mike (Mos Def) who has taken to Mr. Fletcher as somewhat of a father figure. Jerry (Jack Black) is Mike’s best friend, who is tragically error prone and extremely paranoid. Jerry claims that “they” are trying to melt his brain with the power plant he lives near, and decides that sabotaging it is the best course of action. In the process Jerry is elec- tromuted and subsequently magnetized, and when he next enters the store he erases all the tapes, leaving the struggling business with nothing at all.

While this is happening, Mr. Fletcher is away and his few but loyal customers are growing impa- tient with the blank videos. Faced with the prospect of losing the respect of his idol, Mr. Fletcher, Mike comes up with a brilliant idea: remake the movies with the camcorder in the store starring him and Jerry. This is the part of the movie you want to see, where this movie shines. Jerry and Mike team up with aspiring actress Alma (Melonie Diaz) and even- tually other members of the community and start to remake their favorite movies, a process they call “Sweding.” As customers begin to watch, and even star, in these “Sweded” films business booms and the trio goes into overdrive filming several movies at a time. It’s very easy to miss some of the really good jokes here, as the camera will pan across scenes from several different movies being filmed simultaneously, but if you pay attention you’ll catch a lot of good stuff.

Unfortunately, aside from the Sweding scenes, the rest of this movie is pretty lackluster. Al- though it is a great concept and has great potential going for it, its thin and often uninteresting plot force atten- tion away from where it could really shine and put a spotlight on where the movie was weakest. Jack Black was also disappointing, but he has always been hit or miss in my opinion, and it may have been a mistake casting the neophyte Mos Def into the mix. While I believe that Mos Def has potential, I don’t believe he has reached it quite yet.

**Superbad**

Superbad stars comedy veterans Michael Cera (Evan, Arrested Development) and Jonah Hill (Seth, Knocked Up) as two high-school boys with only a few weeks left until they graduate and one last summer until college. Joined by their friend Fogell, played by newcomer Christopher Mintz-Plasse, the trio set out to conquer their vir- ginity, graduate and get into college. It all fits, center- ed on supplying alcohol to a party held by their friend Jules.

The film begins by establishing the extremely co-dependent bond between Seth and Evan, who have been friends since they were eight years old, but have gotten into different colleges, creating an uneasiness be- tween the two. Fogell, the third wheel is seen by Seth as a threat to his friendship with Evan and is, unbeknownst to Seth, rooming with Eve and Seth’s girlfriend.

At the core of their plan, Fogell promises that he will get a fake ID so they can get alcohol from the liquor store later that day. That’s about as far as plan pro- ceeds, however, as the liquor store gets robbed with Fogell in it and the arrival of the police sends Seth and Evan out on their own. All three boys are then thrown into the wildest night of their lives, from Fogell’s unforgettable ride with the police to Evan’s performance of “These Eyes” by The Guess Who, to Seth’s wardrobe malfunction. Cera is perfectly cast as the archetypical awkward teen - down to earth and completely clueless. Those of you who watched Arrested Devel- opment will see some resemblances between the characters. No stranger to comedy, Su- perbad is Hill’s first big leading role. He has been part of the Apatow crew for some time, making a cameo in The 40-Year Old Virgin and playing one of Seth Rogen’s roommates in Knocked Up. His portrayal of Seth as the overbearing, over-possessive, overwhelm- ingly vulgar friend is dead on, and I think we all have a friend like him. The most surpris- ing success of this film, however, is Christo- pher Mintz-Plasse. This is his first movie, and he somehow managed to land a major role in a huge Hollywood success. Fogell is the nerd of the group, and the absolute best part of watching Mintz-Plasse onscreen is seeing him come into his own. That way Mintz-Plasse portrays the nerdy, awkward, and unremarkable Fogell as he transitions into his alter-ego “McLovin’ is something you have to see and something that will probably resonate with our generation.

I strongly recommend that you see this movie. With the experience of Hill and Cera, and the perfectly captured awkward- ness of Mintz-Plasse (who was only 17 at the time of filming) this is where I hope comedy is headed. Well written, well-acted, and with the times – Superbad definitely raises the bar, and sets a new standard for comedy.

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Rob Winkler

The Wilkes-Barre Collegian  March 2008
If you are a fan of the World Series of Poker or just poker in general, you need to get your hands on the World Series of Poker’s newest game. Players have the chance to go against some of the WSOP’s greatest poker players, such as Phil “The Poker Brat” Hellmuth, Phil “The Unabomber” Laak, Anne Duke, and celebrities such as Jenifer Tilley, and Shannon Elizabeth. Like in past WSOP titles, you are still able to play Seven Card Stud, Omaha High & Low, Hold’em, No Limit Hold’em, Pot Limit Hold’em, and Limit Hold’em. But in this year’s installment, you are able to play variations of these games, such as RAZZ, HORSE, 6 Player Hold’em, and 8 Player Hold’em. Thanks to a cleaner presentation, a newly developed version of WSOP tournament structure and additional options, Activision has pushed the poker game genre to a new level.

**Overall Performance Score Presentation:** 8.0  
**Story:** 8.0  
**Graphics:** 5.0  
**Sound:** 6.5  
**Gameplay:** 8.0  
**Overall:** 8.4  
**Buy or Rent:** If you’re a big poker player, you should get the game. But, if you just play poker for fun, you should just rent it.

If you are looking for a game that is so violent and horrific that it has been banned in many countries, Manhunt 2 is the game for you. Manhunt 2 is the story of Daniel Lamb and Leo Kasper’s fight against Dr. Pickman’s horrific Project, a mysterious experiment on the minds of asylum patients. Throughout the game, you play as either Daniel Lamb or Leo Kasper and fight members and agents of “The Project” in a blood spattered hunt for the truth.

The reason why Manhunt 2 has been banned in some countries is because of its extreme gore and violence. This violence is seen in what developers of the game call “kill shots.” These “kill shots” are basically slow-motion scenes of Daniel Lamb and Leo Kasper killing people. If you are playing the Nintendo Wii version, the experience of the game is more realistic because you use the Wii Remote and Nunchuck to mimic the movements of the characters murdering their victims. Because of this very realistic simulation, groups that speak against video game violence feel that this game promotes violence.

**Overall Performance Score Presentation:** 6.0  
**Story:** 8.0  
**Graphics:** 6.0  
**Sound:** 7.0  
**Gameplay:** 8.5  
**Overall:** 7.1  
**Buy or Rent:** If you enjoy extreme gore and violence, you should definitely get this game. But, if you are unable to handle extreme levels of violence and gore, you should look for another game.

**Jeremy’s Top 10 Games to Play**

1. The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion The Game of the Year Edition (PS3 & Xbox 360)  
2. Assassin’s Creed (PS3 & Xbox 360)  
3. Unreal Tournament III (PS3)  
4. Super Smash Brother’s: Brawl (Wii)  
5. Devil May Cry 4 (PS3 & Xbox 360)  
6. Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare (PS3 & Xbox 360)  
7. Final Fantasy XII (PSP)  
8. Mass Effect (Xbox 360)  
9. Halo 3 (Xbox 360)  
10. World of Warcraft (PC)
Capricorn (December 22-January 19) – You want to feel determined and accomplished this month, but don’t feel down—you’re halfway there. You have already accomplished way more than you think. For right now, just focus on holding onto the things you have, rather than looking for something new that takes time to get.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18) – Your heart and mind are not in the same place. Somehow you have to find the balance for both. Take time out to find yourself before jumping into something new.

Pisces (February 19-March 20) – These days, things are looking up for you. Enjoy the ride and use every opportunity that approaches you to your advantage. Remember, though, not to cross that line between fun and danger.

Aries (March 21-April 19) – This month you seem to be down a little because of a heartbreak, school, or something that happened at work. Shake it off! And lift up your spirit, because in a couple of days you’ll find something to do that will have you wanting more.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) – Right now you’re an “Attention Seeker.” Every minute of the day you’re looking for that extra attention. Don’t worry, someone will come along and whisk you away. Put a smile on your face; you only have one life to live.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) – You’re in high demand by your family and friends. You feel like you’re in the spotlight all the time. I know it feels good now, but later you will be paying the price for all of that attention. Try to get out of that “High Demand Spotlight”.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) – If nothing great has been happening lately, rest assured that your life will take on something so great that you’ll be surprised. So take the lead and stay true to yourself.

Leo (July 23-August 22) – Partying seems like number one on your agenda because of the crowd you hang out with. But eventually, there can be consequences to this. Put partying at the bottom of your list, and family and work ethic at the top.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) – Happiness seems to be on your side. Right now you don’t know how to accept these changes, but soon you will get used to it and enjoy it.

Libra (September 23-October 22) – Time is not on your side. You have to start planning better and organizing different things in your life. Your love life seems to be laid back, so do something special for your significant other.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) – Right now you’re not having the best of days, because someone has rubbed you the wrong way, and now you’re taking that out on everyone around you. Relax and take a break from all of the stress.
My Metaphorical Shipwreck

Rob Winkler

I carry a Nautical Star to help blaze my path but you see, dear reader, my ship has crashed stuck on this rock with nowhere to float I ponder the fate of my sad shipwrecked boat

perplexing and puzzling, my predicament here surrounded by blue, a small island near perched on the crown’s nest I notice some timber and fathom the odds of repair before winter

I hop on my rowboat and paddle ashore I have a strange feeling I’ve been here before I roll in the sand and kiss the dry land startled to see a small outstretched hand

slowly I rise and come face to face an image so blurred my mind can’t erase fast as it came and then it was gone an instant so short remembered so long

forcing the moment to the back of my mind beginning my work of the most arduous kind gathering wood to stitch up my skiff grinding the grind - saw, seal, and hit

my boat is afloat after several moons labor and I encounter again my ethereal neighbor

a list of past-presents who came here before all signing their sign before leaving this shore so I take up my tools and follow tradition scarring the stone before leaving perdition

freed from five-points finally I select my direction seeing no signs of the wounds the rocks made hidden before, and carved to the bone

a list of past-presents who came here before all signing their sign before leaving this shore so I take up my tools and follow tradition scarring the stone before leaving perdition

a list of past-presents who came here before all signing their sign before leaving this shore so I take up my tools and follow tradition scarring the stone before leaving perdition

no destination in mind, I just follow my feeling and sail on forward with no time for correction from five-points finally I select my direction seeing no signs of the wounds the rocks made hidden before, and carved to the bone

no destination in mind, I just follow my feeling but I know where I stay won’t send my ship reeling freeing my ship from its stony stockade grinding the grind - saw, seal, and hit

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New Orleans

Jeremy Burgess

College students everywhere look forward to spring break. Some look forward to returning home to family and old friends while others are just happy to be away from the busyness of academic life. A few students choose to spend their spring break in an alternative way. Campuses across the Penn State Commonwealth participate, including University Park, Wilkes Barre, Abington, York, Schuylkill, and New Kensington, totaling approximately 45 Penn State students. These campuses were brought together to volunteer in New Orleans, Louisiana. The focus of the trip was to work through Katrina Corps. Katrina Corps is a small organization in New Orleans that has been established as an affiliated sub-organization to Pangea. It is dependent on the volunteers which support the organization. Volunteers who continuously enter and circulate into this nonprofit organization become the life blood. Katrina Corps prides itself on being a fairly small organization. Their size is less cumbersome and allows for enough flexibility to work where they feel it is necessary. Their motto states “Impossible is Nothing” and they mean it. Their goal is to provide relief from the damage of Hurricane Katrina that occurred in late August of 2005.

With high spirits, students began the first day of work. The average day began between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. with breakfast and a ride to the job site. Lunch was typically served whenever a student decided to break but often around 11:30 a.m.. Then it would be time to finish the remainder of work until leaving between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. and all work was done at each individual’s pace. The first day was spent lending a hand at a community center. The community center was that of the first day. The difference in this situation was that we were given three houses to gut and frame. These homes had not been touched since Hurricane Katrina. The homes were an absolute mess upon arrival. Boxes and canned food could still be found in the cupboards. Clothes were still left in the closets and even in the washing machine. The students continued to earn the bunks they had previously stripped upon arrival. Boxes and canned food could still be found in the cupboards. Clothes were still left in the closets and even in the washing machine. The students continued to earn the bunks they had established contact through a local church and were given the task of cutting grass for homes who were unable to move back to their homes. The final day of work was by far the most challenging for the Penn State students. After a week of hard work, and at times odd hours, the biggest challenge was fighting off exhaustion and keeping motivated. The final day’s task was a job similar to that of the first day. The difference in this situation was that we were given three houses to gut and frame. These homes had not been touched since Hurricane Katrina. The homes were an absolute mess upon arrival. Boxes and canned food could still be found in the cupboards. Clothes were still left in the closets and even in the washing machine. The students continued to earn the bunks they had been given by nearly completing two of the three homes. Finally the students returned to the housing for some well deserved rest. The students packed, said their goodbyes on the morning of March 16, 2008, and returned home with sore muscles and a sense of accomplishment.

As an editorial comment I would just like to say that I have never been a student who has felt connected with my alumni, but this experience has never made me more proud to say that I am Penn State. The bonds that were developed in such a short time will be carried by me throughout my life. I would just like to take the time to thank and congratulate members of Katrina Corps and the students throughout the commonwealth possible. I am especially proud of Mark Calore and Dan Denucci of Penn State Wilkes-Barre for their ability to step up through the duration of this trip.