Brian Dowd
Photos By: Jeremy Burgess

Penn State is no stranger to masses of people flocking into a venue for a big event. From concerts to football and perhaps if we are lucky this year, basketball, Penn State is always finding it’s population jumping and then returning to normal. From all of these events, THON is perhaps the purest in intent and school spirit. Most certainly the longest event, THON enlists the participation of every common wealth campus, a slew of fraternities, sororities, clubs, and sports teams, big and small businesses and individual donors to bring aid for the kids.

Press Conference Info
THON officials expressed concern this year for the weakened economy at the press conference over THON weekend. Over 200 families are directly helped by the efforts of the charity. With this in mind, THON expanded their network of donors with canning and soliciting more people with emails and letters. As well as relying on the generosity of every day people, THON relied on many corporate donors like Pepsi, Geico, and Subway, McLanahan’s and the Student Book Store, local businesses, and of course their network of donors with canning and soliciting more people with emails and letters. As well as relying on the generosity of every day people, THON relied on many corporate donors like Pepsi, Geico, and Subway, McLanahan’s and the Student Book Store, local business and even the students themselves.

Sueheiry Feliciano

Beginning in May of 2009, the Student Lounge, located in the Student Commons at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, will undergo renovations. Planned renovations include new carpeting; a small, permanent, corner stage unit; room dividers; new air conditioning units and ceiling fans, among others. Renovations will be completed in time for the beginning of the Fall ’09 semester.

“A one-page proposal describing the current condition of our Student Lounge, along with some photos and a spreadsheet of requested items, were submitted to John J. Romano, Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses office for review,” stated Jackie Warnick-Piatt, Student Activities Coordinator. The proposal also explained that current students spend most of the extracurricular time in the lounge, attending cultural functions, club and organization functions, and co-curricular educational events. Aside from appealing to current students, renovations would also have a positive impact on potential students, visitors from other camps, and community guests.

Funding for the renovations is provided by Future Funds, a University Park grant made available by President Graham Spanier to fund a limited number of projects that are “student-focused, non-recurring expenditures, and which represent an opportunity to advance or seed a special project or new initiative at the University,” explained Warnick-Piatt. Grants range between $5,000 and $25,000. PS W-B received $24,625 for the renovations.

Students agree that the renovations are much needed. “I think it’s a really neat renovation,” said film major Chad Dewing, another freshman. “I am very excited about the pool table. I’ll definitely spend more time in the lounge because of that.”

The SGA office will also undergo renovations, and will receive new carpeting, desks, and chairs. During renovations, access to the cafeteria and bookstore will be available through the side entrances of the Student Commons.

Penn State Wilkes-Barre was represented at THON by dancers (l-r) Shelby Marren, Sarah Yarnell, Dan DeNucci, and Erik Horn.

Continued on Page 4

He was about forty hours in to his exploit. At two hours, I saw him on the floor of Penn State Rec Center (THON weekend’s previous home). I thought simple donations from shoppers passing by. And then one Sunday after standing about two hours, I saw him on the floor of Penn State Rec Center (THON weekend’s previous home). He was about forty hours in to his exploit. At the time, THON to me was a pretty cool two day people, THON relied on many corporate donors like Pepsi, Geico, and Subway, McLanahan’s and the Student Book Store, local business and even the students themselves.

Penn State Wilkes-Barre was represented at THON by dancers (l-r) Shelby Marren, Sarah Yarnell, Dan DeNucci, and Erik Horn.

Continued on Page 4

Happy Spring!
The Penn State Wilkes-Barre Collegian

Monroe, Luzerne, Susquehanna, Pike, Wayne, Wyoming, draws hundreds of students from Lackawanna, held on campus on Saturday, March 28
Regional National History Day will be by a $1
This year’s competition is partly funded
be presenting.

In addition to its coordinators, the event gives a serious audience to students who are opportunity to be involved with an event which
Winter said. “It was a privilege to have the op
and Stephanie Andaloro. The three new team
and a judge for nine years before that.

The benefits for students are not just academic. “Regional History Day is an op-
portunity for participants to meet other history enthusiasts, both in terms of seeing other excel-
ent research projects and in a social context of meeting new friends,” said Dr. Christyne Ber
zsenyi, a professor at Penn State Wilkes-Barre who joined the team of coordinators this year.
Also joining the team are Lorna Chin and Stephanie Andaloro. The three new team
members received guidance from Janis Winter, who has served as a coordinator for 11 years
and a judge for nine years before that.
“I considered it an honor to be asked,” Winter said. “It was a privilege to have the op-
portunity to be involved with an event which gives a serious audience to students who are
willing to take the risk of presenting their re-
search and evaluations of matters of history to a
general adult audience.”
In addition to its coordinators, the event involves nearly every faculty and staff depart-
ment on campus, including Academic Affairs, Campus Security, Cafe Commons, Technical Services, IT, Public Relations, and student vol-
teers.
Dr. David Chin and Bill Bachman will be presenting.
This year’s competition is partly funded by a $1,000 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation’s Community Giving Program.
Regional National History Day will be held on campus on Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The regional competition draws hundreds of students from Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna, Pike, Wayne, Wyoming, Monroe, and Sullivan counties.

PSU W-B to Host Regional History Day
Suheiry Feliciana
For 20 years Penn State Wilkes-Barre has been the host of the regional section of the nation’s oldest and most highly regarded hu-
manities competition for grades six through 12. National History Day is an annual, nationwide competition that gives participants the oppor-
tunity to apply and develop research and ana-
typical skills through creative presentations of research in subjects that interest them.
Students in grades six through eight compete in the junior division and students in grades nine through 12 in the senior division.
Participants present in five categories: papers, exhibits, performances and media, and Website. Judges evaluate projects individu-
ally and then deliberate to determine who will receive first, second, and third prize in each cat-
egory and division. Projects are evaluated based on the application of research, creativity, and how well the competition’s theme is addressed.
This year’s theme is “The Individual in History: Action and Legacies.”

Andrew Race
On March 11, 2009, the Northeast Re-
gional Pennsylvania Science Olympiad took place at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. High schools from all over Northeastern Pennsylvania at-tended this contest, hoping to win a chance to go to states. Students took part in several events, including chemistry, biology, catapult construc-
ion, and flying kites around the gymnasmium.
The competitiveness was contagious; there were coaches and participants thinking, planning, and adjusting in desperate attempts to gain an edge over their competition.
The most popular event, the Robot Ramble, involved teams of two building robots designed to push items, pick them up and drop them into a box, and to even pop a balloon.

No More Freshman Seminar
Briiana Mitchell
PSU 008, also known as First-Year Seminar, required for all incoming students by all Penn State campuses, has taken a deep fall into non-existence as the Campus University Board decided to do away with a class that was centered on making the college experience a bit easier for freshman students. So what hap-
pened? Why was First-Year Seminar taken off
of the roster? According to Kathy Flanagan-
Herstek, Director of Student Affairs, the class was removed because of a decision by the faculty from numerous campuses as well as a lack of enthusiasm from staff. “There were guidelines for each college-oriented issue, with different modules and lesson plans. Many staff did not follow these plans, feeling discomfort on teaching certain subjects.” This lesson confu-
sion may also have been what contributed to the displeasure students felt about the class. When asked how she felt about First-Year Seminar, freshman Birango Osei said, “I think that class is absolutely pointless. The time we wasted in that class could have been used for something more important, like studying.”

Since the elimination of First-Year Seminar, alternatives toward teaching the sub-
jects touched upon have been spoken about. An idea such as extending Orientation to give more information about different departments was an idea thrown around, in addition to the idea of faculty with credentials in some way trying to revive the class. Though these ideas seem to be good ones, the decision has been made to indefinitely remove First-Year Seminar. Even though many students looked down upon this class with distaste, others are a tad disappointed at the sudden change. Sophomore Terrysha Lewis expressed her admiration for the class. “I think Freshman Seminar is a great way to assist students in the transition from high school to college. It allows students to better understand academic rules.” It is obvious that this deci-
sion was not a unanimous decision. Flanagan-
Herstek also voiced her dissatisfaction for the change. “I, for one, am very disappointed that First-Year Seminar is no longer available. There are many faculty members who would be happy to help students acculturate to college life. It is a very big loss.”
It’s a New Day

Desiree Thorne

Laughter is often thought to be the best medicine, and thanks to Jackie Warnick-Piatt and the Student Activities Fees, approximately fifty students were cured of the recession blues on Monday, February 23. Students were entertained for nearly an hour and a half by Preacher Moss, a comedian who has written for Saturday Night Live, among other things. His performance, entitled “The End of Racism Comedy and Lecture Tour” was as enlightening as it was inspiring, and as informative as it was humorous. Moss spoke honestly and truthfully about his personal experience with racism and oppression.

Among the many topics of Moss’ lecture, was the outcome of the most recent election, and of our current President, Barack Obama. Instead of the election being a youth mandate, as so many political commentators have named it, Moss pointed out that it was, more importantly, a “truth mandate with less to do with color and more to do with ideas.” Although he was clearly inspired by seeing the first African American get elected President, he proved that racism and oppression are still very prominent in the world today, even at the beginning of this new era.

Moss engaged the audience with an experience he once had in a Subway restaurant. He said that he and the man behind the counter, making the sandwiches, began joking around about one another’s backgrounds, when a lady from the back of the store approached them because she thought they were being rude. However, they were just joking around, and Moss said that this often happens when people choose not to “investigate” others before making judgments. “Every one of us will eventually be that little lady in the back of the Subway, but there’s no rule that you have to stay there,” Moss said. He also talked about other experiences that brought him in touch with racism, including his days as a Catholic school teacher, and even his days as a child growing up.

When describing racism, Moss pointed out that it is quite universal, as is oppression. “It’s not the cause, it’s the effect.” He went out to say that it has affected every person in the auditorium that night, as well as in the world. Racism is an injustice that can not be denied. However, with Moss’ new comedic approach to explaining it, many students left the performance feeling eager for a brand new day, and for racism to come to an end. The performance was certainly energetic, age appropriate, and a great way to celebrate Black History Month.

“A Good Time:
Campus Course on Time Brings English, Science Students Together
Gencina Ricca

“Time is a companion that goes with us on a journey. It reminds us to cherish each moment, because it will never come again. What we leave behind is not as important as how we have lived.” – Captain Jean Luc Picard, Star Trek: Generation

What is time? What role does time have, and how does the view we hold of time affect our everyday lives? These are just some of the questions Dr. Steven Putzel explores with his students in the spring semester’s “Finding Time” course.

Perhaps you view time as fleeting, and are slightly stressed out because there never seems to be enough time to accomplish all you’ve set out to do. Or maybe you’re bored and hold the opposite view—that you have too much time on your hands, and have no idea what to do next. Whatever holds time has on you, the truth of the matter is that time plays a huge role in all of our lives. And that is just what Dr. Putzel wants his students within his “Finding Time” course to understand.

“Finding Time” was inspired by a trip to London, where Dr. Putzel found himself at a museum exhibit focused on time. He found the concept of time and the part it plays in life intriguing, and developed a desire to further explore the subject of time and how it affects people today. This interest led him to the idea of creating a course that will allow students to think about time in a different way, and maybe ultimately change the way they live. The resulting course courageously collects both science and English majors, who together explore the subject of time from both a literary and scientific standpoint. The unique chemistry shared between the members of the class brings a surprising familiarity with each other, which leads to a comfortable atmosphere eliciting interesting class discussions of philosophical ideas matched with scientific facts and evidence based on the texts read. Dr. Putzel’s choice of works for the class is strikingly diverse with the common theme of time. The texts for the class range from traditional literary works, such as poetry by Hillman, Frost, Milton, and Shakespeare, to some out-of-the-ordinary novels like Martin Amis’ Time’s Arrow. The reading list also includes some scientific novels such as Stephen Hawking’s book A Brief History of Time. Not only does Dr. Putzel use literary works for the class’s exploration of time, but he also chose to use visual arts that focus on the concept of time, such as movies, paintings, and photographs. The class has watched movie clips from 1993’s romantic comedy Groundhog Day, starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell, and also from 2000’s mystery thriller Memento, starring Guy Pearce. The class has also looked at paintings and photographs including Dalí’s Persistence of Time and Magritte’s Time Transfixed.

When the students of the class were asked how they liked or disliked their course, student Donna Smith, English major, stated that one of things she enjoyed was the fact that both science and English majors could come together and explore a new field of study while at the same time enjoying their own. Smith also enjoys hearing her “classmates’ different reactions toward the idea of time and how quickly or slowly it seems to pass.” Marc Keating, a Surveying major, says, “Dr. Putzel does a wonderful job presenting the material we’re going over and an even better job stimulating discussion.” Keating also stated that the class “makes the physics you’re learning about a little bit more worthwhile— it gives you perspective without all of the math [and] equations.” He added, “I would recommend it to any English, or in my case, survey engineering major.”

So if you find yourself in need of more credits and are interested in taking a course that will challenge you to rethink the way you spend your days, “Finding Time” is just the course to do that. So talk to Dr. Putzel and see when he will be offering the course again.
day party to give money to families that really needed. But the true meaning of THON escaped me.

THON Wilkes-Barre Dancers
This year our campus raised enough money to put four dancers on the floor for forty six hours. By making a grand total of $12,660.91 Penn State Wilkes-Barre sent THON dancers Shelby Murren, Sarah Yarnell, Dan Denucci, and Erik Horn. Each of them assigned to a different word written on the back of their shirt. Dan’s was Strength. Shelby had Honesty. Eric took Wisdom. Courage belonged to Sarah.

Talking to them they each shared with me some of the ins and outs of THON. During the weekend, the dancers’ sense of time was deprived. Cell phones were allowed but, precautions were taken to blot out the clock with stickers. Even the hourly THON Line dance was done at random parts of the hour. The repetitious Line got the four dancers only so far. They relied on themselves and meeting new interesting people to make it through the event.

THON Activities
Throughout the 46 hours THON dancers were kept awake by live music, food, and activities like the “Whack-A-Moraler” where participants was a Whack-A-Mole game with live people. (Of course to prevent injury objects like fun noodles were used instead of rubber mallets.) The “Slide of Strength” provided an interesting way to make it through the weekend. It was a good opportunity for dancers to remember start and when they stopped received a ten second massage from the group around the mat. The dancers then slid down the mat after getting a running start and when they stopped received a ten second massage from the group around the mat. It was a good opportunity for dancers to remedy their sore muscles and prevent the Bryce Jordan from reeking of B.O. The line dance was performed at random every hour, recounted big cultural events and icons in the past year such as the Obama presidential victory, the late great Heath Ledger’s performance as the Joker in The Dark Knight, and Michael Phelps’s success in the Beijing Olympics. Even the “Sham-WOW” and “Snuggie” were deemed worthy of THON’s recognition. THON also did more than give money to the Four Diamonds fund. In the course of Saturday’s events, Penn State W.B.’s own Melissa Gunshannon along with her sister Jennifer and forty others donated 12 inches of their hair to “Wigs for Kids” on the stage of the BJC.

W-B THON Family
Penn State Wilkes-Barre’s THON child Tristen Waters age 4 was ecstatic throughout the weekend. He spent the entire blowout being entertained by his “Big Friends” like A.J. Race and Courtney Senghaas, and of course our four THON dancers.

Pep Rally
As the time pep rally began to draw near the energy of the event was palpable. The stands were packed to the nose bleeds with people eager for the show to begin. When we reached the floor my colleague and I forced our way through the masses that were stretching out to the shrill voice of a cheerleader on the stage. As we tried to get in a better position, I looked around at the vast mass of humanity that encircled us. The crowd we were among had their eyes fixed toward the stage. A premature “WE ARE…” “PENN STATE” chant exploded and filled the BJC with even more decibels of sound.

The rally began and had all the spirit of a football game between Penn State and Ohio State. The basketball team came out to. They were followed by the members of the football team who entertained the audience with a dance routine to “We Are the Titans” chant and “Ain’t No Mountain Higher”. The recently successful Penn State Men’s Basketball team came out on stage with the help of the techno tune “Zombie Nation” and incited a one of the most powerful “WE ARE…” “PENN STATE” chants this reporter has ever been apart of. Trying to fulfill the request of a little girl to do 1,000 push ups, the Nittany Lion Mascot managed to do 46 one-armed push ups (one for every hour of THON weekend) with the entire THON attendance counting each one off. The Blue and White Band played all the favorite school spirit songs like and concluded with my personal favorite “Hey Baby.” After the pep rally, it was back to business for the dancers and went right back into the night with the THON line dance.

THON raised
Recession be damned. The bad economy did not deter philanthropists big and small from donating to THON. At the end of THON weekend, it was announced in front of a fully packed Bryce Jordan Center that Penn State raised grand total of $7.49 million dollars. Compared to last year’s total $6.61 million Thon about . All that money will go to the Four Diamonds fund at the Hershey Medical Center to help defray expenses that families like Tristen’s.
**Sports**

**Are You Penn State Strong?**

**Terrysha Lewis**

This year Penn State Wilkes-Barre’s sixth annual fitness contest was run by Dr. Thomas Winter and took place February 9-13. The contest was open to pretty much anyone, including but not limited to students, faculty, and staff. The contest for the men involved chin-ups, dips, and bench pressing one’s own body weight. The women had mostly the same contest, but instead of bench pressing their body weight, they had to bench press 60% of their body weight. The winners for both the men’s and women’s contests were determined by the most number of reps completed all together. For the men, student Matt Dancone came in first place, with a total of 103. Dancone completed 24 chins, 51 dips, and 28 bench presses. Runner-up was student Aaron Smith, with a combined total of 100. For the women, kinesiology lecturer Kelly Cook tied with the number-one male with a total of 103. Cook did 30 chins, 60 dips, and 13 bench presses. In second place, Donna Smalow had a total of 88. Smalow is a name that has come up in this very contest many times, with a total of 88. Smalow is a name that has come up many times, with a total of 88.

As you can see from the first place winners, there is a variance of strength, meaning one person may not be good at one thing but can excel in others. Coming up from April 27 to May 1, there will be a pegboard climbing contest with the peg up and down within a one-minute time period. There will be male and female winners of this contest as well. Come for the competition in the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Athletics and Recreation Building’s weight room on Monday between 10:30 and noon, Wednesday between 4:00 and 5:00, and Friday between 10:30 and 12:30.

**Penn State Wilkes-Barre Cheerleading Squad**

**Raven Little**

“VICTORY, VICTORY, victory, victory – that’s how we say it....”

“Cheer” isn’t a word we’re used to hearing at our school basketball games or other campus events, but as the world changes and our campus grows we may soon hear this word a lot more. At some point in our stay at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus, we have all walked past the glass showcase cabinet before entering the book store – the one with the track pictures and cheerleading uniform in it. I know the same question arose in my mind that did in yours when you glanced at the case: How old is that cheerleading uniform? I did my research and found that the uniform is more than five years old, and it has been six years since this campus has seen a cheerleading team. But I’ve got word that next fall all that might change.

Student Kelsey Gower is one of several individuals here on campus who is interested in the cheerleading team that is currently underway. Gower has been a cheerleader since the age of fifteen, and cheerleading is something she would love to continue pursuing in college. Gower has sent out emails to everyone on campus, trying to reach out to any girl who wants to be involved in a campus cheerleading team. A minimum of only twelve girls is needed to form a team, though more are encouraged to join. Gower explained that meetings have been held to discuss the issue of funding, and the group has come up with many fundraising ideas, cheer clinks, and other things that should bring the money in for this team. Gower also expressed that this campus is full of love and it seems like everybody helps everybody out in the time of need, but she just hopes that everyone on campus will not only support her but also support the soon-to-come cheerleading team.

Being a cheerleader myself all four years in high school, I would say that putting a cheerleading team together is not easy, but finding money to fund that team is even more difficult. There are some people who just despise cheerleaders and don’t understand them, but there are many other people who will be behind that team all the way. I think this cheerleading team is a good idea for this campus. I’ve been to many of the other Penn State campuses, and they all have cheerleading teams and the same things we have here, but I believe we hold a higher rank than most of the campuses. Penn State Wilkes-Barre is more like a family than a school with random people in it. Even on a bad day you can see an unfamiliar person on campus and they can smile at you or ask you how you are today, and that will brighten up your day. That’s what a family and friends should do. I mean, “WE ARE... Penn State,” and we’re always behind anything good. But to our soon-to-come cheerleading team, I want to wish you luck. Just know that we are behind you the whole way.
He's Just Not That Into You

Amanda Nolan

Sex and the City meets Love Actually in this hit romantic comedy that has women gossiping about past and present loves alike, and men shuddering and rolling their eyes. He’s Just Not That Into You was this season’s most talked about and awaited romantic comedy. Sporting an A-list cast and the writing genius of former Sex and the City screen-writer Gregory Behrendt this ‘click flick’ was sure to please.

He’s Just Not That Into You follows the intermingled love lives of nine Baltimoreans as they struggle with the gripes of love and loss. The story’s main character is Gigi, played by The Dark Knight’s Ginnifer Goodwin, who finds herself in a dating rut. While Gigi seems to attract a varying degree of different men, they all end up never calling her back. After her latest date Conor, portrayed by Kevin Connolly, follows the path of all his predecessors, Gigi takes matters into her own hands. Under the pretense of ‘just having been in the area,’ Gigi visits a bar she knows Conor happens to frequent. Although she doesn’t manage to run into Conor, she does happen to make friends with Alex (Justin Long), the bartender who just so happens to be one of Conor’s friends. Alex takes it upon himself to inform Gigi that her pursuit of Conor is in vain, because, simply stated, he’s just not interested. For some unbeknownst reason, Alex decides to explain to Gigi the varying degree of ‘signs’ men give women to show their lack of interest.

While the synopsis of the story is rather interesting, it is also very complex and long. I’m going to give you the quickest summary of your life, and let me tell you, it can get confusing. Are you paying attention? Good, because here we go...

So... Gigi is interested in Conor, who happens to be in love with Anna. While Conor is cute and all, he just doesn’t grab Anna’s attention the way Ben does. Unfortunately, Ben happens to be married Janine, who works in the same office as Gigi and Beth. Beth is in loved with Neil, who loves her too but not enough to get married. Beth breaks up with Neil after hearing about the “rules” Gigi learned from Alex and thus realizing after seven long years that Neil has no intentions of ever marrying her. Lastly, we get to meet poor Mary, Anna’s BFF, who learns from her co-workers that “MySpace is the new booty call,” and that she is therefore in just as much of a rut as Gigi.

And breathe. Wow, that can take a lot out of you! So as you can see, the story delves into many different facets of the main characters’ lives and does an excellent job of tying all of the characters together. While the story itself is rather humorous, by the end of the movie you can’t help but cross your fingers and hope that poor Gigi is finally going to find a man worth her time and effort. The characters are relatable and loveable. Trust me, you can’t watch this movie without being able to point out moments of “I’ve been there” or “OMG, is that really how guys think!” Girls, we really have to stop filling our heads with excuse after excuse as to why guys are or aren’t interested in us. How insane is it of us to believe that if a guy is treating us like dirt, that maybe he’s just too shy to tell us how he really feels! This isn’t kindergarten, ladies. Let’s just listen to the advice provided for us in the movie’s title: if he’s not calling you, if he’s acting like a jerk, if he’s not asking you out, there’s a very good chance that “he’s just not that into you.” Definitely worth the cost of admission if you’re looking for your typical, every day ‘click flick’ entertainment.

Reviews

Gran Torino

Chad Dewing

On the old list of best movie quotes the one famous one was the famous “do you feel lucky punk” by Clint east wood as Harry Callahan. But now you can add a new Clint Eastwood quote to that list.……….. “Get off my lawn!!” In this story Clint plays a stubborn old prejudice veteran named Walt Kowalski. After the death of his wife he finds that he has new neighbors that are Chinese. Walt being a Korean War vet doesn’t have much love Asian people and even regrets that his own son owns and sells foreign cars. The neighbors even don’t like him until he accidently helps them. After which they start bringing him food and presents, he in turn tries to stop it but unsuccessful and has no choice but to except it. This is to me by no doubt one of Clint Eastwood’s best movies. It is his equivalent to John Wayne’s movie “The Shootist.” It is his last bow to acting and is probably one of the movies he will go down in history for. Gran Torino is already one of the best movies of 09 and will be hard to beat. I definitely predict an Oscar in either Best actor or even Best picture. I give “Gran Torino” 5 Callahans out of 5.

The Dark Knight

Sarah Ferrier

10. January and February in the Penn State parking lot of ice? Please, walk like you just had a colonoscopy; don’t be ashamed.
9. Look for the piles of tiny snowballs. That is going to be the safest place besides your bed.
8. Yes, the sun is out; no, the ice isn’t gone. It’s just invisible, waiting for you.…. 7. Drive as slow as you want. If the SUV driver behind you is getting angry, it will be his fault when his headlights disappear into your trunk.
6. Practice using your arms as pinwheels. It might save your life one day.
5. Listen to the weather man. He is the one in charge of whether or not Penn State closes. (Apparently Penn State Wilkes-Barre teachers teleport to class, because they certainly don’t drive down Hillside Road.)
4. Be prepared. If you believe two jackets will be enough, bring three and a blanket to class. Heck, bring a “Snuggy” so you can take notes.
3. DON’T wash your car until June. A clean car in the winter attracts salt and dirt, ruining our already icy economy with wasted water.
2. Warm up your car. A cold car is not a happy car. What makes you think it will want to warm you up?
1. Just remember, it is the SPRINGI semester. Just think of warm, sunny beaches. The cold will only last as long as you are sane enough to admit that it exists.
**Writers’ Cafe**

**Hollie Browning**

Silent snowflakes fall into the dirty streets, money bells ring, and people strut with hope for a better year. I look through the thick, tinted glass while unfamiliar faces stare. Tiny bumps cover my arms and legs as my head pounds from the cold. I remembered things--things about my childhood, things about my father, and even things about happiness. Amongst myself I thought if I had a choice I’d rid these empty, voiceless thoughts but then suddenly those thoughts have voices that burst like colourful confetti in my head. I can see it all there spilling out and into the voids of my being--sometimes there’s so much I just don’t know where to start. All day long I jump into and out of my skin trying to catch the millions of words I wished I could’ve said. It’s time to exit the skin but without the fear of wondering if I’ll enter again. “Come back clean, come back pure, and with the dreams you abandoned!” my heart screams. The body shivers incomprehensively wanting to be back home. For now I walk the frozen grounds following the footsteps of who I used to be, wanting to write, wanting to dream, to love and be loved immensely. What happens now? Time has swallowed my childhood alive. I want to go back, save the dead’s life, beg daddy not to lie or buy another drop of that juice, to the mirror where I’ll recognize myself, back to the words that destroyed me then I’ll breathe.

**Matthew Biscontini**

As wrinkles fade 85 years of pain disappears Like timeless raindrops through red Kentucky soil. I close my eyes and go back to the old rope swing Arching 50 feet above the crystal clear Green river.

**Hollie Browning**

His kisses were like blisters on my lips But I still let him insert disease and pain upon me. It only lasted for minutes at a time and when we stopped, I had to catch my breath to keep from suffocating.

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**D.S. Smith**

I knew you better yesterday than today. I heard your voice more clearly, smelled your clothes more distinctly, saw your crazy grin more vividly. But “goodbye” started a stopwatch, and minutes, hours, days will turn into weeks, months, years. The clock keeps ticking, the seconds accumulating, and memories are breaking down. Images become black and white, voices fade, the silent film of nostalgia becomes blurry. Things committed to memory are like people committed to family: neither can be held onto. Your favorite tie, your shower gel, bittersweet Canon in D, your handwriting, your dumb green hat, your arm behind my head, your German cars, your singing voice, our full moon rendezvous, melted ice cream: one a.m., your pipe lost in the woods, lead foot, warm hands, your shirt sleeves for my tears every night, can’t hold on, can’t let go, want to go where you are, want to stay where you were, yesterday my brother, today an acquaintance, tomorrow a silhouette, time is a thief, I cry less and less, until one of these nights I won’t cry at all, and a dry pillow means we’re finally strangers.

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**Hollie Browning**

I don’t remember where the years went or how the demons struck my soul with their gutless stare. Now that beauty is all around

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## Growth

Nicole Navoczynski

His kisses were like blisters on my lips But I still let him insert disease and pain upon me. It only lasted for minutes at a time and when we stopped, I had to catch my breath to keep from suffocating.

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## Defiance

Matthew Biscontini

As wrinkles fade 85 years of pain disappears Like timeless raindrops through red Kentucky soil. I close my eyes and go back to the old rope swing Arching 50 feet above the crystal clear Green river.

**Hollie Browning**

I just want to rent
I say who was talking about buying
she says she can’t be bought
she says her man is built
I say I have money
she says watch it
but I persist
she says no
I asked why
she says she has an image
I asked why
she says she can’t be bought
I say who was talking about buying
I just want to rent
the girl with the fiery green eyes

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The Penn State Wilkes-Barre Collegian
A stream of smoke flows from between his lips and out of each nostril like a river delta. The crackle of tobacco burning interrupts his thoughts of loneliness and longing for the comfort of home, of familiarity. He checks his phone, it’s 12:30. Jason takes a final drag off of his cigarette and puts the remains in its sandy burial grounds among the other burnt rolls of fiberglass. He walks down the path to his apartment building, wondering if there’s a new message or update waiting for him like an unexpected Christmas present.

He spits before entering the building, while chuckling at the NO SMOKING sign hanging on the door. “If only,” he thinks to himself. “It’d be nice to not have to come outside in this horrid windy weather. Forget the Clean Air Act, and my landlord. I wonder if he’s home or not.”

A sigh of disappointment is had as Jason discovers the unlocked door, a sure sign of his roommate’s presence.

He throws his jacket on the dresser and proceeds to the bathroom to wash the stench of “organic” cigarettes off his hands. Plosh drip, the water splashes down the sink as he tugs out the cells to warm the fresh blood of Jason spilled over the floor as Jason’s computer rang out the alert to warm the fresh blood of Jason spilled over the floor as Jason’s computer rang out the alert to warm the fresh blood of Jason spilled over the floor as Jason’s computer rang out the alert.

The phone rings, it’s his girlfriend Megan, just calling to see how he’s doing. “It’s the same” he replies. “How are you thought? How’s your family doing?”

“They’re alright.”

“Just alright?”

“Yeah, my nephew is doing good, my parents are good, things are good I guess.”

“Well that’s good,” he chuckles. Looking around, he notices that his apartment window is shut. “Damn it! He shut the window. The rooms gotta air out. I don’t want to get sick.”

“Oh?”

“Yeah, I gotta go. I’ll call you later.”

“Ok, I love you.”

“I love you too. Tell everyone I said hi.”

“Will do.”

“Bye.”

He shuts his phone and puts out his cigarette. Just as he enters the building, he notices it begins to downpour outside. “Just in time,” he thinks to himself.

Aggravated, he storms up the stairs and into his room.

“Seriously, Garret!” he barks.

“I was cold,” Garret states in his defense.

“It’s already 75 in here, how much warmer do you seriously need it? It’s you’re fever, anyway. I don’t want to get sick,” Jason says as he opens his window back up.

“I have a cold!” Garret exclaims, as he bounds from his bed. In doing so he knocks over Jason’s TV, breaking the screen wide open with jagged glass edges jetting from the mess of wires and circuits.

“What is your problem?” Garret quickly and ignorantly questions to Jason.

“What’s my problem? What’s your problem? Breaking my TV and stuff,” Jason yells as he shoves Garret towards his bed.

Garret couldn’t take it anymore, and hit Jason a cross the jaw as hard as he could. Jason spun around as he fell backwards towards his broken TV and landed face first in the disarray of shattered glass.

Garret was taken aback at his action. As he rushed to aid his roommate, he noticed the blood streaming from the open wound where glass had pierced what was Jason’s left eye. A wheezing noise was heard from Jason’s lower throat as Garret discovered the repulsive sight of a slashed throat. When Garret picked up his phone to call 911, the sun came out and began to warm the fresh blood of Jason spilled over the floor as Jason’s computer rang out the alert of a new message from Megan.