Nobody who has frequented or visited Penn State Wilkes-Barre over the past year could have failed to notice our campus’ newest building project. Now that the exterior of the Academic Commons is almost complete, we can begin to visualize how beautiful this structure will be. Hand-set stone and towering glass windows give the building an appearance that adds to the natural majesty of its surroundings. Although financial setbacks and necessary budgeting have led to changes, the Academic Commons will still be functional as well as beautiful. It will feature a spacious library, a café, four large classrooms, a performance/lecture hall, a modern computer room, and an outdoor amphitheater.

It is worth noting that the Academic Commons we will, with any luck, be using in January is different from what those originally planning the project wanted it to be. Originally, the Academic Commons was to be a media hub, providing information and entertainment. People relied on TV, the radio, the internet, and newspapers for all of the most up-to-date news. Access to all of this information comes with a price – advertisements. They are everywhere. Some people trust advertisements on TV to tell them what to wear, where to eat, what to watch, and even who to vote for. Ads bashing opposing candidates are put on air to convince us to vote for a certain person instead of another. If this scares you, then you are probably the kind of person who goes a little bit further to get the necessary information. Maybe you go online to a trusted site, or maybe you find editorial writers and news reporters whom you can trust to bring you the truth.

What exactly is the truth? One truth is that writers who attempt to provide a reliable source of information for others are taking on a huge responsibility. Reporters are trusted to know the content of what they’re writing about, and to represent everyone who wants to know. News

Continued On Page 2

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can be used for a variety of purposes, ranging from classes, to lectures, to film showings. We are assured that this building will be open for use in January, and classes are scheduled to be held within its classrooms in the spring semester.

It may have been possible to build the Academic Commons with six classrooms and with a section joining it to the existing library, even with the existing budget. However, had PSU decided to do this, many of the external and internal features we will enjoy in January would not have been included. Despite the changes made, this building is an exciting and beneficial addition to our campus. Chancellor Davis tells us “I think it represents the best of the community. I say this because there is no debt—all of the money has been donated. The money was raised here in this area and by alumni. The people of the community and the alumni did a lot for this building. People who left this campus didn’t forget about it.” Surely now, more than ever, with the addition of the beautiful and functional Academic Commons, our campus will be impossible to forget.

Commons was to feature six classrooms and was to be connected to the existing library. Dr. Goldstein, who was the acting Chancellor during the planning stages, stresses that reducing the size of the building, thus eliminating two classrooms and abandoning plans to join the new building with the old library, was unavoidable.

University policy states that a campus can’t increase the University’s debt by taking out loans to fund a building project. Instead, a campus must raise the money. “We couldn’t raise any more money. At some point, you have to say ‘Stop raising money, and start building the building.’” So, the only way to start building the building with the money raised was to eliminate square footage. Eliminating two classrooms and the joining of the library and the Academic Commons decreased square footage and cost, yet allowed the building to maintain most of its original purpose.

Though six classrooms and joint buildings would have been wonderful, Reese Smith, our campus’ Supervisor of Maintenance, assures us that the building’s current design will serve our needs just as well. The building is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified, which means that is has been built “green” or “environmentally friendly.” To ensure this certification, public areas are equipped with sensors to conserve energy, and in many places natural lighting will significantly reduce the need for artificial lighting. Construction waste materials are recycled. Every entrance is (ABA) accessible, and an elevator is available for use at every level. The building will also include numerous comfortable seating areas and fun, modern touches such as flat-screen televisions.

The library, computer room, café, classrooms, performance/lecture hall, and outdoor amphitheater each include unique and functional features. The library, along with displaying the books and reference materials, will also contain several study rooms. These rooms will provide a semi-private space for individuals or small groups to study or meet. A computer room will contain modern computer equipment, and may be kept open for student use. A café can be found on the Academic Commons’ lower level. The cafe will include indoor and outdoor seating areas, and will serve light food items such as bagels, sandwiches, and coffee, all prepared in and transported from our existing cafeteria. Four large classrooms are also located on the lower level, which will feature wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling whiteboards on their front walls. These unique whiteboards can be written on and projected upon, eliminating the need for projection screens. A room which has been labeled a performance/lecture hall will seat one hundred people, and will have a small stage space. Finally, though an outdoor amphitheater is in itself special, this one
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cases more than others, such as in editorial articles. Being a writer is about putting yourself in the general population’s shoes, which, as you can imagine, are big ones to fill.

While we are lucky to live in a country where we do have freedom of speech, speaking freely requires more work on paper than one might think. Writers of the news must research topics endlessly. They must conduct polls and interviews at the convenience of others. They must overcome “writer’s block” quicker than a sprinter can run a yard. The tougher the deadlines, the more pressure; and the more pressure, the easier it becomes for a writer to completely lose track of where she is going with an article.

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The Wilkes-Barre Collegian

Continued From Page 1

PSU WB Sports

Mike Snyder

Our Wilkes-Barre Nittany Lions have high expectations for this fall season. Many of our varsity sports will be in contention for a PSUAC championship.

The men’s golf team looks forward to a great season after placing third at the 2006 state championships. Returning starter and this year’s captain, Zack Stull, will be the anchor for the PSUAC title. Head Coach Ed Keil believes that this year’s team has a lot of potential. If everyone plays hard the PSUAC title will not be hard to reach.

The varsity men’s soccer team is loaded with talent. It will be a good year as they compete for the 2007 title. Defensive stand-outs include Grant Roberts (Lake-Lehman High), Reese Smith, and Max Winters (Dallas High). Freshman goalkeeper Gerard Cebulski has a lot of potential and will be able keep the opposing strikers from scoring. Head coach Paul Callahan believes this could be a great year for his soccer team. Controlling the mid-field will be Mario Oliveri (Dallas High), Ryan Mauser and Steve Huffsmith (Tunkhannock High). Callahan will also supplement the attack with a talented group of local freshmen including Ian Carpenter, Mike Snyder (Williamsport), Ryan Grabiniski and Mike Ortiz.

Nittany Ladies Volleyball Team

Jaquana Windsor

Serve, bump and spike! The Penn State Wilkes-Barre women’s volleyball team started off this season with a bang on August 27. The women are stepping up their game. Already playing four games with partial turn-outs, the women were hyped-up to play at the campus they call home. “Playing the game I love in a place I call my home was a great thing,” said Kelsey Biondo, one of the team’s starters. With a record of 3-2, the women are on a roll. Coach Regan Palfey has so much confidence and support for her team. “They are really working hard to make women’s volleyball history at PSU-WB,” she said.

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The Voice Of The Campus

Continued From Page 1

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When I heard the news that there was going to be a bus trip to Philly, I was really excited. It seemed like it would be an amazing time, and for little cost. Just $25 would get each Penn State student into the Barnes Collection, the Franklin Institute, and the King Tut exhibit (which would normally cost an extra $30). Faculty members passed out flyers announcing the trip which made it nearly impossible for any student to be unaware that the trip would take place.

Unfortunately, the student turnout was very small. This really surprised me. When no trips are offered, we complain. But when trips are offered and are even subsidized for us, few attend.

Those lucky few who were able to make it had a marvelous time. The weather was perfect, the art was inspiring, and the Franklin Institute can make anyone feel like a kid again. It was fun to play with dominos, make paper, and walk through the giant heart. They had a lot of new things since I had been there last, such as ultrasounds, and other demonstrations at different scheduled times.

Finally there was the guy who gets top billing-- King Tut. After waiting in line for a half hour, and walking past three or four places where one could go about the life of King Tut and all that he accomplished, and then proceeded to the exhibit itself. Although I was never truly passionate about any specific parts of history, I found the entire exhibit to be absolutely fascinating. While many visitors were disappointed that some of the most famous artifacts, such as the iconic mask of Tut (shown here), were not included, I was amazed at how much was included. Light catching the hoard of gold jewelry, statuettes, boxes, and other ornaments dazzled our eyes. But this was much more than a collection in glass cases. The lights, sounds, signs, and projections transformed what could have been a mere exhibit into a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

There may be another bus trip in the spring semester, perhaps to the new Greek and Roman rooms at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Let’s hope that more students will take advantage of this opportunity.

The mask of King Tut Pictured above was not present at the exhibit.
Who doesn’t love Halloween—the candy, the costumes, the parties, and the playful scares? This holiday has been around for centuries, but it wasn’t until the late 1800’s, when belief in ghosts and superstitions began to fade, that it became what we know today. Would you believe me if I told you that not everyone considers this holiday fun and good-spirited? In fact, some fundamentalists find Halloween evil.

Halloween started in Celtic countries as the pagan holiday Samhain, marking the end of the season of light and the beginning of the domination of the dark. Samhain later evolved into the Christian festival All Hallows Eve or Hallowe’en (it was also referred to as “Hallow Tide” and “The Eve of All Saints’ Day”). Today both pagan and Christian observations of the holiday have morphed into one of the most popular days on the American Calendar; horror movies, trick-or-treating, and haunted houses flourished—fun, fun, fun.

Would you connect Halloween with Satan? Some folks do. In fact, they consider it “Satan's holiday.” By celebrating Halloween you risk letting him and his evil into you. Some Christians will not allow their children to participate in the merriment for fear that they will be touched by his evil and go to the "Dark Side." They may even blame their children's rebellious nature on being exposed to Halloween at an early age.

Ok, maybe I'm being a little too harsh. I mean, they’re not the only ones who fear Halloween. Let's not forget about the concerned parents who worry that some fool might slip razor blades into chocolate bars or poison lollipops for their own sick and twisted pleasure. Since some parents are extremely cautious, they keep Halloween out of their children's lives completely, which is unfair to the children. It's sad but very true.

When you think about it, every holiday will have some sort of controversy. Whether it’s Valentine’s Day or Christmas, there’s always someone there telling us that it's wrong. I find all this controversy fascinating and slightly absurd. The innocent holiday that I celebrate every year—my favorite—may not be as good as I thought, at least not for some. Although this is true, as long as there are some people there to celebrate it, Halloween will never die.

9th Annual
Haunted Forest
October
11-13 * 18-20 * 24-26
7 P.m. to 10:40 P.m.
13 & Over -$7
12 & Under $6
Our Disposable Society

Matt Biscontini

With issues like global warming looming above our heads, we sometimes miss many other important issues that we have more control over. In our society it is commonplace to see giant twenty-story mountains of trash staring down on us. These piles are a constant reminder of the things we have thrown away.

Plastic cups, Styrofoam plates, paper towels, disposable razors, diapers. These are all things we see thrown into the trash everyday. “Use and dispose” is the motto many Americans employ when “Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle” should be more routine. A 2006 EPA study showed a 60 percent increase in municipal waste since 1980. This is because we buy things that aren’t made to last, things that are made for temporary use. This isn’t entirely the fault of individual American citizens; it is a direct result of a culture of consumerism.

Companies want us to keep buying refills for our “Swiffer Sweepers,” and “Mach 3 Razors” because they make more money off of the refills. The problem with this is that it generates mountains of trash that can’t be recycled.

In addition to refill items, we

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Taking Time Off
Is it right for you?

Brent Ninneman

Taking a year off before starting college is not as bad an idea as most parents would believe. Known as “the gap year” in the UK, it is general practice for students to take a break and get a fresh perspective on life. Many colleges encourage students to take time off to grow as individuals. Being free to experience “the real world” without a curfew, and make decisions without needing permission is an excellent way to mature intellectually.

This “gap year” should not be spent working in a dead-end job or hanging out with friends. The time should be used wisely. There are many different ways to spend this time off productively. Traveling the world is the preferred choice, though it is expensive. However, many volunteer placements will pay for you to travel. Experimental learning programs such as Outward Bound are also a good route to take.

Students should still apply to the college of their choice; getting a year deferment is common. Penn State campuses allow students to apply, while not actually enrolling until the following year. Also having a well-defined plan is a smart move. These choices will ease parents’ minds, at least somewhat.

If you are interested in this idea of a “gap year” there are many web sites you can visit to help get an idea of what you will do with your time off. One of the more useful websites I found was www.volunteertravel.com. Also, if you are interested in experimental educational programs check out www.outwardbound.com.

I’m not advocating that students use this idea as a way to delay their college education. I’m simply stating that for some, this may be an alternative to consider.

“Many colleges encourage students to take time off to grow as individuals.”
Our Disposable Society
Continued From Page 6

We also throw away many items today that we would not think of as disposable. Just consider all of the computers, printers, fax machines, CD players, monitors, televisions, and various appliances that are so important to our everyday lives. Every six months or so the technological world makes a change; last month’s newest and fastest are now old and slow. LCD, MP3, DVD, Pentium 4 have replaced old technology like CRT, CD, VCR, and Pentium II. This “old” technology gets thrown into garages and closets, and then into giant electronics bone yards. Even if these products are still useful, current software and hardware is not compatible. Today’s computer doesn’t come with the same old serial printer ports – now they all come with faster USB ports. 56k modems are obsolete in the high-speed Internet world. Print cartridges today are more expensive than the whole printer unit, and instead of buying cartridges we just buy new printers. We seldom think of how much waste is generated by new technology.

Unfortunately many things that we buy are not recyclable. But I urge you to buy and recycle the things that are. We can push for hybrid cars, scrubbers on smokestacks, and greener fuels, but we are light-years away from finding the solution to global warming. If we just stopped buying bottled water and started using refillable containers, for example, we’d save acres of land-fill space. It isn’t difficult to wash a few dishes every night instead of throwing away non-recyclable Styrofoam, or to take a few extra minutes to recycle our cans, bottles, and plastics. We are all part of this delicate world, and one way or another we have to make it more livable. It is the small things that can and should be done that will determine the health of our planet. Just remember, think about what you’re doing before you throw it away.

Penn State Welcomes New Instructor
Donna Smith

New this year among Penn State Wilkes-Barre faculty, Daniel Blessner didn’t take long to win over his college algebra students. Blessner’s patient teaching style eases the nerves of even the most jittery math students, and his Socratic teaching method and demonstration-based classes keep his students engaged and involved. He even provides extra hours outside of class for one-on-one help and optional practice quizzes. For those of us who tend to be mathematically challenged, Blessner is about as good as they come.

Though Blessner is new among our faculty, the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus is not new to him. “I was born in Wilkes-Barre, and I grew up in Dallas,” Blessner shared. “I’m an engineer from Penn State, and I was here for three semesters. A lot of my professors are still here!”

“I worked as an engineer for a couple years when I was in my 20s. Then when I was about 30 I started teaching.” Blessner quickly found that he preferred the education field to the engineering field. “I love teaching. It’s a lot of fun!” Blessner began his teaching career at Luzerne County Community College, where he taught until his recent transition to Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

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It is a melancholy object to those who walk through this great campus, when they see the mansion, the arboretum, and soon the new Academic Commons, crowded with students from out of the area, far from home and importuning every local landlord for an apartment. Take heart. The dream of campus housing may soon become a reality at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, granted my proposal catches the attention of the right people. Our campus is not exactly flourishing to its fullest potential, largely because we have no on-campus housing. It’s no secret that the region surrounding the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus is experiencing a growth spurt. Local colleges are growing into universities overnight. There’s a Starbucks in Shavertown. Locals are experiencing culture shock, but the Back Mountain area is determined to keep up with the times. So what about PSUWB? Well, we get a few more freshmen each year. That’s growth, yes, but let’s think big. Our competitors are growing like institutions on steroids. Before you know it, our biggest rival will be Luzerne County Community University. We need to get back in the game here.

School officials have expressed a desire to see housing provided on campus, but face it: housing costs money. If this campus ever wants to see student housing, we need to think outside the box. We need to put that higher education to work and come up with a solution that will house our students without spending our money. Ergo, I present to you the Coleman Complex. Get a picture in your mind of that sprawling, gorgeous lawn surrounding the Hayfield House. Enter fifty Coleman pop-up tents. With this new and innovative housing system, we will officially be ahead of our times. Perfect for our fast-paced, on-the-go society, this housing system is sure to start a revolution.

Not only attractive to inner-city students looking for a rural college setting, the Coleman Complex is also impressively efficient. The going price is roughly $60.00 per housing unit—cheaper than the average textbook. Each housing unit sleeps four people; fifty housing units could sleep the entire freshmen class. At the edge of the camping site a Japanese garden provides running water for bathing or recreation. Scatter lamp posts light the campus, eliminating the need to provide electricity to each individual housing unit. The nearby haunted Hayfield mansion even eliminates the need for television. We’re going green. Do students want to set up camp in the arboretum? Let’s charge them extra. Now we’re making a profit.

Penn State Wilkes Barre future student housing

Students, let’s look at it from your perspective. Your rooms are low-maintenance. Hose them off if they get dirty, flip them over and shake them out if they get cluttered. Don’t like your neighbor? Fold up your tent and move it across the yard. Better yet, fold up your neighbor’s tent and move it across the campus. Show your Nittany pride by selecting a blue and white abode. When the Coleman Company catches wind of this, they may decide to show their support by sponsoring students in various ways. For example, Coleman may one day offer you the opportunity to purchase, at a discounted price, accessories to add comfort and luxury to your rustic schooling experience, such as Coleman lanterns, air mattresses, or perhaps a grill. Collect enough Coleman points and a free Coleman lawn chair will be thrown into the deal.

I profess, in the sincerity of my heart, that I have not the least personal interest in endeavoring to promote this necessary work, having no other motive than the public good of my campus, by advancing our facilities, providing for the homeless, relieving the local landlords, and giving some pleasure to the random passerby.
“I developed a love for math when I was about 18, when I started college,” said Blessner. “When I was going to school I worked as a peer tutor and I really, really enjoyed it.” Though Blessner is only teaching math this semester, he eventually looks forward to offering physics courses as well.

Blessner expressed that his favorite thing about teaching is seeing students do well in his class. “Students come into my class with certain abilities, and I love watching them leave with the ability to do much more.”

Of his life outside the classroom, Blessner said, “Almost all of the rest of my time I spend with my three daughters, doing things with them.” Blessner, a Shavertown resident, speaks affectionately of daughters Emily (11), Audrey (6), and Danielle (2). “My number one priority is my family.”

Regarding his hobbies, Blessner said, “I’m an environmentalist.” He also mentioned, “In my 20’s I was big into the martial arts, but haven’t really done anything with that since. I was in the Penn State Karate Club for a number of years.”

One thing that becomes obvious when speaking with Blessner is, as he himself stated, “that I love teaching!”

As many PSU W-B students have found out and many more will soon see, this statement could not be more accurate.

\[ x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \]

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**Mike Snyder**

If you have an Xbox, or know anything about video games, you’ve heard of Microsoft’s Halo. Halo is the most anticipated game of the year, and it has finally arrived! You still have the heated battles against people from across the world, and with your friends. With Halo 3 things just get better. The only down side is for the gamers who still play with an original Xbox; unlike the first two Halo games, Halo 3 is played on the 360. The game play is mostly the same as Halo 2, though Halo 3 has a campaign mode, a multiplayer mode, and the ever-so-addicting Xbox Live. Players will also be excited to hear that Halo 3 wraps up the trilogy very nicely. I believe the campaign mode prepares new gamers for competitions with people from across the globe.

One of the major differences between Halo 2 and Halo 3 is the weapons. Some weapons are similar to the weapons in the original Halo. I noticed that using the Battle Rifle is not as easy as before. The damage per hit is lowered slightly and it makes an impact in battle. In Halo 2 you usually wouldn’t pick up the “Needler” to slay an opponent, but in Halo 3 it’s actually a smart move. It is easy to get used to the new weapons, vehicles, and other equipment.

Another feature to Halo 3 is that you can save and edit previous video clips from your battles. You’ll be able to see all your Xbox live wins from many different angles. There is also an option that lets you share your clips.

Another addition Halo 3 also has a new object layout editor. It is called “Forge.” You won’t be able to make changes to buildings or landscapes, but everything else can be changed. You can drop in weapons, vehicles, crates, and you’ll even be able to create your own “spawn point.”

One of my favorite new features to the game is the appearance editor. You can change the look of your character, whether you’re a Spartan or an Elite. You’re able to swap the look of different pieces of body armor. All in all, it’s pretty cool how you can turn your player into something that is different than all the rest.

Halo 3 definitely lives up to all the hype. There were many people that didn’t think the game could prove itself. I’m positive their thoughts were changed after the release of Halo 3.
While getting a feel for guns in the hunting department, ask the clerk if he could direct you to the anti-depressants.

Rush into the fitting room and shut the door loudly, wait a little while, then yell very loudly, “There’s no toilet paper in here!”

When an announcement echoes over the loud speaker, fall to the floor, assume the fetal position, and scream, “NO! NO! IT’S THE VOICES AGAIN!”

As you cash your check at the service desk, ask to put one bag of skittles on layaway.

Set up a tent in the middle of the camping department and inform other shoppers that you will let them in if they grab pillows and blankets from the bedding department.

Walk up to an employee pressing your ear and tell him or her in an official tone, “‘Code 3’ in housewares”… and see what happens.

Hide in a clothing rack and as someone begins to browse through, shake one of the hangers saying, “Pick me! Pick me!”

Not being a true fan of this genre of music I listened to the album without prejudice and from a critical standpoint. This album may be overshadowed by his previous which was so successful. The album consists of pleasant beats with lyrics that take you into his “lost soul.” Some songs such as “1973” really portray a deep message. Overall I felt this album was worth buying, and any James Blunt fan will be satisfied.

This is one of those albums that the more you hear it the more you love it. Kanye decided to scrap the skits that plagued his previous two albums, and really focus on the music. His lyrics have definitely matured and he has only one track that features another rapper. The beats are very creative and innovative, and really strive to take hip hop to a new level. Out of all 13 tracks, there is not one song that I skip over, although my personal favorite is “Flashing Lights.” Kanye has definitely graduated into superstardom.

If you enjoy raps about guns, money, and more guns then this album is for you. 50 has some powerhouse guest appearances such as Justin Timberlake, Akon, Timberland, Eminem, and the whole G-Unit. The beats are also good, featuring a variety of producers, with some new styles compared to 50’s usual dark, hard beats. But the lyrics fall short. They are very elementary with no context whatsoever. When I saw that he had titled the album after his own birth name (Curtis Jackson), I expected some depth into who he is, but was utterly disappointed.
Libra (September 23-October 23)
This is your month to shine, so don’t just sit back. Get your head in the game. Take time to get away from a current relationship and hang out with old friends or make new ones.

Scorpio (October 24–November 21)
This week, don’t believe everything you hear. Scorpios are known to be very gullible. If somebody tells you something, think about it before you go ahead and believe it.

Sagittarius (November 22–December 21)
Lately you have been working very hard. I can guarantee that it will all pay off in the end. Although you may feel that your hard work has gone unnoticed, someone close has been paying attention. Be prepared to be rewarded for all your hard work later on this week.

Capricorn (December 22–January 19)
Right now you’re in demand by everyone. Your social life is hectic; take a break and calm down. Find yourself in this crazy pile. Remember, Capricorn, all things eventually do calm down.

Aquarius (January 20–February 18)
This month you have been very generous. You give more than you have gotten in return. People go to you because they know it’s hard for you to say no. You’re not a doormat, so don’t let people walk all over you. It’s nice to be generous, but when it’s putting a hole in your pocket, you’ve reached the time to stop.

Pisces (February 19–March 20)
Right now you are in a position in your life where everything is going great, but keep in mind that all of this will be coming to an end. So try to learn how to adapt in a different environment.

Aries (March 21–April 19)
Don’t just sit in the corner; get up and get involved. Right now you might be a little shy, but don’t worry about that. You will eventually get over your shyness. You must go after the things you want in life – they won’t just come to you.

Taurus (April 20–May 20)
Become happy, let all of the anger go. Wherever the drama is, try to avoid it, because it is not worth the pain you would go through in the long run.

Gemini (May 21–June 21)
Your love life is on the move, so dive right in and take it to the next level. Another thing you need some alone time for yourself and also for your school work.

Cancer (June 22–July 22)
The one major problem you seem to have this month is worrying about what others think. Stop caring about everyone else and how they feel. This week, mix things up for a change. Do what you feel is best and stop listening to everyone else.

Leo (July 23–August 22)
Have you ever heard the saying “curiosity killed the cat”? Lately you find yourself wondering about a certain situation. Stop wondering. Eventually the truth will come out, so for now just sit back and let this one go. It’ll all be worth it in the end.

Virgo (August 23–September 22)
Take time out for yourself, because right now your family and friends are becoming worried about you. Stop over-working yourself, Virgo. Remember that it’s good to get out and have fun. This week take a break and relax; you owe it to yourself.

Poetry

Uneasy Eye

Finding myself staring so deeply
I notice someone looking back
Shivers fall down my spine
I feel as if he could attack

All I want to do is run
As far away as I can
To get away from this madness
To be forever safe again

I can’t seem to move an inch
And to this spot I stay
Hoping he will check his conscience
Praying he will go away

Finally, I notice he turns around
Never looking back
Even if it wasn’t physical
His eyes were the attack

No Escape

Stop, did you hear that?
The sounds in the night;
The screams; the sobs; the silence.
It’s coming. It’s coming for you.

What will you do? Will you run?
Go and try; he won’t stop hunting.
He has found many people before.
None of them ever saw it coming.

He has a million disguises to hide in:
Cancer, accidents, suicide, murder.
Ha, go ahead, pick your poison.
It won’t matter; he won’t listen.

Don’t look for him, he won’t be there;
His favorite thing about life is irony.
Don’t worry, my dear, he will come;
His jagged teeth behind a gruesome smile.

-Morgan Salsman
-Sarah Ferrier
Kristen Durso

Kristen Durso, an English major here on the Wilkes-Barre campus, is spending the first semester of her senior year at the University of Kent in Canterbury. So far, after five days in England, she is too busy to miss her home campus much, but she sends her hopes that we are off to a great start this semester. As we can see from the following letter, she certainly is:

I am doing quite well. The ride here seemed so long—probably because I wanted to get here so bad. When I stepped foot onto English soil it was a dream come true, which I never thought could happen. I don’t think I could have chosen a better place to study. Canterbury is a world of its own. Canterbury is ten times more beautiful than I thought it would be. The “Uni” sits a top a hill and overlooks the city of Canterbury. It is gorgeous. The best part about it is that from my window I can see Canterbury Cathedral which looks spectacular at night. I’ve included some pictures so you can see what I mean—too bad the Collegian can’t print in color!

The past couple of days have been hectic. There has been so much to do. I have met so many different people and have made friends. The majority of people here in Canterbury are nice. I am getting used to how expensive items are here and have actually been managing money very well—trying to at least. The city is not that far from the “Uni,” about a ten minute bus ride and twenty minute walk. There are a lot of nice shops and restaurants. I feel like I am in a completely different world when I step into town. It is simply amazing to me. Tuesday a group of us went to Canterbury Cathedral on a trip. You would not believe how many students from elsewhere are studying here. There are close to 1,000 international students and around 1,000 European Union students. So, there are quite a few non-Brits here. Anyway, The trip to Canterbury Cathedral was … I don’t even have words for it. It definitely is a sight to see, that is all I have to say. Walking through the Cathedral I was completely in awe. I couldn’t take enough pictures. That night there was a wine reception and dinner for the international students. There are many students from the States.

Wednesday I attended a meeting about my courses and what to expect. I am a bit nervous. It is different, but I am sure I will be okay. Today is a quiet day. Most likely I’ll be taking a walk through Canterbury and do some sightseeing. It’s like a maze here. Around every corner there is something. Friday, I will be meeting with my advisor to confirm my courses. In the afternoon a few people and I may be going to Whitstable, Herne’s Bay, or Dover to sightsee a bit. Saturday a few of us were thinking of taking a trip to London. And Sunday there is a trip to Leeds Castle I am taking. So, as you can tell I am quite busy. The time here seems to be flying by and it is only my fifth day here. And I am sure the next three months will be flying by. I really love it here. I plan to take every experience in and every advantage I have to travel. Of course I will be studying hard as usual. Other than that there really isn’t anything new. I hope things are going well at Penn State Wilkes-Barre and the semester is going well for all of you.