Desiree Thorne

So, it's that time of year again. It's that time of year when returning Penn State Wilkes-Barre students have started to expect a visit from the ice cream truck and a first-day-of-school cookout, two staples that we love and that we are spoiled by and oh-sofortunate to have. It's the time when so many students have to start waking up early again, heading to class, reading books, and taking exams. Unlike last year at this time, it actually feels like fall and not summer. The cooler air has arrived and the leaves have begun to change. Plans are being made for our biggest fall fundraiser, the annual Haunted Forest. It's a brand new fall semester, and while many things have stayed the same, so many more have changed.

For example, you may have heard rumors that the state of the Academic Commons has been changing. If you believe this, you are correct. But before you start believing the rumors that the building is going to collapse, you should have the accurate information. On Friday, September 12, an email was sent out to the faculty concerning the problem with the newest building on our campus. Though this email was never brought to the attention of us, the students, Dr. Theodora Jankowski, Director of Academic Affairs, was able to provide some information about these construction errors. Firstly, there is a chemical reaction taking place within the building's installation. Since it's being noticed, tests have been performed to assure that there has been no harm to anyone from being inside any part of the building. The problem was proven to be non-toxic, and to make sure that it stays this way, air-monitoring devices have been installed and are checked a few times each day. The very unfortunate part of this problem is that because there were so many people involved with the construction of the building, it is going to take all of those people and a lot of time to deal with it correctly. However, Jankowski wants to assure everyone that it will be done as efficiently as possible, with as little disruption as possible.

Jankowski mentioned that the walls will be fixed part by part, one classroom at a time, because that space is very much needed currently on campus.

It's also important that we don't forget all the positive aspects of the building. It has smart classrooms and is environmentally friendly in many ways. And who can forget the library? With more book space, individual learning rooms, and "smart" classrooms, it is no wonder that many more students are taking advantage of its resources.

Another big event that will be happening on campus this semester is the dedication ceremony of the old library, which has been restored and renamed the Murphy Student Center. Upon opening, it will include basically everything that has been on the third floor of the Hayfield House (although not the Collegian!). John R. Murphy is scheduled to attend the dedication ceremony set to be held on October 21. Murphy retired in 2004 after serving as the Director of Student Affairs for nearly 38 years. As you can imagine, he must hold a special place in his heart for Penn State Wilkes-Barre, and it will be nice to see how he likes the new center in his honor.

With these being just some of the major changes on campus, it's important to stay involved this semester. Of course, it is an election year and Pennsylvania will play a very large role in the outcome this time around, and that is big news on campus. Many believe that the young voters will play a vital role in the outcome of the upcoming election; so make your vote count on November 4. There are many clubs and committees forming this fall, such as the Thon and Haunted Forest Committees, to name a few. There is something for everyone, so welcome back, and good luck!
Adopt a Freshman
Suheiry Feliciano

You do not know her name or where she is from. You just know that you have seen her, sitting alone at lunch or rushing to class, head down to avoid eye contact, clutching her books to her chest, like a lifeline. She is a freshman and she needs your help.

"Last year we had too many freshmen walking around with no friends," lamented Donna Smith, Collegian Editor-in-Chief, in a recent e-mail. Every year 37.3 freshmen are neglected at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus alone. Every day at least 11 freshmen eat lunch alone. Another seven skip lunch all together out of sheer humiliation!*

"But what can I do?" you ask. Surely, it is not within my power to remove such a pathetic creature from such a desperate situation.

Indeed it is! Just 15 minutes of conversation per week can transform the life of a freshman. One lunch can make a significant improvement to the quality of life for a first-year student. One invitation to a campus club or event can prevent two to four years of miserable solitude and dejection. What do you have to lose?

Can you not spare a moment? A moment to inform a neophyte that she can get cheaper textbooks on Amazon and that the school store only buys them back for half of what they cost at the bookstore that she can get cheaper textbooks on Amazon and that the school store only buys them back for half of what they cost at the bookstore.

Charitable Club Forms on Campus
Anna Miller

There is a new club on campus with the best intentions. Acts of Random Kindness, also known as "ARK", is a club that is setting out to make a difference, help out, bring a smile to people’s faces, and help us realize that WE as students can make a change—a change for the better. Have you ever felt like giving back to the community, or just doing some good? If so, come to our meetings every Friday at noon in room 110 inside the Academic Commons. Help is always needed, and everyone is welcome, so feel free to join. If you have any questions, you can contact Anna Miller by e-mail at amm5404@psu.edu.

THE COLLEGIAN STAFF
Angela Baloga
Matthew Biscontini
Hollie Browning
Jeremy Burgess
Theodore Carl
Chad Dewing
Brian Dowd
Suheiry Feliciano
Sarah Ferrier
Lance Iliams
Sandia Kobos
Terrysha Lewis
Michelle Llewellyn
Anna Miller
Briana Mitchell
Johnny Pazzaglia
Jacqueline Warnick-Platt
Steven Putzel
Donna Smith
Desiree Thorne

CLUB MEETING TIMES:

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<td>Acts of Random Kindness (ARK)</td>
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<td>Business Club</td>
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<td>The Collegian</td>
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<td>Honor Society</td>
<td>Alternating Tuesdays and Fridays, 12:00, H 105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lambda Sigma</td>
<td>Watch Blue Screen for details.</td>
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<td>Lazy Artists Society</td>
<td>Fridays, 12:00, AC 107</td>
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<td>Nittany Paws Dance Club</td>
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<td>Fridays, 12:00, ARB 101-102</td>
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<td>Students for Justice</td>
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<td>Thon Committee</td>
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<td>4 Seasons Club</td>
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3

The Penn State Wilkes-Barre Collegian

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the haunted forest

Help

Sign up thru Oct. 10 in the Commons Room with a View
Meetings Tuesdays at Noon in Gym 102

Free pizza and beverage for volunteers
All Proceeds benefit kids with cancer
**Donna Smith**

There is a new name listed on the faculty directory this fall, but it is a name that is certainly not new to the campus. In fact, many faculty members recall seeing the name on their class rosters not too long ago. Penn State Wilkes-Barre graduate Dan Pape is back, only this time at the front of the classroom. The former art major has been welcomed back to share his love of literature and writing with freshmen by teaching two sections of English 015 this fall.

“I just wanted to do something creative, so that’s how I ended up in this field,” said Pape. “I got my BA in English literature from Penn State, and an MA in English literature from Villanova. …I like the creativity in English literature.” Now as an English composition teacher, Pape is enjoying the opportunity to help others develop their own creativity, communication skills, and appreciation for literature. “A lot of it is being able to share what helped me as a student. It’s a very rewarding position.”

Pape has found that his previous experience at Penn State Wilkes-Barre as a student has already helped him connect in a unique way to his own students. “I’m able to share little funny stories with them occasionally about things that happened here, so they’re not as nervous.” Having spent most of his life in the area and graduated from Coughlin High School, Pape is also familiar with the region from which many of his students are coming. “I was born in Baltimore, Maryland, but I moved to Pennsylvania when I was about seven. So I grew up in Wilkes-Barre, essentially.”

Pape admitted to being “a little nervous” about beginning his teaching career, both at Penn State Wilkes-Barre and at Luzerne County Community College, where he is also teaching a “Writing about Literature” course this semester. “There’s a period where I think both the teachers and the students are nervous.” Still, Pape feels that teaching is the field to which his interests have led him. “I like English literature, so [teaching] is kind of the field that you get channelled into. …I like to talk to people, so it’s a form of that, just on a different level.”

Pape also added, “There’s more freedom in college…which is why I like it.”

Pape explained that, since he is teaching composition courses that are mandatory for all freshmen, he does come across students who feel that the classes are irrelevant to their academic futures and careers. “I think some students think that because they’re going into a field that’s not liberal arts, that they’re not going to write.” Pape emphasized that skills such as writing and communicating are necessary for success in any chosen field, and all students can benefit from taking a composition course.

As a writer himself, Pape spends much of his free time creating song lyrics and short stories, and dreaming up ideas for future works. Pape even recalls having some of his own works published in The Collegian during his years as a Penn State Wilkes-Barre student. “I have a bunch of ideas for children’s books. I’ve never written a novel—I’ve always wanted to try that.”

“My real interest is music. I’m working on music on the side, so I hope something can happen with that. I’m in a band—just a kind of garage band thing. We’re hoping to play a show in a couple months. I dedicate most of my free time creatively to music. I play guitar and I write songs.”

Aside from music and writing, Pape listed a variety of other interests. “I like to play sports—football in particular. I like movies and reading. I like to hang out with loved ones as much as possible.” Pape said that his number one priority in life is “to do something that matters.” “I think everybody wants to feel that they’ve made some impact on the world. I just want to be the best that I can, and enjoy it.” Asked what single thing he would like others to know about him, Pape immediately replied, “That I’m a robot.” …And clearly one that makes Penn State proudest. Welcome back, Dan.

**Lazy Artists. Big Ambitions.**

**Brian Dowd**

Poets, painters, sculptors, musicians, and actors unite under the group Lazy Artists, headed by President Jeremy Burgess and Vice President A.J. Race. Despite claiming to be unmotivated, the group has high aspirations for events in the Fall ‘08 and Spring ’09 semesters.

One of the topics the discussion focused on was a renaming of the club. During the meeting, several names were suggested by a few of the artists. “I wouldn’t be opposed to changing the name,” said Burgess, “for now we can’t confirm that we are actually going to go through with it.” The club moderator, Dr. David Chin, has been pushing for renaming the club since last year. Members were enthusiastic while discussing new possibilities for a name.

One of the more notable names suggested at the meeting to a phrase to something along the lines of Artist Sick and Starving, which would be condensed into the controversial yet, hysterical acronym A.S.S. Recently, the name has been revised to “Lazy Artist Surviving Society” An informal vote was taken showed that the name was overwhelmingly popular with the artists.

Not specializing in any particular creative talent, the Lazy Artists embraces all kinds of inventive expressions and plans on showcasing an assortment of work. The club’s agenda for this semester is pushing for a more campus events to put on for the general population of Penn State Wilkes-Barre. The Lazy Artists are hoping to use the campus’s newer structures like the amphitheater behind the Nesbit Academic Commons for an open mic event and perhaps a musical concert. The Artists would also like to get their visual work on display in the art gallery in the Academic Commons, which according to Burgess, “is a complete waste right now due to the restrictions on access.”

New to this club this year is the addition of the Lazy Artist Studio. Located on the second floor of the student commons, it was originally the club’s office. It has been opened for the use of all members to congregate. Since the room is slightly cramped, the club is looking to perhaps relocate to the Radio Club Room. It’s the best way to get in contact with the club.

The club gathers weekly in AC 107 at noon and has poetry readings during meetings. For more information about the club contact Jeremy Burgess at jdb426@psu.edu or A.J. Race ajr293@psu.edu.
The Girls Are Back!

Terrysha Lewis

Last fall in 2007, a woman’s basketball team was started on the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus. After an unsuccessful year, the girls are back! The Penn State Wilkes-Barre woman’s basketball team is coming back for a second season in which they will be competing in the Pennsylvania State University Athletic Conference (PSUAC), and have a chance at competing in the National Conference. After the end of the upcoming season, head coach Jack Monick was very pleased and proud of his girls and what they had started. Mandy Imburgio and Kelsey Biondo, two of the three returning girls from last season, gave their opinions about the last season and this upcoming season. Imburgio said, “It was a good bonding experience and helped me meet a lot of new people.” Imburgio also feels that this new season will be better than the last and, that maybe the team can get a win. Biondo said, “I thought it went well for what it was, since we were all inexperienced. It was nice to bond with people and also meet the boys’ team.” Biondo also added that she thinks there is a lot of promise, because Coach Monick did a good job at recruiting, and the new talent he found will help the team thrive. Referring to the women who started the team last year, Monick said, “I still love ‘em.” Coach Monick is very excited as he and the girls “prepare for a more competitive” year with the hopes of having a winning season. In order to do so, the team is looking at a little bit of a different game plan on the court this year. Opposed to last year’s tactics, the 2008 season holds a lot more speed. “A lot of running, fast-break after fast-break; we are going to have a fast pace,” Akley reported. It is safe to say that they must have some speed on their roster! On a final note, both Akley and Coleman made sure to add that we will have a winning season. With that being said, fellow students at this fine University should attend every game possible. School spirit is what drives the players to perform their best. Aristotle once said, “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” “We are…Penn State!”

The first 5 games:
11/7/08 Fri. 6pm. Away LCCC Tourny
11/8/08 Sat. 10am. Away LCCC Tourny
11/14/08 Sat 1pm. Home Johnson College
11/17/08 Mon. 7pm. Home Alfred University
11/19/08 Wed. 8pm. Home PSU Abington

Men’s Basketball

Johnny Pazzaglia

The Penn State Wilkes-Barre men’s basketball team has started the season off on a good foot. That is, they have a good workout going so far this year. Coach Scott Miner has the guys hitting the weight room and has open gym practices. “Coach Miner is the man, he knows what he is doing,” said an anonymous player. With their good coach-to-player atmosphere, things on the court will move smoothly. A good team atmosphere not only equals success, but it also takes hard work, which is exactly what our guys have in mind.

In a recent interview, second-year player Collin Coleman stated, “We have a really good team, a lot different than last year!” When Coleman says “a really good team,” you have to wonder just how good, because the team was just one game away from the playoffs last year. So for Coleman to say that they are that good, one can only assume that he can see a lot of potential. Returning player Mike Akley added, “This year we are going to the playoffs. Guys are actually putting the effort in this year.” The excitement between these two players and of the coach must mean that the team is both confident and motivated for the upcoming season.

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*Plus tax in some places.
**Membership offer subject to change without prior notice.
The Writers Cafe

Black and White
Hollie Browning

I once painted a picture of who I thought I was. The picture was of me or perhaps the girl I wanted to be. The colors bled into each other and the world around me faded. Now I am back to this movie — this black and white, two-sided, reality trip to hell but I met a lot of really great people there.

In my world passion blows through the cracks of an old window straight to the bed where my lover and I once lay. I stare at the white sheets as a summer breeze gloriously lifts them from an old mattress. On this very day I realized that love has no end — tears fell to the tip of my nose and onto a floor board where they stay embedded.

My world became this two-sided, black and white, picture show where I've learned how easy it is to leave and be left. I'll return home some day and nothing will look the same. At that moment I'll embrace a new beginning — a time to remember who I was before all of this pain. I know my scars are massive but they're not all I am. If only we knew the reasons for our souls depth. I wonder if we would be human then.

A Day in the Café
Hollie Browning

She spoke softly as chills ran up and down my spine but the tiny bumps formed upon her olive-skin instead. She said she hoped to find love again then she asked me if I believed in forever. I told her — perhaps forever shouldn’t be spoken of since we don’t have the power to stay alive. Tears glazed over her eyes like fog in the night. She exhaled and to me she said, “You know better than that.” I could not speak. As she got up to leave — I stared into the empty paper cup in front of my folded hands remembering a time when I did know better. I had neither time nor heart to tell her she was right. Solitude floated through the air giving beauty to the day. In the background music played and my emotions scattered abruptly while I watched people walk pass the front windows. A little boy stopped, looked right through me, smiled, and put his small hand to the window. I found myself reaching for him — reaching for an opportunity to hold his innocence inside of my tainted hands. His mother walked over, grabbed his hand, and kissed his face. Then he was gone and all I could do was smile.

To Be Free
Suzanne Griffiths

What scares me the most, Is never finding the way To find something to hold on to, Or be in a real place.

I run around looking For someone to hold on to. But every time I get caught They leave me.

I am scared of never Really being myself, Because I just keep getting behind In this mystery of life.

I look back in time When I was young and free From all the mistakes and regrets Of never getting really free.

I look at my brother who is far away And I wonder why he went to another place. Then I look at my dad Who is hanging on by a thread And I wonder why he is so strong and brave.

I never thought this place would be Something to hold on to. But I guess after you live in this world You don’t want to leave it.

I just wish my dad was healthy I wish I could make him be I would give anything for him. I would even give me If need be.

I would give my heart and soul Just to see him not in pain. But he doesn’t want anything from me He just wants me to succeed in life.

So I push myself To be the person he sees. But it is so hard for me To get free.

Despite Tonight
Lance Iiames

I just want to die cause then I won’t cry. I won’t take a deep sigh, then ask myself why; why must I cry? Each and every night keep the hope in sight, one day it might just be alright despite tonight. When I’m here in fright trying to fight to keep you in my sight I feel so uptight, not knowing what is wrong or even right. It’s all so bright like the color white but in the end I know I’ll be alright, despite tonight...

Me and You
Lance Iiames

Can you trust me? I trust you. Will we be together or will it be never? I’m so confused. Your heart is so bruised yet it moves. You stand there in those shoes— the only one with the news. and your tears flow Though I don’t know where they go All I want is all you have And you’re the only one to know If in the end it will be me and you.

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The Life and Times of Richie and John
Sarah Ferrier

There were once two men from the very same town and neighborhood. One was from the nice end, with a big house and a beautiful Escalade. The other was from the dirty end, with a decrepit house and old worn ford. Both were family men, with a wife and kids; both loved them very much.

The first worked in the bank on the square, taking only the best clients. The second had trouble finding a job because of his background. The first went to the golf course every Sunday to work on his swing. The second went to the hospital every night to visit his sick daughter.

Richie spent most of his free evenings at the gentlemen’s club with his pals. After every dance, he would call his female friends and invite them for some Champaign. He had a secret life under his suit and tie that not even his closest friend knew of. He was fluent in the languages of rape, gambling, drugs, and murder.

John spent his free evenings with a group of acquaintances scouting potential hits. After a good steak out, he would break in and take what was worth the most. His life wasn’t so secret; every good officer knew his name and his face. He would steal and plunder; all for his sick daughter.

A flawless name, painted in gold, another tainted and done in bronze. Richie was a god to the people; John was the plague that people scoffed at. They met one day at the bank; it was Richie’s big day and John’s biggest hit. These two men met at last; one good and one evil. They met at the sound of fire.

They departed as the fire engulfed them; a stray bullet and some loose gas. There was a funeral for them, both on the same exact day in the same cemetery. Hundreds of people came to pay their respects to Richie with flowers and black tears. His family came to visit John at his grave; a cheap stone and no flowers but pure tears.

The inscription on Mr. Richie was beautiful and inspirational; such a good man. There wasn’t an inscription on John’s it was far too much money; nothing for evil. No one knew of the secret life of Richie or of the dying daughter of John. They say that heaven awaited Mr. Richie and John went straight to hell.

It Will Be Ok One Day
Suzanne Griffiths

Everyday I try to figure out How I can improve in myself. But nothing ever seems to come out right Because everyone always run away.

So I try my hardest to be The best that I can be. But I don’t know what I have to do, So I rely on you, dad.

I am never happy anymore I just want to be happy like I used to be. What can I do? To make you pride of me.

That is the question of the year, That is confusing me to pieces. Every time I think everything is going well, Something always has to happen to me.

I just want to smile and say, It will be over one day. So I can be happy in a way That only I can make it happen this way.

So I smile and say it will be over one day, And I can walk away. From all the misery and pain, And just smile and say It will be ok one day.
Natinal Hispanic Heritage Month Observed

Anna Miller

Thanks to Joaquin Zihuatanejo, National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) at Penn State Wilkes-Barre started out with a bang. Zihuatanejo, a Hispanic-American slam poet from Dallas, Texas, visited the campus on Thursday, September 26, to perform in the Commons during the noon hour. Zihuatanejo travels all over the country spreading his teachings and wise words through slam poetry. Slam poetry, or a poetry slam, is a competition at which individual poets or teams of poets read or recite original works or, more rarely, works of others. These performances are then judged on a numeric scale by members of the audience. Zihuatanejo recited his own poetry with no need for competition.

Zihuatanejo’s inspirational poems drew in a large audience of students, staff, and faculty. His poems were both inspirational and humorous, which many students enjoyed, and nothing but laughter was heard in the Commons. Before the show started, I was given the opportunity to sit down one on one with Zihuatanejo and learn all about slam poetry.

Slam poetry has been around since 1981, founded by Marc Smith (So What!). Marc Smith started this new strand of poetry in a Chicago bar known as “The Green Mill Factory”. Smith’s idea was to trick individuals into performing poetry by offering monetary prizes. At the beginning of each show, Smith would pick seven people from his audience to be the judges of the poets. Winners would be awarded a cash prize. Eventually, Smith’s idea spread throughout the city and across the globe. Each year, a poetry slam is held in a different city around the world. Next year’s competition is scheduled for August, 2009 in Miami Beach, Florida.

Zihuatanejo’s visit to Penn State Wilkes-Barre gave the students an opportunity to see close-up what slam poetry is as a new spoken word-art form. “Cultural programming, such as Zihuatanejo’s, provides students an opportunity to learn about diversity in our American culture,” said Jackie Piatt, Student Activities Coordinator. His poetry gave our students a vivid picture into the life of a Hispanic man in America. Zihuatanejo currently lives in Denton, Texas, with his wife Aída, his two daughters, Aiyana and Dakota, and their two guinea pigs, Pancho and Cisco. Check out Zihuatanejo on www.youtube.com, by searching “Joaquin Zihuatanejo”.

Movie Reviews

Bangkok Dangerous

Char Dewing

Never ask questions is just one of the many rules of a hit man as told by Joe, one of the best assassins there is, also known as the ghost. In this story Joe goes to Thailand to complete four jobs. In the process he hires a small time crook named Kong as a package boy, but after Kong looks in the package and finds out what Joe is really is he asks Joe to train him where Joe and Kong become friends in the father/son Teacher/pupil sense. Joe also meets a pretty girl who is deaf, after he meets her though he of course gets his “foot stuck in the door.” This movie is a remake of the original Pang Brothers film in 1999 with the same title, directors, and names but different content. The latest version was one full of action and effects.

Some things I have shockingly not have yet seen. Using a boat prop as a saw blade is just one thing I have not yet seen. The settings were also quite believable though it showed Thailand’s capitol with a bit of Vegas flair it was over all quite believable. I over all liked this movie though it wasn’t the best I have seen. But it is definitely one of Nicholas Cage’s better movies. The Beginning was a little slow but it definitely picked up pretty quickly. The only thing in the entire movie that bugs the heck out of me was the ending. It was one of those endings that make you go what the heck, why would they do that. Those that have seen The Departed and Reservoir Dogs know what I am talking about. But I don’t want to give too much away. I wanted so badly to give this movie a 4 out of 5 but the ending just put it down a grade so I am giving it 3 lion paws out of 5.

Burn after Reading

Chad Dewing

If you took your favorite 007 or favorite FBI movie, and you took out the point and added some confusion and put in just a pinch of idiocy, you would have something pretty close to this movie. This whole movie is basically about nothing really important, but the Coen Brothers have taken this “pointless” story and turned it into what I think is quite a brilliant comedy. The Coen brothers made this just after their Academy-award winning movie No Country for OLD Men. But instead of going for a dramatic plot line they made a screw-ball kind of comedy. After introducing the characters the story starts when Chad and Lynda find a CD containing a bunch of numbers and dates at the gym where they work. Thinking it is CIA data, they try to be “good Samaritans” and return it, hoping for a reward. They call the guy who lost it and tries to return it but he thinks they are trying to hold it for ransom. Knowing that the CD is nothing more than his memoirs for his book, Oscar refuses to buy the CD back. So Chad and Lynda take it to the Russians hoping they will buy it. Well of course the Russians don’t want it, so the plot thickens. This movie is just a really funny way of saying that people can blow things way out of proportion for absolutely nothing. I won’t give any more away, but the last line in the movie will basically sum the whole movie up. For the brilliant ways the Coen Brothers put this movie together and out of pure enjoyment, I give this movie four lion paws out of five. It missed the fifth paw because it could have been longer, and some of the comedy was maybe above some peoples’ heads. And of course, it is just too difficult to give out five out of five. This is definitely a movie I suggest seeing.
The Penn State Nittany Lion and Misericordia University Cougar posed for a picture on Thursday, September 18, in downtown Wilkes-Barre. For the fifth consecutive year, local campuses once again got to meet and compete at the Downtown Collegetown Party on the Square.

“Please” and “thank you” were the magic words for those who attended the campus Etiquette Presentation and Continental Breakfast on Tuesday, September 23. Mary Hepner, director of the Protocol School of Northeastern Pennsylvania and owner of “Ah! Some Chocolates”, invited students, faculty, and staff to learn the ins and outs of social situations in the Hayfield House.

Comedian Ronnie Jordan visited campus last month, bringing a huge turnout for his noon-hour performance in the Student Commons. “There wasn’t one joke that nobody laughed at. Everybody laughed at every joke. He was hilarious,” said sophomore Ted Carl.

Plans are once again underway for the annual Penn State Wilkes-Barre Haunted Forest. Members of the Haunted Forest Committee have chosen an insane asylum theme for this year’s event. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to participate in the charity event and can sign up in the Student Commons Room with a View.

The Penn State Wilkes-Barre Haunted Forest Committee posed for a picture during a recent meeting. Student Dan DeNucci is heading up this year’s committee, with a team of eager students ready to turn our campus into an insane asylum for the charity event. Haunted Forest will take place after dark on October 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25.

Smile You’re on Jackie’s Camera!
porter will.i.am. Undoubtedly, with the support of these public figures that have supporters of their own, Obama has gained even more. “The youth vote is the only spot on the age spectrum where the Democrat has a clear advantage over presumptive Republican nominee John McCain. In the latest Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll…Sen. Obama leads 55% to 37% among likely voters ages 18 to 34,” The Wall Street Journal tells us. Unfortunately, John McCain hasn’t attracted the support of nearly as many celebrities as his competitor has, nor has he become the type of celebrity Obama has become. Thus, he hasn’t attracted the support of the young voters that follow and are attracted to Hollywood popular culture, and there are many of us. This may be, simply, because of his image. USA Today tells us, “Forget the war for the White House for a moment. Among young people, Barack Obama appears to be beating John McCain in the battle for cool.” Although McCain isn’t currently attracting as many young voters as Barack Obama is, and although he hasn’t attracted as many celebrity supporters as Obama has, the Republican Party also has plans to try and sway this potentially influential group of voters their way. “The McCain campaign says it will focus on his legacy as a war hero, plus appearances on late night television shows — including Saturday Night Live — and town hall meetings around the country. He also has an army of thousands of young volunteers, thanks to Young Republican and College Republican clubs around the country connecting with peers over the phone and through canvas drive,” says Jeff Brady of NPR. So, regardless of whose campaign seduces us to their party’s side, exactly how influential will we young voters be in this upcoming election should we all choose to vote? Well, there are more than 50 million young voters in America, a demographic that is fast approaching the baby boom generation in size, according to Young Voter Strategies, a nonpartisan project in partnership with George Washington University. Should all 50 million of us be motivated to vote in November, we could easily sway the election in whichever direction we would like it to be swayed. So, will you be motivated, or will you ignore the potential power of the young people, and allow our future to be determined by someone else?

**Photoshop Courses:**
- Thursdays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30
- 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Science Center S1 Lab

Adobe Photoshop is a powerful tool for creating and modifying digital images. In this hands-on course, you will learn this image-editing software on its latest version (CS3). The first sessions will teach the basics of using the workspace, toolbox, palettes and both the menu and option bars. Additional topics include canvas size, image size, and resolution, resizing images, saving documents and their formats, selection techniques, working with layers, incorporating text, color tools and photo-retouching tools. Using Adobe Bridge to manage Photoshop-related assets will also be examined.

**Meningitis Clinic**
- Tuesday, October 14
- 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

There will be a Meningitis Clinic for anyone who is interested in getting the meningitis shot for $125.00.

**Prevention Health Screenings**
- Wednesday, October 8
- 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Hayfield Rooms 107 & 108

Six different health screenings will be offered that can detect disease early to avoid major health problems.

**Lazy Artists Open Mic**
- Friday, October 10
- 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Academic Commons 103

Share your talents, or just come and appreciate the works of others. Music, poetry, visual art, and more will be exhibited. Sign up with Jeremy B at jdb426@psu.edu.

**Instrumental Acoustic Guitar Sounds of Dominic Gaudious**
- Monday, October 13
- 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Café Commons

Café and community are invited to come hear guitarist Dominic Gaudious perform over noon hour in the Café Commons.

**Risky Business: Workshop on STIs/ HIV and Youth**
- Monday, October 20
- 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- The Pennsylvania Learning Academy for Sexuality Education provides sexuality education training to professionals who work with young people in need of accurate sexual information and health-promoting skills. There is no fee for this workshop. For more information please call Continuing Education at 570-675-9219.

**Red Cross Blood Drive**
- Tuesday, October 21
- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- ARB Main Gym

Got mosquitoes? We do! Campus and community are welcome to come donate blood to the American Red Cross.

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**Super-Duper Sautéed Pierogies**

Tired of starving in your apartment late at night? Are Ramen Noodles just not cutting it anymore? For the many college students suffering in famine-like conditions with no money to buy a cheeseburger, chef and Penn State Wilkes-Barre student Ted Carl offers this super easy, super delicious recipe for fuel. “This is super-duper easy. If you can’t make this, you should go back to preschool,” said Chef T.C.

**INGREDIENTS**
- 1 Box Mrs. T’s Pierogies, Thawed Out
- 1 Tablespoon Butter
- 1 Tablespoon Oregano
- 1/2 White Onion, Chopped
- 1/2 Sweet/Hot Pepper, Chopped
- 1 Handful of Your Favorite Shredded Cheese

**DIRECTIONS**
1. Put a large sauté pan with the tablespoon of butter on the stove (medium heat). Work the butter around the whole pan (to prevent sticking).
2. Add your onions, peppers, and oregano to the pan and stir as needed.
3. Mix your pierogies with the other ingredients in the pan. Stir until golden brown.
4. When ready to plate, put cheese on top and ENJOY.
5. DON’T FORGET TO TURN OFF THE STOVE.
Horoscopes

Anna Miller, Angie Baloga

Libra (Sep. 24 – Oct. 23): Happy birthday, Libra! Make this birthday a memorable one. Be careful not to pack on the workload; you seem like you have taken on more than you can handle. Toward the end of the month things will start to slow down and everything will come together.

Emotions: Good
Money: Good
Wellness: Good
Power Numbers: 43, 13, 12, 27, 40, 38

Scorpio (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22): Trust your instincts where your relationships are concerned. Sometimes people don’t realize what they have until they lose it. Be patient with friends and family also, for they mean well and are only trying to help.

Emotions: Fair
Money: Good
Wellness: Good
Power Numbers: 45, 17, 4, 9, 47, 35

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21): Lately you’ve been feeling a bit taken advantage of. Now is the time to take a stand for yourself. College is a growing experience; make new friends, meet new people, and join new clubs, and you will discover that there is a whole new world of possibilities you didn’t know existed.

Emotions: Good
Money: Good
Wellness: Good
Power Numbers: 44, 7, 42, 20, 37, 46

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 20): Watch your wallet this month. You love to splurge, and when you do, you spend more than what you can afford. Demands are being made on your finances. Hang out with an old friend, as you can make great progress and impress faces.

Emotions: Good
Money: Fair
Wellness: Good
Power Numbers: 47, 7, 24, 25, 15, 17

Aries (Mar. 21 – Apr. 20): Planning on taking a trip? If you play your cards right, this month anything you wish for you can have, but be cautious of falling behind with school or work. Know where your priorities are and where they are not.

Emotions: Good
Money: Good
Wellness: Good
Power Numbers: 32, 48, 15, 42, 31, 11

Taurus (Apr. 21 – May 21): Ask and you shall receive. This month if you want something, go for it. Know what to ask for, what to go after, and who’s in the mood for giving. You’ll discover that when you go with your feelings you’ll get very surprising outcomes.

Emotions: Good
Money: Good
Wellness: Good
Power Numbers: 39, 30, 1, 48, 49, 10

Gemini (May 22 – Jun. 21): Have you been eyecing a certain someone? Well, now’s the time to make your move. Gemini’s are believed to be quite the charmer, and confidence is what makes a person sexy. Just go for it; the stars are in your favor.

Emotions: Good
Money: Good
Wellness: Good
Power Numbers: 3, 44, 36, 22, 9, 30

Cancer (Jun. 22 – Jul. 23): Why cry over spilled milk? What’s done is done; it’s impossible to change the past, no matter how badly you wish you could. Regrets are some of the best experiences we make in our lives. Learn from your mistakes, and move forward.

Emotions: Good
Money: Fair
Wellness: Good
Power Numbers: 19, 38, 5, 8, 37, 19

Leo (Jul. 24 – Aug. 23): You are about to throw a life-line to someone you were close to giving up on. You may be feeling that it is wise to give second chances, but you should stop and ask yourself what messed it up the first time around. Don’t do something you’ll regret later.

Emotions: Fair
Money: Fair
Wellness: Good
Power Numbers: 42, 17, 35, 11, 27, 22

Virgo (Aug. 24 – Sep. 23): Try not to hold grudges. No one person is perfect. It’s all a part of life; everyone makes mistakes. This month, try to look beyond things and be the better person.

Emotions: Good
Money: Fair
Wellness: Fair
Power Numbers: 34, 14, 7, 28, 12, 18

10. Who could resist grabbing a group of zombie friends and dedicating about ten minutes of predatory candy hunting to re-choreographing “Thriller,” perhaps including some tiny lizard people?

9. Bank robber time! Our cat burglar friends should take their useless pennies, nickels, and dimes out of their trove of sugary goodness and go to the bank. With your plastic guns and suspicious glances, head for the closest Coin Star!

8. Arghhhh, ye swashbucklers, let’s go for a hostile takeover at Long John Silvers! Our chocolate booty just wouldn’t be savvy without our precious few hours; six-foot-tall Elmo walking down the street might strike fear in the hearts of millions; please don’t destroy a good thing.

7. Just a word for the wise – just because you dress like Optimus Prime doesn’t mean you can transform into a badass-looking truck… but by all means, keep trying; don’t let the crowd of amused on-lookers stop you.

6. Ok, now that you are all decked out in your rock star garb, grab your favorite plastic guitar and strike up the band – Rock Band that is in your front yard; don’t forget to add the pyrotechnics – nothing wrong with going all out!

5. For those of you who like to “have it your way”, try dressing like The King and run around shoving dollar bills in people’s pockets. Or for the extreme kings out there, stand outside of people’s windows just staring in… maybe the residents will have a sudden urge for some Elmo on the television is enjoyable and keeps kids’ attention for a precious few hours; six-foot-tall Elmo walking down the street might strike fear in the hearts of millions; please don’t destroy a good thing.

4. Did you know that dressing like a green slimy ghost will give you the perfect excuse to eat all you want and sneeze on people? If someone questions you, just ask “who you gonna call?”

3. If you have decided to go Greek this year, it just wouldn’t be politically correct not to find every scarecrow you can, kick them square in the chest, and scream “This is Sparta!”

2. To our Superman friends out there, let’s just pretend that you are suffering from a small dose of kryptonite because we have enough people in the emergency room during this holiday; don’t break the children’s hearts by exposing the fact that you can’t really fly.

1. Elmo on the television is enjoyable and keeps kids’ attention for a precious few hours; six-foot-tall Elmo walking down the street might strike fear in the hearts of millions; please don’t destroy a good thing.
Greetings from Prague!

Sandra Kobos

So here I am, in Prague. What is there to say? The city is beautiful and old. It had the incredible luck to have stayed pretty much preserved during the Second World War and is virtually alone in this distinction among the great cities of Europe.

I did not choose to come to Prague; I chose New York. I decided, last year, that I wanted to transfer from Penn State into a university in New York City. I applied to New York University and was accepted. However, there was a catch. I was told that there was not enough housing available in the city, so to begin my education at NYU I would need to study abroad. I decided to go.

I have not really left the area Stare Mesto, which translates into “Old Town,” and its surroundings. It is near where I live and go to class. I wish I could describe the architecture that gives it its personality, but unfortunately I do not yet know the names for all the mingling styles. I suppose you can say that I have not yet experienced too many of the attractions in the city. I have walked around the National Museum, visited the Prague Zoo, and was fortunate enough to see one of my favorite bands in a little club called Roxy. I have not tried too much of the local foods because, well, I’m a vegetarian and there is a lot of meat floating about. I am mainly sticking to different cheese sandwiches and fruit dumplings.

The language barrier is not as much of a problem as one may think. Other than the fact that many people speak English, one comes to realize that it is not difficult to get through the day with only kind of grunting and pointing.

It is difficult to take everything in, however. Being in a new school, in a new country, surrounded by new people is exceptionally unnerving. I feel as though I have not yet had the chance to appreciate the city, as I am trying my best to keep a sense of normality present in my daily routine. Small comforts are all that are allowed, like the taste of foods that are familiar but not quite the same. Already it seems to me to be a lonely city, packed with people yet a bit too quiet at times. The exceptions, of course, are the tour groups wandering around Stare Mesto and other tourist-saturated areas with their umbrellas held high and speech usually more foreign than Czech. At orientation we were already warned “Czech people don’t smile,” and although this seems like a statement that can be processed and ignored, it becomes increasingly difficult to do so. Although there is the same mixture of nice and mean people as in America, I am used to certain facial expressions, and not receiving them, or any variation, leaves me a bit disillusioned.

Please do not get me wrong. I am in no way upset to be here. I think that these first few weeks should be the hardest, and I know that I am not the only one who feels this way. I have spoken to a few people who share my concerns. I am not yet able to say that I love it, but I am incredibly grateful. Not many people have the same opportunity and I am glad that I took the chance.