OUT in the silence

Documentary film combats bullying in hopes of preventing further suicides in the young gay community

On September 9, 2010, Billy Lucas, age 15, hung himself after being bullied because he was gay. On September 23, a 13 year old 8th grader named Asher Brown shot himself as a result from what was believed to be bullying he had endured at school. Less than one week later, on September 29, Raymond Chase, age 19, from Providence RI, hung himself, after being bullied because he was gay. On the 8th day of October, Seth Walsh killed himself; he was gay and a victim of bullying. Two days later, 19 year old Zack Harrington from Arkansas killed himself after he attended a heated city council meeting in which intense anti-gay sentiments were expressed. Tyler Clemente was the next to die, the Rutgers freshman jumped off the George Washington Bridge after two fellow school mates secretly taped him having sex with another male and posted it on the internet. On October 25th, Corey Jackson, a 19 year old gay college freshman hung himself at school.

The news media called the string of deaths “an epidemic” prompting even President Barack Obama to address the issue.

Don’t sweat it

The new year means new faces at the gym, for a limited time only

It’s January 1st and you’ve just renewed your gym membership. You drive yourself down to the gym in high spirits, preparing your workout in your head. Treadmill, elliptical, and last but not least, the gun show needs a little sprucing up.

You walk in the door and can already smell sweet success. Or wait—maybe that’s the smell of armpit. Upon scan-

Walk Revolt like an Egyptian

In keeping with the spirit of revolution, it’s appropriate to mention the recent and ongoing large and passionate street protests being held in the capital city of Cairo, Egypt as well as other locations throughout the country.

Egyptians have come out in numbers surpassing tens of thousands and that number is steadily growing. Citizens began protesting, marching, rallying, rioting, and participating in acts of civil disobedience on
In May of 2009, Wilson, a former resident of Oil City, Pennsylvania, placed an engagement picture of him and his fiancé Dean Hamer in the city’s newspaper. The newspaper was immediately hit with a firestorm of Letters to the Editor calling the printing of the announcement “disgusting.”

Among the discriminatory letters he received himself; Wilson received a different sort of letter from a woman named Kathy Bills. Bills wrote on behalf of her 16 year old son CJ, who she had to have removed from school after he was being relentless bullied by fellow students.

Realizing there was a story worth telling, Wilson decided to record his interactions with the Bills and other members of Oil City, capturing the true tales of what it means to be gay in small town America, and more relevantly, what it means to be a young gay person and a victim of bullying.

The documentary, called “Out in the Silence”, has gone on to win an Emmy for Achievement in Documentary. More importantly it is being used as a tool to educate people on the issue of gay bullying.

“It’s a pretty universal message. All of these things can most effectively be overcome when we stop seeing each other as caricatures and stereotypes and start to meet people and engage with them, just as people,” Wilson said.

Wilson, along with his partner, is currently traveling across the United States from small town to small town, showing the film and having open forums to discuss its message of tolerance and acceptance, in hopes of preventing more suicides in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community (LGBT).

“What’s happening in schools is really just a microcosm of the larger community, we need to start figuring out how to make it unacceptable that people in the community feel that they can continue to target LGBT people with prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination. That’s what we have to change, these societal attitudes that have very very serious consequences at the personal, community, and family level,” Wilson said.

The larger community, to which Wilson refers, has proven to be quite unfavorable for light people in the past few years. The fight for gay people to marry has been a large issue in recent major elections, yet the repeal of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell is a sign that policy is catching up with society.

The campaign for these basic rights can and has created an anti-gay sentiment among more “conservative” people. This discriminatory sentiment many gay adults feel has a trickling effect into gay youth who may feel that they are not welcome in the world waiting for them outside school.
ning the room, you notice every single machine is in use. Are you even going to be able to work out? The putrid precipitation in the air is so thick you feel as though you’ve already been working out continuously for the past five days without a hiatus. Seriously, you’re going to need a paddle to cut through this shit.

Looks like you’re not the only one who vowed to continue to keep those buns in shape this year. The entire valley is currently contributing to the soup-like atmosphere swirling all around you.

Fast forward to April 1st. Over the past couple of months, the amount of people peddling, running, lifting, and stretching has become less and less. Today there’s about twenty people total in the entire gym. What gives?

Lack of motivation clearly seems to set in after a few months. People make promises to themselves but eventually throw in the towel before they even begin to see results. I’ve been frequenting gyms for the past six years of my life so I guess I could be considered an old pro at pinpointing the “occasional gym-goer.” They start out strong—religiously working out for the first few months but after awhile, they disappear from the face of the earth (or at least from the gym). But why? Maybe they’re not seeing results quick enough. Maybe they’re working out but eating their entire body weight in cake every day. Maybe the gym just isn’t their thing at all.

My friend Jess is a firm believer in the whole “chunk up and be lazy during winter” phenomenon. She actually disclosed to me once that she thinks gaining ten pounds during winter is completely acceptable. What are we, bears? Sorry honey- I devour obscene amounts of stuffing, ham, ice cream, and cookies during the holidays but I balance it out with a four day a week workout, sometimes more if I feel especially gross.

To be completely honest, I would much rather fulfill my personal need to work out and stay fit in the great outdoors. But, being blessed with the privilege of calling NEPA home, with its what some may call “beautiful and enchanting winter” (to which I say shove it and get me to the beach PRONTO), we all know it’s not always possible to enjoy working out outside.

Exercising can be a hassle and is certainly not for everyone (exhibit A: Rosie O’Donnell). Personally, I get such an intense feeling of satisfaction from working out, which is why I continue to do it. Everyone has their vices. This is one of mine. So to all of my fellow workout fans-hang in there when the gym’s capacity seems like it must have been exceeded two times over. Eventually you will be able to actually see the employees at the front desk so you can sign in—just give it a few months. Either that or freeze your ass off outside and risk being hit by a car skidding on ice. Your call.

Sweat continued from cover

Egypt continued from cover

January 25th, 2011 and show no sign of letting up as this issue is sent to print (February 1st, 2011).

The events in Egypt, referred to as the Days of

Rage, the Lotus Revolution, or the Papyrus Revolution, are courageous and spirited attempts at uprising and overthrowing a ruling force that prohibits civil liberties, free elections, and freedom of speech. Lack of economic stimulus and justice, along with an unacceptable amount of corruption are also all factors adding fuel to the fire.

President Hosni Mubarek has long been detested throughout his 30 year rule, but the recent revolution in Tunisia has inspired the Egyptian people to act out. Although there have been demonstrations over the years, the situation today is unprecedented in size and scope. Citizens are demanding the end of the Mubarek regime and do not show any signs of letting up until he steps down from office, fully and completely, and a new government reflecting the true needs and interests of the Egyptian people is adopted.

The Revolt feels that the brave acts of the people of Egypt are representative of our paper and we respect the fight against injustice everywhere. It is our hope that the people of Egypt reclaim their civil liberties with as little violence and as much unity as possible and act as an inspiration to people everywhere, be it personally, professionally, or politically.

Jennifer Shubilla
Managing Editor
JLS5355@psu.edu

Kristy Kravitsky
Fitness Expert, Kristy Kravitsky
Staff Writer
KMK5152@psu.edu

President Hosni Mubarek has long been detested throughout his 30 year rule, but the recent revolution in Tunisia has inspired the Egyptian people to act out. Although there have been demonstrations over the years, the situation today is unprecedented in size and scope. Citizens are demanding the end of the Mubarek regime and do not show any signs of letting up until he steps down from office, fully and completely, and a new government reflecting the true needs and interests of the Egyptian people is adopted.

The Revolt feels that the brave acts of the people of Egypt are representative of our paper and we respect the fight against injustice everywhere. It is our hope that the people of Egypt reclaim their civil liberties with as little violence and as much unity as possible and act as an inspiration to people everywhere, be it personally, professionally, or politically.

Jennifer Shubilla
Managing Editor
JLS5355@psu.edu
Lights, camera, Act-Chin

Who needs the Oscars to tell us what’s good when we have Dr. Chin? Raise your hand if you’ve seen any of these films!

It’s time to watch… some good movies. Watching movies is a popular and pretty common way to relieve some stress and go on a mental adventure for most college students. Whether you’ve had a long day of class or work or you’re simply trying to enjoy your day off, going to the movies or flipping through the TV channels is something you may want to indulge in. But if you plan on watching a movie, have you ever wondered if it’s worth your time? Does it make you laugh, cry or scream? Does it have a moral or a point?

Dr. Chin, a respected professor of PSU-WB, has some suggestions of what you should be watching! Dr. Chin throws out many movie references during his lectures in hopes of engaging students and relating lessons to pop culture. After referencing a movie, Dr. Chin can often be found saying “What, you’ve never seen ______? That’s a must see, you gotta check it out!” so we thought it would be fun to ask him to compile a list of awesome movies for the average college student since he seems to have seen a lot!

He believes a movie is worth watching when it appeals to human frailness, has interesting issues or is just simply funny.

Here’s Dr. Chin’s List of Recommended Movies:

Harold and Maude – A rich young

SPCA receives TLC from IST

The Penn State Wilkes-Barre Information Sciences and Technology (IST) Club recently held a fundraiser for the Luzerne County SPCA. The fundraiser ran from October 27 – December 10, 2010. The Penn State Wilkes-Barre IST Club would like to thank everyone for their generous donations that made this fundraiser such a success.

From left, Tim Graham – Vice President IST Club, John Ulichney – President IST Club.
MONICK RUNS HOME

For the past twenty six years, a staple of Penn State Wilkes-Barre’s campus has been athletic director and professor, Jack Monick. Affectionately known as “Coach Monick” to students and student-athletes alike, his door has been open to any student for the past twenty six years and is certainly leaving a big pair of shoes to fill.

No matter the political or financial matters, Monick has kept many of the core sports at Penn State Wilkes-Barre afloat. And to better that, he was largely responsible for the upstart of many of the athletic programs. He noted that, “During my tenure we started up varsity teams in baseball, tennis, golf, women’s soccer and most recently women’s basketball. Those are definitely some of my favorite accomplishments as athletic director.” The list of programs he upstarted is just scratching the surface in terms of good he has done for Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

Seeing players excel on the field or court and students shine in the classroom is nice to Monick, but he says there is nothing quite like the feeling of seeing their success after college. “I’m always happy to help students accomplish new adventures – hearing about their success after leaving school is a great thing”, Monick said.

Same goes with the student athletes, noting that sportsmanship is one of, if not the, most important thing he tried to instill during his run as A.D. For a relatively small campus to field over half a dozen varsity teams is no easy task, but Monick worked tirelessly to make it happen. Monick will tell you with a grin that he has never had to cut a player from a team for performance issues.

When I asked Coach Monick about his favorite success story of an athlete at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, he had a seemingly endless rolodex of triumphant stories of former and current student athletes, trying to not leave a single one out. “In baseball we had Don Weidner on the mound when we beat our rival PSU Beaver, they were 26-2 and we were the underdog at 3-7. Jim Bellas hitting four home runs in two games, also Jared Stakowski pitching lights out to stay undefeated against Scranton in my last game as baseball coach. My daughter being part of the first women’s basketball win against Penn College, there was the soccer team winning a championship at State College. And most recently, (basketball coach) Scott Miner’s team going to the USCAA Finals.”

Part of Monick’s initial resume for the athletic director job was his history in baseball. Monick was one of the few Wyoming Valley prospects to be drafted in the MLB Amateur Draft, selected by the New York Mets in the 1969 draft, the same year the Mets won the World Series. “Playing in Arizona was one of my favorite times on the baseball diamond. I am really all about baseball, I could fill the newspaper with stories of my old baseball teams – road trips, selling Christmas trees, booster club adventures, running through flooded grounds at Kirby Park to catch a fly.” He clearly had a rich bond with his teammates adding, “Earl Weidner, a faculty member at LCCC now, recently made me cry with laughter for what we did in the old days and can’t be duplicated today.”

With Monick’s retirement, he is ready to take a much deserved break, focusing his time on his loved ones. He has a wife, Valerie, and two daughters, Caitlin and Corrine, as well as his full-time job being a grandparent, which has earned him the warm moniker “pop pop”.

Although Monick was overshad-owed in the ’69 draft by future Hall of Famer Bert Blyleven, nobody has overshadowed him in the offices of Penn State Wilkes-Barre. Monick’s legacy in those offices – having his thumbprint in the development of four-year eligibility for campus athletes – will not be forgotten.
Men in Black
(and yellow)

The Pittsburgh Steelers road to Super Bowl XLV was not a smooth one. They had what many described as “the off-season from hell” thanks to poor behavior from Ben Roethlisberger, Jeff Reed and Santonio Holmes. Two of those three are no longer with the team and after serving a 4-game suspension Roethlisberger appears as though he may have finally cleaned his act up. Many analysts predicted the Steelers finishing sub-.500. In spite of all this adversity the Steelers never lost sight of their goals, knowing the games were to be played on the field rather than on paper.

The team played unexpectedly well in Roethlisberger’s absence, thanks to a strong running game and the “steel curtain” defense. Roethlisberger’s return was a success as he and the team dominated in a victory over the Browns. The Steelers’ success was not the object of media attention, however. They instead focused on fines levied upon James Harrison for the helmet-to-helmet hits he delivered in the victory over Cleveland. Following this, the Steelers seemed to be the target of referees. They garnered a number of penalties in weeks to follow.

The offense was uninspiring for weeks as they put up just 10 points. Quarterback: Super Bowl XLV could signify a changing of the guard among elite NFL quarterbacks. Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees all lost in their first playoff games this post season, and Brady has not won a post season game in his last three attempts. On top of that, Pittsburgh’s Ben Roethlisberger’s most recent post season run slotted him ahead of Manning with 10 playoff victories. The NFL’s group of elite signal callers could be making way for a younger group of more athletic quarterbacks not as likely to fit the mold of a “pocket passer”. In terms of pure instinct and skill, Green Bay’s Aaron Rodgers is the better QB. Rodgers puts up gaudy statistics and owns the highest passer rating in NFL history. Nonetheless, Ben Roethlisberger has earned the label of being a clutch quarterback, and a winner. A victory in this game for the Packers would surely change all that – but because of his winning pedigree, Roethlisberger gets the nod here.

ADVANTAGE: Steelers

Running Back: This matchup is closer than it may appear on the surface. Obviously Pittsburgh’s Rashard Mendenhall is the more seasoned runner, but the Packers’ James Starks broke out to lead the NFL in post season rushing and make the Packers offense more difficult to deal with as they now possess the threat of a running game. Though Starks’ breakthrough has been impressive, Mendenhall almost single-handedly willed the Steelers to victory in the AFC Championship game, breaking numerous tackles on every carry. This combined with the fact that he won’t be facing a historically good run defense leads me to lean towards Mendenhall in the Super Bowl.

ADVANTAGE: Steelers

Wide Receivers: This is a position where the Packers shine. They run four deep with Greg Jennings, Donald Driver, James Jones and Jordy Nelson. They are recognized as one the best receiving corps in the league and rightfully so. Hines Ward, Mike Wallace and Antonio Brown are nothing that the Packers defensive backs should take lightly however. Wide Receiver is a position in which the Packers hold the edge over the Steelers, though the talent disparity isn’t as great as many analysts may have you think.

ADVANTAGE: Packers

Offensive Line: The Steelers offensive line may be one of the worst to ever advance to a Super Bowl, and the uncertainty surrounding standout center Maurkice Pouncey adds to the mediocrity. They are not without talent on their offensive line as Chris Kemoaeutu and Flozell Adams are a few standout run blockers. However, in comparison with the rest of the NFL their line is well below average. The Packers offensive line is full of young talent including first rounder Bryan Bulaga.
The Green Bay Packers took to Chi-
cago's Soldier Field Sunday, January 23 playing with a chip on their
shoulder, despite being deemed the
favorite by every oddsmaker in Ve-
gas.

The chip began to form when star
defensive end Clay Matthews,
among several other Packers, was
accused of sexual assault by a pair
of college girls (which the media
gave extensively less coverage than
opposing quarterback Ben Roeth-
lisberger's rape case). After danc-
ing around the subject of retirement
publicly for the sixth time, longtime
Packer great Brett Favre announced
he would return to the rival Minne-
sota Vikings – who defeated Packers
QB Aaron Rodgers twice in as many
tries in 2009. The chip then inflated
to the point of what many thought
was beyond repair, when stars and
Pro Bowlers galore were lost for the
season including running back Ryan
Grant, linebacker Nick Barnett and
tight end Jermaine Finley.

Fortunately for the Packers, their
team forms like the Voltron and Aar-
on Rodgers is the head atop the mas-
sive chip. The chip began to disap-
ppear when Rodgers paced the Packers
offense past Favre and the Vikings
with two touchdowns in week seven
in a Sunday Night showdown. This
Sunday Night matchup may have
been the most important game dur-
ing the regular season in the NFL.
Grant’s replacement, Brandon Jack-
on, amassed 104 total yards and one
touchdown. Barnett’s replacement,
Desmond Bishop, intercepted Favre
for a 32-yard touchdown on defense.
And most important, the Lambeau
faithful fully embraced Rodgers af-
ter finally defeating the hero-turned-
menace Favre.

While Rodgers may be the head of
the Voltron-esque mold of a team,
his success was in much part due to
having hands-down the best receiver
core in the league. Greg Jennings is
the star of the show, but co-receiv-
ers Donald Driver, James Jones and
Jordy Nelson all bring different el-
ements to the field to put the wide
receivers over-the-top. Finley’s re-
placement at tight end, Penn State
graduate Andrew Quarless, has also
become a viable option in the pass-
ing game. The high-flying offense
of the Packers has embarrassed the
Vikings and Cowboys on national
television to the extent that imme-
diately after the game, both teams
head coaches were terminated.

BJ Raji has developed into a house-
hold name among NFL fans, using
the 2010 Playoffs as his vehicle.
The Playoff coverage has also led
to a rash of exposure shone on Rod-
gers.

unheralded Josh Sitton, and Daryn
Colledge who has been a starter since
his rookie year. This group is men-
tored by two-time pro bowler Chad
Clifton. This is a position where the
Packers hold a distinct advantage over
the Steelers.

ADVANTAGE: Packers

Defensive Line: As the saying goes,
"it all starts up front." Up front for the
Steelers is Brett Keisel, who was se-
lected to the Pro Bowl for the first time
this season, Casey Hampton, who’s
been commanding double teams for a
decade now, and Ziggy Hood, who
stepped in for the injured Aaron Smith
and helped the Defensive Line to
maintain their standard of excellence.

Packers nose tackle BJ Raji will pose
a threat to the Steelers o-line, but I feel
the Steelers got the one.

ADVANTAGE: Steelers

Linebackers: These are two of the best
linebacker groups in the NFL. Pitts-
burgh is led by three guys who sur-
passed 100 tackles this season (Law-
rence Timmons, James Farrior, James
Harrison), while Harrison and LaMarr
Woodley are among the league’s best.
Despite losing several LBs to injury,
the Packers linebackers did a great job
against the pass and run. Clay Mat-
thews and AJ Hawk are two of the best
open-field tacklers are linebacker, but
the Steelers’ (healthy) LBs take this.

ADVANTAGE: Steelers

Secondary: The Packers have what is
easily the best secondary in the NFL.
Charles Woodson was last year’s de-
fensive player of the year, and Tramon
Williams and Nick Collins have com-
bined for 37 interceptions in their ca-
reer. Though the Packers are superior
in the secondary, this isn’t to say the
Steelers’ DBs are poor. Ike Taylor had
possibly his best season yet, locking
down opponents’ top receiver weekly
and allowing only one touchdown pass.
Ryan Clark was the heavy hitter
he has been in each of the last few sea-
sons, providing a perfect complement
to superstar safety Troy Polamalu.

ADVANTAGE: Packers

Special Teams: Pittsburgh had to re-
place both their punter and kicker mid
season. At kicker, Shaun Suisham has
been solid, missing just one field goal
since taking over. Jeremy Kapinos
downed 7 of his 18 punts inside the 20
yard line. The Packers’ punter TimM-
asthay has been excellent in the NFC
Playoffs, keeping the ball away from
stud returners like Devin Hester and
Desean Jackson. Kicker Mason Cros-
by hit on a career low 22 field goals
this season but made a career long 56
yarder. Packers take special teams.

ADVANTAGE: Packers

There are clear wins (Steelers’ line-
backers, Packers’ wide receivers,
Packers’ defensive backs), but the
matchups on offense are very close
– quarterbacks, running backs and of-
fensive line categories are almost too
close to call. This comes to a perfectly
even draw, making for what can be an-
other great Super Bowl matchup.

Andrew Watkins
Senior Staff Writer
AJW5396@psu.edu
Chin

continued from page 5

man named Harold meets the sep- tuagenarian Maude at a funeral.

Duck Soup – Made by the Marx Brothers, this is a comedy about dictatorial leaders, Fascism and autocratic government.

Horsefeathers – Quincy Adams Wagstaff hires some interesting characters to help his school win a football game.

Tootsie—As an unemployed doctor, Michael Dorsey dresses like a woman in order to find a job. Through this, he becomes friends with a lot of women, but finds it difficult when he starts to fall for a woman.

This is Spinal Tap—“Satire of Rock n Roll Groups.” A documentary of the fictional rock group, Spinal Tap.

Dr. Strangelove: How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb—An insane general tries to start a nuclear holocaust.


The Reduced Shakespeare Company – The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)—37 comedic plays all squished into one movie.

Life of Brian—On the day that Jesus is born, Brian is born in a stable next door to him and is mistaken to be the Messiah for the rest of his life.

Napoleon Dynamite—“It’s just funny!”—A dorky alienated teen tries helping his best friend take the presidency in high school.

Clerks—“It’s interesting.”—Two store clerks have comedic conversations, annoy customers and get mixed into trouble.

M*A*S*H the movie—During the Korean war, this movie focuses on the staff of a hospital and how laughter is the best antidote for a time of turmoil.

Roan Inish—A 10-year-old girl discovers a family secret in Ireland and gets mixed up with a human who can turn into a seal.

Billy Elliot—A little boy is torn between his love for dance and his family.

I’m Not There—“Bob Dylan portrayed by many actors.”—Contemplations of the life of Bob Dylan.

Seventh Seal—A man plays chess against the grim reaper and thinks about life, death and God.

Persona—“It’s a classic.”—A psychological spin about a nurse who takes care of an actress that can’t speak. The nurse’s own personality begins to meld the actress’ personality.

Wild Strawberries—An old man contemplates the reason his existence after having a depressing life.

The Dove—A young man named Robin travels around the world by sea and falls in love with a woman who is also traveling the world.

Lord of the Rings—“I like fantasy. It was well-done.”—An epic story about a young hobbit that must destroy an ancient ring. This is a three-part series with elves, wizards, dragons and more who influence the journey of the main protagonist.

Little Miss Sunshine—A family takes a cross-country trip for their daughter to join a beauty pageant.

American Beauty—“It ends too easily (thought).”—A depressed father develops an infatuation with his daughter’s attractive friend.

O Brother, Where Art Though—A remake of Homer’s “Odyssey” that takes place in the South during the 1930s. 3 convicts search for a hidden treasure while being pursued by a relentless lawman.

Juno—A young woman is faced with an unwanted pregnancy and must undergo some hard decisions as she decides the future of her child.

Whippet—Bondi follows the work of lifeguards at the world’s busiest beach.

Once—“A recovering from love story.”

Almost Famous—A high school kid writes a story for the Rolling Stone Magazine and goes on tour with an up-and-coming rock band.

Sideways—Two men go on a road trip through California’s wine country before one of them gets married.

A Good Baby—A man finds a baby while wandering around the streets of Carolina. He then tries to unravel the mysteries behind the child.

Dr. Chin’s #1 film to view with a critical eye: Forest Gump – Dr. Chin feels like this movie is a horrible watch. He feels that those who view this film are unaware of the underlying meaning of the story while he takes the issues in it quite seriously and can’t seem to find the comedic appeal in such a work. As you can see, Dr. Chin has provided a very diverse list of 29 movies to choose from. Some of them you’ve probably heard of while some others are classics that Dr. Chin feels would appeal to even our generation today.

In comparison with older movies and new pop-culture films, he poses the question, “Is Hollywood producing movies we want [to see] or is Hollywood hyping popular taste?” Dr. Chin also suggests that movie viewers should check out some critical views on films they’re interested in so they can look past the entertainment appeal and into the meaning of the story or the actual production of the film. With us, Dr. Chin has left this list, as he plans on taking a one-year sabbatical to work on a creative nonfiction story titled, “My Chinese Names” which is about his family history. Don’t worry, he’ll be back! But hopefully while he’s gone, you’ll get to watch some of these great films. From there, it’s lights… camera… action!

Shannon Brace
Senior Staff Writer
SUB189@psu.edu
Steelers

in a highly anticipated match up with the Saints. They dominated early in Cincinnati and were able to halt the Bengals’ comeback attempt late in the game. Their unimpressive stretch was capped off against the Patriots in a game in which the 39-26 final score indicates the game was closer than it really was.

Weeks later, the Steelers had a showdown against Baltimore, which was crucial to division standings. Trail- ing 6-10 late in the fourth quarter, safety Troy Polamalu made yet another game changing-play by strip-sacking Joe Flacco and allowing Ben Roethlisberger and Isaac Redman to connect on the go-ahead TD.

By season’s end the Steelers had earned a 12-4 record and clinched the number 2 seed in the AFC. The Steelers came off their bye to play the hated Baltimore Ravens in the divisional round. I attended this game as well as the Raiders game earlier in the season. Early, things looked bleak as the Ravens took a 21-7 lead into halftime. This was a team that had dealt with adversity all year and was not yet ready to throw in the (terrible) towel. Thanks to a dominant defensive effort and a 58 yard completion to rookie Antonio Brown in the closing minutes, the Steelers were able to advance to the AFC Championship game. Next up were the Jets in the conference championship. After taking an early 24-0 lead, the Steelers were able to hold off a second half Jets rally to advance.

Much was made of the Packers’ ability to succeed in spite of all the adversity they faced this season. The Steelers were not without adversity themselves however. They cut kicker Jeff Reed midseason and replaced him with Shaun Suisham, who missed only one field goal in the regular season. The loss of Antonio Holmes allowed Mike Wallace (1,257 yards, 10 TDs) to emerge. The Steelers traded a fifth round pick (which they received for Holmes) to the Arizona Cardinals to reacquire former Steeler Bryant McCadden, and another pick which turned out to be the emerging Antonio Brown.

Prior to opening kickoff of the season, the number one picks of the previous two years, Ziggy Hood and Maurkice Pouncey were expected to see little playing time as they were groomsed for starting roles later in their careers. Injuries and other circumstances pressed the two into action early and they well exceeded expectations including Pouncey’s selection to the Pro Bowl. Perhaps most important to the Steelers success was the return of safety Troy Polamalu. Polamalu tied a career high with seven interceptions and was seemingly involved in a game changing play every week.

Head Coach Mike Tomlin’s mantra is that he has 53 guys all able to help his team to victory. This year each and every Steeler thrust into action and has proved him right thus far. One victory is all that keeps the Steelers from a seventh Super Bowl victory and the legacy as the greatest franchise in pro football.

Packers

gers’ championship belt celebration, where he waves his hands back and forth across his torso as if he is showing that he has the championship belt. And Clay Matthews’ star has risen to meteoric levels, despite being robbed of the Defensive Player of the Year award by opponent Troy Polamalu.

The Packers have essentially played five straight elimination games, needing to win each game to advance to the next week. On short one-week breaks the whole way, they have yet to have a problem getting their personnel in order — and now adding a second week to their break will do nothing but benefit their gameplan and execution during Super Bowl XLV. The storyline seems to be: experienced, hard-nosed team vs. young, agile and strong team — and that is the best way to put this matchup into a sentence.

Andrew Watkins
Senior Staff Writer
AFW396@psu.edu

Matthew Bufano
Editor at Large
MYB1612@psu.edu

Silence

continued from page 2

Schools themselves are also proving to be unsafe, oftentimes not including gay people in diversity training and not supporting gay children when they are harassed.

The frequency of harassment among gay students is also very crucial to understanding the scope of the problem. In 2005 the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, or GLSEN, announced the findings of its national school climate survey they conducted.

It found that (from GLSEN website), “75. 4% of students heard derogatory remarks such as “faggot” or “dyke” frequently or often at school, and nearly nine out of ten (89.2%) reported hearing “that’s so gay” or “you’re so gay” — meaning stupid or worthless — frequently or often.”

It also reported, “Over a third (37.8%) of students experienced physical harassment at school on the basis of sexual orientation and more than a quarter (26.1%) of students experienced physical harassment on the basis of their gender expression. Nearly one-fifth (17.6%) of students had been physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation and over a tenth (11.8%) because of their gender expression.”

The findings the study had reported seemed, however, to go unnoticed as the recent suicides have proved. Schools have a long way to go in establishing discrimination policies which protect and include gay students.

Establishing these policies and finding out what needs to be done is no simple task, as Joe Wilson is finding out in his travels with his film. On the “Out in the Silence” tour he continually meets with different groups, some which are trying to establish Gay Straight Alliances in their respective schools and communities. The challenges some of these people deal with are met with, in Wilson’s words, “stunning.” After news broke out of the formation of a GSA in one such school district, more letters to the editor in the local newspaper poured in accus- ing the district of supporting the “gay agenda”.

“Why do people feel like they have the license to publicly condemn, particu- larly when young people are involved, the lives of LGBT people? The envi- ronment is really intense in particular in these kinds of small communities because when that happens publicly, it makes it hard for people who want to be allies. It makes it hard for them to step forward and go against the dominant culture,” Wilson says.

Wilson was touring with the film in Or- egon this fall as news of the multiple suicides among gay teens surfaced. Wilson visibly felt the increased need for the story, making his mission even more relevant than it already was.

On the topic of preventing more sui- cides like those of Billy Lucas and Ash- er Brown, Wilson thinks conversing with people of all viewpoints is neces- sary. He said, “In our quest for fairness and equality, we are trying to change our understanding in the way that we engage with conservative people of faith, not always seeing it as a battle. We need to start getting to know each other and finding ways that we can find common ground, because there is a lot of room there for common ground.”

Wilson added, “This was always a po- larized battle, it doesn’t have to be that way.”

Perhaps when both sides start talking to one another, allies can eventually be formed. Allies, Wilson believes, are the key to turning the tides on gay discrimi- nation in schools.

“We often hear people who have anti- gay attitudes change when they meet or realize that they already know gay people, even in their own family. And their attitudes start to change when it becomes a very personal thing. You of- ten hear LGBT people are supposed to come out and supposed to live their lives more openly so that more people under- stand who we are and what our chal- lenges are so that we can be more sup- portive. I think all that’s true and I hope people do find ways to become more comfortable coming out but I think the larger call is for lesbian, gay, and trans people to not bear the burden of that alone but for people right now who are silent allies in our communities to take their role a little bit more seriously and become more proactive in doing things and make it possible for people to come out in a safer environment where they don’t risk losing their family or their network of friends,” Wilson said.

He added, “Allies start to create or do the work they need to do to change the dynamic. Ultimately it’s not the burden of lesbian and gay people to fix discrimi- nation; it’s those that perpetuate it. So that’s what we need. More people to realize they have the power to do that”

The issue of gay bullying and the lives lost this fall because of it is tragic, but perhaps the awareness these kids cre- ated in their moments of profound despair will serve a higher purpose in changing what needs to be changed and making the lives of young gay people everywhere less lonely and a little more hopeful.

The work of preventing these unnes- sary deaths, however, starts with indi- viduals, whether they happen to be gay or not.

Joe Wilson remains hopeful. “I guess on a grand scale I would be really hap- py if we can see an end to the kind of struggles that LGBT people are still go- ing through in towns big and small. But I know that’s a dream, it’s not reality. So I guess in the shorter more realistic term we hope that through the visibility this film is getting on some level people start to understand that LGBT people live everywhere, even in small towns and rural communities. Our biggest hope with the stories in the film is that they show that when people just stand up and do something it has unbelievable potential to create change.”

“When we start to take those simple steps to break down those barriers huge change is possible and that’s our goal of the film to work with people in com- munities where the barriers are really high in doing that to help them see that they’re not alone and that their voice can make a really really really big dif- ference.”

Aaron Bomba
Editor in Chief
AIB5158@psu.edu
State Patty’s Day
Blue and White turns green for one day at Main

According to Dictionary.com, the word tradition is defined as “the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, information, etc., from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or by practice.” As Penn State students, there are several traditions that make Penn State University the happiest valley on the planet. There is one tradition in particular that breaks the classic blue and white color scheme and brings out the green.

Saint Patrick’s Day is a religious holiday named after Saint Patrick, who is the recognized patron saint of Ireland. This holiday is held on March 17, and is a day dedicated to drinking and celebrating the Irish tradition. Even those who are not a part of the Irish heritage come out and show their appreciation for a hobby that many Penn State students appreciate…celebrating.

Although Penn State is well known for a significant number of reasons, the university has also been recognized as one of the top party schools in the country. “Being one of the top party schools is definitely an accomplishment,” sophomore Samantha Miller said. With that being said, it is no surprise that the students have created a holiday dedicated to partying.

State Patty’s Day was created in 2007 and is a weekend festival that includes all of the traditions that occur on a typical Saint Patrick’s Day. Students walk to parties or to the bar rocking green Penn State themed attire, in addition to wearing beads and other Irish inspired accessories. The bars get jam packed throughout the day, but that never stops the thirsty individuals looking to get a glass of green beer. This holiday may sound like a dream, but several rules and regulations have been made due to the alcohol related incidents and emergency room trips that have added up throughout the years.

Several bars close during this event, and others are open for only a limited number of hours. State College officials have cracked down in order to encourage responsible drinking and behavior. All in all, State Patty’s Day is nothing more than an excuse for an all-day celebratory extravaganza. “Penn State students are expected to keep tradition alive. I don’t think anyone or anything can stop students from carrying on this infamous tradition,” Miller said.

For those of you planning to attend, the date has been confirmed for the weekend of February 26, 2011.

A Toast to Black History Month
Conceptualized in 1926 as a “Negro History Week,” this monthly reflection expanded to a whole 28 (sometimes 29) day commemoration of the accomplishments, struggles, and pride of black culture in February. It has been celebrated as a full month of recognition since 1976. 35 years going strong!

Let us raise our glass and salute to the extreme revolting that African Americans have done throughout the past decades. From back of the bus to POTUS, blacks have proved time and time again that they’re going to rally and persevere, that no matter what life throws at them they cannot and will not be held down. Hell, maybe even one day they will revolt against being designated the shortest month of the year. (What’s up with that!?)

Emancipation, no more segregation, leader of the nation = celebration!

Jennifer Shubilla
Managing Editor
JLS3355@psu.edu
Valentine’s Day! It’s all about love, pink hearts and buying each other heartfelt gifts, right? Well, it’s about time we break out of the cliché and present you guys with some entertaining stories full of heart-throbbing humor and relationship mishaps such as unwanted pregnancies, dirty cheating stories and revenge!

“Today, my boyfriend left me for my step-sister. He’s been cheating on me with her for the past 6 months, and got her pregnant. I also found out that my stomach pains are due to the fact that I’m also pregnant. My family could officially qualify for Jerry Springer.” – Kylie Doppleganger

“Today, my husband told me he had been cheating on me for the past 8 months. Twenty minutes later, he asked me what was for dinner.” – Merry Housewife

“Today, at work, I stopped in my boss/boyfriend’s office to find him getting intimate with a girl. He then tells me that he is cheating on me, that he is dumping me, and that I am fired. Oh, and he is keeping the cat.” – Poor Kelly

“Today, some girl punched me in the face and left a huge purple bruise. Apparently her boyfriend has been cheating on her with me because she always sees him walking me home. Her boyfriend is my older brother who didn’t bother telling her who I was because “he wanted to see what she would do.” – Sandra Bruiser

“Today, I discovered how my ex-girlfriend exacted her revenge. Every item of clothing I own now has sequins.” – Lukes Goodin Sequins

“Today, after breaking up with my girlfriend of two years over the phone, I received a knock on my door. It was my new ex-girlfriend who came to seek revenge by shooting me in the balls with a paintball gun at about a three foot range.” – Kyle Knockers

“Today, my boyfriend stole a guy’s cookie. As revenge, he stole my iPod.” – Rolly Jolly Doughboy

“Today, I found a pregnancy test in my wife’s purse while looking for a quarter. I haven’t had sex with my wife in 8 months.” – Mr. Spotty

“Today, at a family gathering, my aunt asked me when I was planning to have children. I’m only 16, I laughed and said not for a while, definitely not until I get married. My family shook their heads, and ignored me for the rest of the day. Apparently, teenage pregnancy is valued in my family.” – Fertile Betty

“Today, I gave a campus tour to a group of high school seniors. As I was showing off the dorms, one student asks, ‘Are these beds sturdy enough for threesomes?’ Before I could respond, another kid shouts, ‘How would he know, I bet the only action he gets in bed is from his left hand.’ She’s correct.” – Nick The Lonely

“Today, my sister came out to the family as being a lesbian, and wanted to invite her girlfriend over for us to meet her. It turns out her girlfriend occasion-ally goes out with guys to ‘remind herself that she’s not missing anything’. I was one of those men.” – Robert Share

“Today, my husband of 19 years took our children out for dinner, told them he’s gay, then sent them home to tell me for him.” – Momma Veronica

Now get out there on V-Day and keep these embarrassing stories in mind while you stuff your face with chocolate!

(Stories found on www.fmylife.com.)

Shannon Brace
Senior Staff Writer
SUB189@psu.edu
GROW A PEAR.

READ. WRITE. REVOLT

Join In

THE REVOLT