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Veeery Interesting . . .



Freshman Barrett Sigmund volunteers his ears to Gaynel Sickles, CRNP, Tuesday in the Health Center. Sigmund joins the masses of students and professors suffering from the flu.

—photo by Ben Wyrick

Students experience glitches in off-campus program

ROXANNE SCALA
News Editor

Students who study abroad may have an unexpected headache when transferring their grades to Allegheny.

When students who study abroad return to Allegheny, their official transcripts sometimes do not follow immediately, depending upon which study abroad program they are participating in.

Christie Young, director of off-campus studies, said other areas of the world do not emphasize the importance of academic documents as much as we do. As a result, the delay of transcripts leaves students tremendously anxious and worried.

Senior Christina Graff participated in the Center for Cross Cultural Studies in Seville, Spain. "I had no problems while I was there and one professor from Allegheny in particular came to visit." However, Graff admits her credit transfers were a major source of irritation.

"I had an ongoing problem with the Registrar's Office because apparently my transfer credits didn't show up with the total credits," said Graff. "So then I had problems receiving financial aid because of the glitch."

The problem was resolved when Graff caught the mistake. "There was a lot of paper work," she said. However, the problem returned this year. Graff said the state of Penn-

sylvania had a different account of her credits, cutting her financial aid, which was soon resolved after more paper work.

Dyane Lehky, a senior who also participated in the Seville study abroad program in the spring of 1998, had problems similar to Graff's.

"I felt it took the office [of Off-Campus Studies] a long time to react to my problems," said Lehky. "I was listed as junior status instead of senior because of my late transcript." Since her transcript was late, Lehky did not receive senior mailings, which caused her to miss out on certain events and deadlines. "It took about two months to correct," said Lehky.

Another problem Lehky commented on was the lack of communication between the off-campus studies office and herself. When it came time for room draw, she had problems receiving her room draw information. When she arrived on campus, Lehky found that the room she thought she received was not available. Her persistence paid off in the end, however.

Senior Shawn McCormick was a study abroad student her sophomore year on the ARAVA Institute for Environmental Studies in Israel program along with Senior Mike Keglovits.

McCormick and Keglovits experienced (continued on page 4)

Scholars Weekend hosts record number

SHANNON HARBAUGH
Assistant News Editor

For the past three weekends, Allegheny has hosted approximately 350 high school scholars, exceeding any other year out of the 10 years this program has been in existence.

"Nothing was done differently," explained Jennifer Decker, senior assistant director of admissions. "For one reason or another, more people just wanted to come," echoed Jennifer Firek, senior assistant director of admissions.

The dramatic increase in participants does not reflect a change in the program's structure. Invitations were sent on the same basis as in previous years.

"Anyone who qualified was invited," said Firek, "which includes those students with strong academic records and programs, usually in the top 20 percent of their class and received 1200 or higher on the SAT. Consideration also is given to distinguished achievements in areas such as art, dance, leadership, theater and others."

Those who qualify have a chance at Allegheny's Trustee Scholarship. This achievement-based award includes up to \$40,000, distributed equally over four years at Allegheny.

Those interested must complete Allegheny's regular application for

admission by February 15. Once considered eligible, the scholar is invited to meet with faculty.

The invited scholars can then reply and make arrangements to visit Allegheny. They are sent a program schedule to more easily prepare for their journey to Meadville, which might entail a little more preparation for some. "We had scholars come from as far as Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, and Maine," recalled Decker and Firek. "We provided a shuttle for transportation to and from the airport for those in need."

Once these potential Allegheny students arrive, they take a thorough tour of the campus. The scholars are assigned to a student guide until Saturday morning. The current students entertain the scholars for the night. "Hosts and scholars are matched on a volunteer basis only," explained Decker. "The process begins by us sending letters to those who have hosted in the past; for example, resident advisors, resident directors, and past scholars." Aside from these individuals, anyone can volunteer their time.

"We begin the matching process with scholars who are potential athletes and the coaches help by matching them with current players," said Firek. "We try to do the best possible job matching," explained Decker. "Not only do we take into

account the scholars' potential majors and minors, but we also like to match the hosts' activities and interests; for example, Greek life and religious faith.

After the scholars and hosts are (continued on page 3)

Health Center infected by virus sufferers

KENDRA STANTON
News Writer

If you've escaped its wrath thus far, consider yourself lucky—just don't consider yourself immune. The outbreak of influenza which has debilitated an inordinate number of Allegheny students and staff has not yet departed from campus, according to director of Winslow Health Center, Sue Plunkett. Plunkett believes that the end to the epidemic is near.

"Last week was the peak of the flu season. On Monday, we saw more than 102 patients. Most had the flu," said Plunkett. "It's been more fun than we've deserved."

The first confirmed case of flu at Allegheny occurred on Jan. 29. A throat washing was conducted and sent to the Public Health Department of Harrisburg, which identified the illness as Type A Sydney Influenza. Pennsylvania Health Department Epidemiology Manager Mark Dormann explained

that the virus is named after the location from which its occurrence is first identified. "The place in this case was probably Sydney, Australia," said Dormann.

The Type A Sydney virus is identifiable by "several classic criteria," explained Plunkett. Symptoms include: fever over 100 degrees—especially at night, body aches, hacking painful cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, loss of appetite, vomiting, and inability to move.

Freshman Steve Haines attested to all of these symptoms. "One day, I just laid in bed all day. I couldn't

do anything. I felt like I got run over by a truck," said Haines.

An anonymous sophomore shared this feeling: "It tried to kill me. It sucked."

Sophomore Nikki Rizzo, one of the few remaining healthy residents of Baldwin Hall, was obliged to nurse others to health. "I had to become the mommy," she said.

Freshman Tiffany Weaver commented, "[The flu] wouldn't have been so bad if I hadn't had so much work to do."

(continued on page 3)

Inside this week's Campus:

- Protestanism tries to bring back churchgoers
- Flu infects professors and students
- Think before you get hitched!
- Schuckert claims NCAC award

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MIJALIC, Yugoslavia (AP)—As the Yugoslav army defies NATO warnings with troop and tank patrols around Kosovo province, the less-powerful Kosovo Liberation Army has reverted to its earlier guerrilla tactics of ambushing police and killing and kidnapping civilians. An attack Wednesday night was the third in less than a week—a Serb police commander and a civilian were killed previously—and one more example of the ethnic violence that Western powers fear will erupt into full-fledged war during a lull in U.S.-led peace talks. Both sides are jostling for control, provoking each other before negotiators meet again in France on March 15. Serbs are a minority in Kosovo, an impoverished province of southern Serbia—outnumbered roughly 10-to-1 by ethnic Albanians. War began a year ago when Yugoslav forces tried to crush a rebellion by separatist guerrillas who want independence.

CAMP LEJUNE, S.C. (AP)—A military jury acquitted a Marine pilot Thursday of all charges that he recklessly flew his jet into an Italian gondola cable, killing 20 people more than a year ago. A whoop went up in the courtroom at the Camp Lejeune Marine base when the verdict was announced. Family members of the victims wept and hugged. "All I really want to say is that this has been a tragedy for all involved, and my heart and thoughts

and prayers go out to all the families of the victims," Capt. Richard Ashby told reporters at a news conference. Ashby, 31, was charged with 20 counts of involuntary manslaughter and one count each of destroying government property, destroying private property, dereliction of duty and failure to plan the flight properly. The crash and its aftermath strained relations between the United States and Italy, a NATO ally. The pilot faced a possible sentence of 206 years if he had been convicted of all charges.

MIAMI (AP)—A federal judge reduced Manuel Noriega's prison sentence from 40 years to 30 on Thursday, meaning the former Panamanian dictator could be eligible for release by 2007. Noriega, 62, won the reduction from U.S. District Judge William M. Hoeweler after arguing that he deserves credit for helping the United States pursue its interests in Latin America while he was in power. Noriega was captured after the United States invaded Panama in 1989 and was sent to prison for money laundering and drug trafficking. He has spent nearly nine years by himself in a two-cell suite at a federal prison near Miami after Hoeweler granted him special status as a prisoner of war. There is no parole in the federal system, but prisoners can earn time off for good behavior or other considerations.

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—

Colombian authorities said three bodies were found Friday that they believed were Americans kidnapped by suspected leftist rebels last week. The bodies were found just across the border in Venezuela. The three were seized Jan. 25 after spending a week with an indigenous people, the U'wa, on a mission aimed at helping preserve the group's native identity. The two women had four bullet wounds each, and the man had six, said Col. Luis Eduardo Tafur, the police commander of Arauca state,

on Colombia's eastern border with Venezuela. There were also signs they had been tied up, he said.

BRCKO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—In a challenge to hard-liners opposed to the Dayton peace agreement, international officials fired the Bosnian Serbs' elected president on Friday and took the strategic city of Brcko away from their exclusive control. The decisions triggered a political crisis in the Bosnian Serb

republic: the hardline president Nikola Poplasen, refused to step aside; the vice president turned down the post, and the Western-backed prime minister announced his resignation to protest the Brcko decision. The Brcko decision resolves the last major territorial issue left from the Bosnian war. Negotiators crafting the Dayton accord decided to defer a ruling because of strong claims made on the city by the three ethnic groups.

CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS

•The Alexander String Quartet will perform a concert on Wednesday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Ford Chapel with a reception to follow in the Moore Lounge on the second floor of Pelletier library. Both events are free and open to the public.

•Allegheny Leaders and Liaisons (ALLies) is looking for students who are interested in joining. ALLies is involved primarily in the planning of Homecoming and Scholars' weekends. Applications are available at the Information Desk in the Campus Center and are due by Friday, March 19. Questions should be directed to Mia Gentile at 336-3728 or via e-mail <gentilm>.

•Over 20 Allegheny organiza-

tions will join together to hold a carnival in the Campus Center lobby for hundreds of children from the area on Saturday, March 13, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

•This summer, the college will host events such as the National Multiple Sclerosis Society 150 bike tour, MAA Math Institute, Mind Body Wellness seminar, Doll Camp and a variety of other conferences, sport camps and seminars. Positions will be available for students as conference workers. Interested students should stop by Residence Life in Reis Hall, room 104, to pick up an application packet. The deadline is March 15.

•Tuesday, March 16 at 8 p.m., the dean of student affairs and a pro-

fessor of anatomy from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie will present a program on osteopathic medicine. They will talk about the profession in general as well as highlight some of the aspects of medical education at LECOM. Anyone interested in pursuing a career as a physician is encouraged to attend. The program will be held in Steffee 103.

•The international film festival sponsored by the Modern and Classical Languages Department will feature the Russian film "The Thief" on Thursday, March 18 at 8 p.m. in Shafer Auditorium. The show is free and open to the public.

The Campus asks ...

How are you feeling?

compiled by Giancarlo Bonilla



Sweaty and excited. We just had a great workout.

Katy Trostle and
Jen Huehnen
Class of '02



Tired because I've been up for 32 hours and I'm not going to sleep until Spring Break!

Michele Olson
Class of '00



We are comping seniors and therefore, we feel like SPAM!

Kristen Blake and
Joe Peters
Class of '99



We feel so good, we're wearing Hawaiian clothes tomorrow!! From the GAP, of course.

Andrew Twigg
Class of '99
Lindsay Davis
Class of '00



Well, I'm hacking up phlegm and I think I have an enlarged gland. Other than that, never felt better.

Dan Schreiber
Class of '99

Evangelical Protestantism floundering to find followers in the Americas

ERIN McADAMS
News Reporter

The rise of evangelical Protestantism in Latin America has several Catholics, including North American bishops and Pope John Paul II, floundering to bring people back to the Church.

From Mexico to Argentina, the dominant religion brought to the region by the Spanish conquest is experiencing reformation. Born-again Protestantism, particularly Pentecostalism, is sweeping throughout the region.

As Virginia Garrard-Burnett and David Stoll, editors of "Rethinking Protestantism in Latin America," report over 10 percent of the Latin American population currently identify itself as Protestant, with the percentage substantially higher in Brazil and most of Central America.

The editors predict that this number will grow to include a third of the Latin American population early in the twenty-first century.

The explosion of Protestantism in the region became a theme in 1997 at the Synod of the Americas, a gathering of North American bishops held in Rome. The synod, which was one of the largest bishop gatherings since the ecumenical council Vatican II, recognized the threat posed to the Church by the growing number of Protestant believers in Latin America.

The Pope recently had an opportunity to address the bishops' concerns of the "invasion of Protestant sects" during his visit to Mexico in late January.

The introduction of Protestantism in Latin America began in

the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with the immigration of European churches, such as the German Lutheran movement in Brazil, and mainline North American denominations.

The most successful wave of evangelical Protestantism in the region, though, has been the recent fundamental Pentecostal movement. Garrard-Burnett and Stoll report that more Latin Americans "have been attracted to Pentecostal churches than to any other kind: two-thirds to three-quarters of all Protestants."

The Pentecostal movement in the region initially emerged in the 1960s and has grown to considerable prominence within the last 30 years, largely through the efforts of North American missionaries.

The recent explosion of evangelical Protestantism has worried high-ranking Catholic bishops as well as the Pope.

A January 22 *New York Times* article reported that, during a 1990 visit to Mexico, the Pope laid partial blame for this "invasion" on the bishops because "the Church was losing ground to fundamentalist groups, saying they left many Mexicans 'deplorably vulnerable' to proselytizing by Protestant denominations."

"What is getting the Pope and others worried is that they have had a monopoly for so long," said Professor of Political Science Giles Wayland-Smith. "Now they have competition, and they're floundering as to how to meet that competition."

The appeal to evangelical Protestantism has its origins in the liberation theology that was prominent in

Latin America in the 1970s. During that period, the Catholic Church established Catholic ecclesial base communities (CEBs) in response to the desire of the Vatican II council to renew the spiritual life of parishioners. These small communities allowed parishioners to contemplate spiritual life and become proactively engaged in the Church. Inevitably, the evangelism that took place within the CEBs generated larger discussions concerning social and political issues.

"The evangelism of the base communities inevitably led to a consciousness-raising and politicization of those involved," explained Wayland-Smith.

This consciousness-raising gave birth to liberation theology, which stressed the equality of all believers and the role of the Church in eliminating repression of the poor. As a result of this theology's popularity, a division formed between the clergy and higher-ranking Church officials over the role the Church should take

in socio-economic reform. The Church thus placed pressure on priests and parishioners to dampen the effects of liberation theology.

In the aftermath of this pressure, Latin Americans began to turn to evangelical Protestantism as an alternative to liberation theology. This movement provided an appeal to Latin Americans seeking community-level support and egalitarianism.

Evangelical Protestantism tends to emphasize small communities of believers, generating moral support among tight-knit groups. Small Bible-study groups provide the security and closeness fostered in the CEBs. Unlike the formal hierarchy of the Catholic Church, Protestantism is rooted in a radical egalitarianism that foregrounds the Holy Spirit as a way to maintain a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

"Protestantism is much more egalitarian in nature [than the Catholic Church] due to the emphasis on the Holy Spirit," Wayland-

Smith explained. "The spiritual energy comes directly from Christ, and the medium between the individual and Christ is the Holy Spirit—rather than the Church."

David Miller, editor of *Coming of Age: Protestantism in Contemporary Latin America*, suggests, however, that the movement is more than a byproduct of the social and political changes in the region. The closeness of Protestant churches forms networks of support systems for members. Particularly for those migrating from rural to urban areas, these networks provide economic as well as psychological benefits. Moreover, because liberation theology has been traditionally identified with communism or Marxism, involvement in a Protestant movement often provides local populations with protection from right-wing military regimes in Latin America.

Severe flu outbreak intensifies student misery

(continued from page 1)

Many classes were less than half-filled due to the absence of ill students. However, Plunkett confirmed that rumors regarding her ability to cancel classes were untrue. "I do not have the authority to shut down the school," said Plunkett.

Plunkett and staff examined every case that entered the Health Center to ensure patients were not suffering from additional complications. The staff also was looking to detect meningitis, a serious illness in which the brain and spinal cord become inflamed, which may be masked by flu-like symptoms.

The Health Center dispensed "bottles and bottles and bottles of

anti-viral medication to flu patients," according to Plunkett. Although there is no cure for the flu virus, this medication, if taken during the initial phase of the illness, reduces the severity and duration of the symptoms. Thus many students who did not take the medication at the onset of flu were debilitated by the virus for a week or longer.

Area schools were hit by epidemics of the same caliber. Edinboro University, Clarion University and Meadville Middle School all reported widespread absences of students and staff due to influenza.

The outbreak of flu at Allegheny was the worst Plunkett had wit-

nessed in the last five years. She explained that last year the flu season was rather negligible, due mainly to the effects of El Niño.

Students and staff are advised to take preventative measures to avoid flu in the future. Plunkett and Dormann both stressed the importance of flu shots.

"[Flu shots] are the easiest way of protecting yourself," said Dormann.

Plunkett especially encouraged all returning students to get flu shots. "It's ten dollars well-spent," she said.

Scholars kept busy for preview

(continued from page 1)

introduced, they can take their belongings to the residence halls and begin to partake in the evening's events. Each scholar, scholar's parents, and host receive a schedule of events and can choose their preferred activities.

They are able to enjoy dinner at Brooks dining hall or McKinley's food court. Following the dinner, there is a dessert reception at Schultz dining hall for the scholars, hosts, and parents. For the rest of the evening, hosts and scholars can choose from a list of on-campus and Meadville events.

According to Admissions Counselor Jennifer Smith, a variety of activities are offered for the weekend, many of which are organized by Gator Activities Programming (GAP). "This past weekend, we co-sponsored a mid-night barbecue at McKinley's where 'There's Something About Mary' was also shown, and the student performed play, 'Good Night Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)'" began at 8:15 p.m., and Brooks dining hall hosted Casino Night from 8

until 10 p.m." explained Smith.

After a late night of excitement, breakfast is served at Brooks between 8 and 9 a.m., while the parents are invited to a financial aide overview. After the potential scholars have digested, they go to their individual faculty interview. Afterwards, the prospectives can meet with their parents and take a tour of campus at their leisure. The tour highlights Allegheny College Center for Experiential Learning (ACCEL), the Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED), David V. Wise Sport and Fitness Center, and Baldwin Hall in an attempt to give the scholars a slice of life at Allegheny. A luncheon is served at Schultz Hall between 12:30 and 1:45 p.m. followed by one final optional tour of the campus.

"Several hundred people helped out, including 45 faculty members. Someone compared this event to organizing three weddings on consecutive weekends," Decker said. "We are very appreciative of the entire campus for pulling together, volunteering and making this a success."

Vietnamese talk show addresses teen sexuality

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—In a country where public displays of affection still are frowned upon, Vietnam's first radio call-in show for sex advice drew the curious and the nervous—but not a lot of listeners.

It appeared that the government-run Voice of Vietnam was testing the water before jumping in on what most agree is a badly needed service in a publicly repressed society.

Just about everything related to the debut of "Window on Love" was low-key, down to the physician who responded to a birth-control query in a near-whisper when she delicately discussed the rhythm method.

With little advance publicity, the half-hour show, conducted with help from the U.N. Population Program and the British Broadcasting Corp., was broadcast nationwide at 10 a.m. Sunday, in some places on a lightly used frequency.

Interviews the day after with

nearly 20 people in Hanoi found only one person—a grandmother—who had tuned in to the youth-oriented show.

Nguyen Thanh Van, 65, called it an very good program that was badly needed by youngsters. And she pointed out that it will add some weight to what she has told her grandchildren about the merits of genuine love.

The rest, including a dozen high school and university students, said they would listen if they knew about the show. All agreed it is needed to improve sex education.

"Youngsters need to learn about safe sex, and the program provides them with an excellent opportunity because they are not taught at schools, not told by their parents and they do not share experiences among themselves," said Tran Tien Tai, a 59-year-old retired state employee.

Phi Hong Van, a first-year uni-

versity student, agreed. She said she knows nothing about sex and that the program will educate her.

In such a conservative society, parents often find it difficult to talk about the subject with their children. Women are expected to be virgins when they marry. Pornography is strictly banned, along with magazines like "Cosmopolitan" and "Glamour."

Although there are plans for the weekly program to go live next month, depending on surveys to be done by Voice of Vietnam, it initially is being prerecorded based on queries phoned in earlier in the week.

The fact that all but one of the half-dozen callers said they were asking questions for their friends showed how taboo it is to discuss sex in Vietnam.

The debut program featured queries on subjects ranging from

(continued on page 4)

Delay in transcript processing creates headaches for returning students

(continued from page 1)

perienced problems different from some of the other students in the off-campus studies program. Difficulties in transferring their credits were later ironed out. These problems were a result of the ARAVA program being in its first year.

"I had no problems with transferring credits and communication," said Keglovits, "other than the problems with the program itself."

McCormick had another opinion, however. "I think the office [Off-Campus Studies] should create a standard." By this standard, McCormick hopes the office would have definite answers about the process of communication and aid departments in knowing more about credit hours offered to students in the program.

McCormick also hopes the Registrar's Office would begin to accept unofficial transcripts. "I had a transcript in my hand when I arrived here at Allegheny with the letterhead of the college I attended," she said. However, the Registrar's Office did not accept it as proof of Mc-

Cormick's completion of her semester credits, making her wait longer than expected to receive her official transcripts.

In reference to the acceptance of official transcripts, Young said there is a liability with unofficial transcripts for the Registrar's Office. By accepting only the official transcripts, the liability is eliminated. Young added that because transcripts have an issue of privacy attached to them, students must take care to contact the college they attended during the program to request a transcript.

However, not all students who study off-campus have complained about communications and transfers of credits. Senior Paula Kovacs frequently studied in Costa Rica through the environmental studies program. "My experience was wonderful. I had no problems with communications and transcripts with Allegheny," she said.

Junior Melana Mears participated in the Boston University Quito, Ecuador program. "I didn't have any problems with the off-campus

studies office because before I left, I did every thing on my own," said Mears. She added that because she handled all her paper work, talked with other students who also studied abroad, and tied up all her loose-ends before she left, her problems were virtually eliminated.

Young acknowledged the complaints, but pointed out that no one has failed to graduate due to the slowness of receiving transcripts.

Young explained that students who participate in the off-campus studies program have a pre-departure meeting with her to get advice and last-minute instruction about preventing communication breakdowns.

"I tell them to take care of as much as they can before they leave," said Young. "Get as many courses approved as they can. Designate a proxy for housing, or talk with an RA [resident advisor] about hous-

ing."

Another important thing Young tells students is to keep in contact with the office as much as possible. "I tell them that as soon as they get in," said Young, "to confirm with me their correct address, e-mail, and to check their schedules." This enables Young to be aware of the student's class and social schedules so that if she needs to contact a student, she knows the best times to do so.

"I'll be the first one to admit there are glitches in the system," said Young. But, she adds, her office works hard to correct them.

Some of the students complaining about the lack of communication within the office, such as McCormick, say it is because of understaffing.

"Until this year," said Young, "I only had one 15-hour staffer. Now I have another staffer in addition,

who works for this office part-time." Young also points out that student assistants are not allowed to handle documents such as transcripts, a fact which adds to the slowness of the office.

"We are always in the process of refining," said Young. "One of the things we do is host a returning students' reception to get feedback from students who study abroad," she said. However, Young the reception said it is not well attended so her office does not receive much feedback on the off-campus experiences.

Young added that those students whose trips run most smoothly, are those who keep in the close contact with her department.

"I understand that the lateness of transcripts to students is a tremendous anxiety-building situation," said Young. "But whatever problems students have are taken care of."

Repressed society loosens up sexual taboos

(continued from page 3)

premarital sex and contraceptives to AIDS. Two experts, one on psychology, the other on health, crafted carefully worded responses.

One girl asked how her friend should turn down her boyfriend's request to have sex. The answer was to avoid being alone together, especially in the dark, not wear provocative clothes and find some way to deny the demand without upsetting the boyfriend.

The experts admitted that premarital sex is generally not accepted in Vietnam and that girls who be-

come pregnant suffer the brunt of the consequences.

One girl said her 16-year-old friend, who recently just had sex for the first time with her boyfriend, wanted to know if she should tell her parents.

The doctor responded that she should not worry because the chances of getting pregnant from the first time were slim.

Despite the low profile, Ta Hai, who is responsible for "Window on Love," said he hopes the program will lure back listeners who increasingly are turning to television for en-

tertainment.

"I think people, especially youngsters, will respond to the program positively and there will be more and more listeners to the program," he said.

The only real complaint came from Tran Quang Hieu, a first-year university student. He said the program should be broadcast at night instead of Sunday morning.

"I think this is private, so I want to listen to the program by myself," he said.

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Perspectives

EDITORIAL

Last weekend was the last of three weekends in which prospective students visited campus to get a feel for life at Allegheny. The prospective students spent the night in residence hall rooms and on-campus houses, hosted by student volunteers. The matches between prospectives and current students are made by the Volunteers in Support of Admissions (VISA) office.

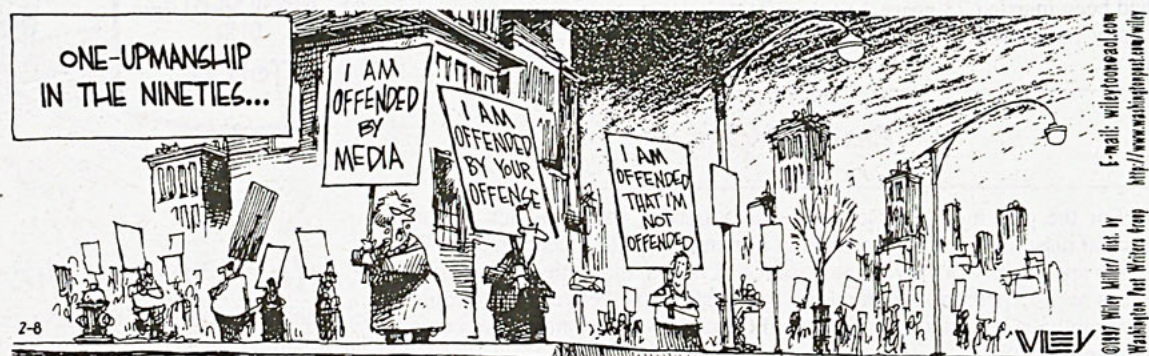
VISA telephones selected students to request that they participate in hosting a prospective student overnight. This year, approximately 350 prospective students needed hosts—a record number.

VISA had difficulty finding students who wanted to host, perhaps because of the number of students who were sick or the amount of work with which students are faced at this time of the year. VISA could possibly offer increased incentives to persuade students to be hosts. However, students should realize that VISA's resources are limited and that their contributions are important to the continued success of the program and to the college as a whole. Allegheny relies on student hospitality to introduce prospective students to the college and peak their interest in attending.

All editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial Board.

The Campus welcomes all reader response. We reserve the right to reject all letters of a purely promotional nature, as well as letters which do not meet our standards of integrity, accuracy and decency. We also reserve the right to edit pieces for space and grammar. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor, editorial columns and editorial cartoons do not necessarily represent the views of The Campus. Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. the Monday before publication. Letters must be type written, double-spaced and signed, with a phone number included for verification. Any letter that cannot be verified will not be printed.

All questions concerning the above policy should be directed to the Editor-in-Chief



Letters to the Editor

Call for compassion

On March 1, 1996, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark reported to the United Nations Security Council that over one million Iraqis had died due to the economic sanctions imposed on the country. That was nearly three years ago, and despite continued privation and death, continued inspections, and mounting international and domestic pressure, the UN, led by the U.S., maintains its murderous policy of beating Iraqi society into near oblivion.

Greg Johnson

Our government claims that it wants to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction—this has been the main justification for sanctions since the end of the Gulf War. Today, the UN acknowledges that Iraq has no nuclear capabilities—save maybe the

depleted uranium shells left over from American bombs. And what of chemical weapons? Are pesticides chemical weapons? Is medicine? Under the arms of sanctions, they are. The reality is that agriculture or medicine can make chemical weapons.

Furthermore, general Iraqi rejection of weapons inspections came only after eight years of complete intransigence on the question of lifting or reducing sanctions, and only when it is well known that UNSCOM was spying for the U.S. and its allies. And I'm sure I don't have to point out the hypocrisy of calling for disarmament while sitting atop the largest and most destructive cache of weaponry ever seen in human history.

Our illustrious statesmen and women also like to profess their desire to assist Iraqi opposition movements seeking to overthrow Hussein and establish democracy. Then why did the U.S. turn its head in complicity when the dictator slaughtered Kurds and Shiite

Muslims organizing against him? Do you lend a hand to freedom fighters by starving them and their children? Opposition movements—that's a good one. That's funny. But forget all that, even. Think only of the 5,000 children who die every month in Iraq because of starvation or preventable diseases. Think of the thousands more who are sick and injured. Think of whole cities turned into sewage-filled slums. Think about what gets destroyed when a "smart" bomb is artfully aimed through a window and blows up a whole block.

The Iraqi population has declined 10 percent since the end of the Gulf War. That sounds like genocide to me. We need to build a movement in this country—and that includes here at Allegheny—dedicated to ending the killing of innocent Iraqi civilians. Stop the bombings—end sanctions now!

Greg Johnson is a member of the class of '02.

Homosexuality: the land that political correctness forgot

Can you tell if people are gay just by looking at them? Can you tell if they are interested in both men and women just by looking at them? Can you tell if they like chocolate or roller coasters just by looking at them? There are some things that just aren't obvious—some things aren't skin deep. Being gay is one of them.

Mark Hudson

It is tricky—this homosexuality thing. It is easy to tell if someone is black. You can look at them and make a decision about their color based on physical features. Consequently, if you are prone to racial outbursts, you can decide to hold your tongue and not make any offensive comments.

It is different, however, with homosexuality. It isn't possible to look around a room and pick out the homosexual people from the straight people. This presents a problem and makes discrimination more common and, sometimes, more socially acceptable.

Recently, I have noticed how some members of our campus freely throw around words like "faggot, gay, queer, gay" etc. People don't even think twice about calling a friend a "fag" in an attempt to insult or degrade their friend "all in good fun." And sadly, this is somehow acceptable.

When was the last time you called somebody a "fag"

or said something "was gay" in a crowd, with lots of people around you who possibly could have been gay? It seems as if it happens repeatedly these days. No one is too concerned about stepping in and telling their friends they don't find that kind of behavior acceptable.

Rarely, if ever, do we reprimand one another for using such derogatory and discriminating language. Is it that you don't care about offending people? Well, that is your own prerogative—but be careful. You may offend a potential employer someday or lose a job because you couldn't respect the final frontier in being politically correct.

The problem really lies in our conception of what is socially acceptable. You would never hear a kid on campus call somebody a "nigger" to get a rise out of them or to harmlessly pick on them. Yet you do see minority students calling people "fags" or "queers." There is something very interesting about this.

I certainly am not accusing minorities in particular, rather society as a whole. My point is that minorities should be especially considerate towards the homosexual community. They should support their cause in the same way that they yearn to have their cause supported.

When it comes right down to it, there is nothing more at stake in this conversation than a matter of respect. Shouldn't we respect the choices and prerogatives of our fellow Alleghenians? We can never really tell if someone is a homosexual simply by

(continued on page 7)

Reconsidering the "Old Ball and Chain"

A few weeks ago I received an e-mail from a friend of mine, telling me her parents were getting divorced. She was distraught. Her parents had been married 23 years, had three children and always appeared to be happy. She could not figure out why they were going through with a divorce.

Reshma Mehra

For the past month or so I have been getting daily updates on the gradual dissolution of the marriage of a friend's friend. I hear on the TV, Oprah specifically (a very reliable source of information), that the divorce rate is over 45 percent. What once was a sacred bond between two people seems to have gone a long way downhill, and the value of marriage seems to have been lost.

Yet there are friends of mine who are already getting their wedding invitations printed and posted, and there are probably thousands more who are doing the same. What surprises me is not that they want to get married and spend "the rest of their lives" with the one they love, but the urgency and haste with which they go about it.

We come to college a little scared (and excited) about making new friends, settling down, and finding our own little niches. The environment is new and the expectations are very high. We never know how or when we will find a person to "click" with. When we do, it is amazing, and we hold on to that person. In return, that person holds on to us. It is a very comfortable feeling.

But then we are faced with the idea of being a senior, leaving college, having to find a job and going out into a world much larger than a sheltered Allegheny campus or a high school, and far less comforting than home. What is worse, we hear stories—lonely stories—about people who have left and felt alone and lost in places like Richmond, Virginia and Houston, Texas.

So we look for ways to avoid feeling bereft or lonely, to avoid having to deal directly and single-handedly with the idea of working the first real full-time jobs of our lives, of making friends in a new town with people we don't know, of trying to forge a life so completely different, responsible and adult with regard to the way we were in college.

The one way we resolve that fear is to have someone familiar—someone who held on through bad grades, drunken weekends, the traumatic semester—right there with us so we can't feel lonely. We see the person with whom we spent the last year or more in love and say, "Will you marry me?" There are probably a number of different people who say the exact same words but have a very different motivation for it.

To those people, I wish you luck and happiness. But there are some of us who would say those words without really thinking of the way it would work out, without really grasping the gravity of the decision or commitment made, without paying attention to the fact that there is a whole world that deserves more than a resolution that arises out of fear.

We brush aside important issues that should matter when one makes a decision about something as serious as marriage. We tend not to consider how a person might be in a situation that involves having children, buying a home or doing the chores. We don't stop to think about how important it is that the reasons behind the commitment are solid and real—not ways out of an over-powering family or an escape from the reality of settling into a world that is perhaps a little chillier than Allegheny.

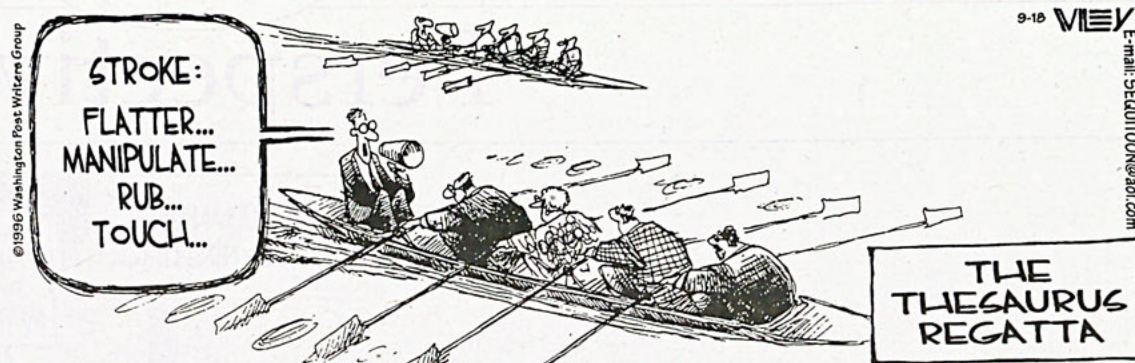
Eventually, what counts are the very points we overlook. The fights and arguments that started small at a time we didn't think they were worth listening to, or learning from—they are what go into the marriage. These small ideas, feelings and view-points that we very often sideline are the things that could make or break the relationship. Ignoring them makes a tough decision easier for the moment, but all the more unsound.

Think about it! Someone graduates from college, wants to make sure that his life is all planned even before he has a chance to see what life it is all about, and asks his girlfriend to marry him. She is in the same position and agrees. They get married. He wants kids, but she isn't ready. He wants their house to be in the suburbs, but she isn't sure about that. His work is in an office, while she has to do a lot more in grad school. She doesn't want to go clubbing.

After a while they are so familiar with each other that they forget the simple things that make them happy, like a compliment or a date. Days, months, probably years later, they realize they made a decision in haste. It is a sad situation, but to be honest, it could be any one of us, looking for companionship and jumping the gun to forge a life that looks so stable.

I don't want to ruffle feathers and say that all of you out there who have proposed and are going to get married are doing it out of fear. I just want to suggest that you take a minute to think about the reasons why you decided to go through with a commitment so huge, what you expect out of it, and whether you really understand the true essence of a marriage vow. These decisions could go a long way to make us lose our ways. Just keep an eye out for yourself.

Reshma Mehra is a columnist for The Campus



Reflections on the end: those we knew and those we didn't

Death. It's our lifelong fascination. So many people have written, spoken, sung, dreamed about and feared it that it always seems somewhat strange to me that every time it happens we treat it as though it never happened before. These thoughts are not original. They are not new discoveries by any means, but every death we feel registers differently on both group and individual levels.

Luke Boger

There has been a lot of talk in recent years that our culture is getting to be too hardened by death, too jaded by the constant violence and demise that surrounds us in the media. To an extent, it is true that we, as a culture, have become desensitized to visions of death in television, video games, movies, and publications.

To an extent.

The death tolls of the nightly news and the latest action films are numbers we easily forget. Even gruesome murders of innocents of whom we have never heard are quickly and easily forgotten. But why shouldn't they be?

We are caused no great pain by losing people whom we never had. It is unfair to pretend that we are. Leave the pain for those who *did* have the deceased, and know what it is to lose them. The best we can do on the outside is to respect the dead and those who love them. We cannot properly do that by pretending to have *full* reasons for missing them.

It is doing a disservice to mourn them on one level.

In this respect, I think it is normal and healthy that we prefer not to pay more than fleeting attention to the deaths of strangers. It is only natural, but it might come across as making the public appear jaded to death. It may not be "right" that we forget so easily, but we do.

It isn't fair to blame the media, either, because the public wouldn't even be aware of deaths of people they didn't know if it were not for periodicals, television or radio. It is odd, then, that while we tend not to remember deaths which do not hit close to home, we are still constantly in search of when death has occurred. The media merely feeds off of the fascination.

Three celebrities died in the past week: Gene Siskel, Stanley Kubrick and Joe DiMaggio. The media covered their deaths—as if no one ever died before. We will remember, and perhaps think longer of their deaths than we do of any given murder victim, but we will not be emotionally hit as if we knew them.

The best way to express my feelings when I heard about Kubrick is "bummed out." I love his films, but I did not know him. For me to pretend that I miss the man because I miss the film maker is, to me, a terrible misappropriation of loss.

It is unfair to make the generalized assumption that our culture has become desensitized to death because that generalization does not discriminate between our reactions to *who* died.

The truth of the matter is that, where it probably counts the most, we are no more hardened to death than we ever were. Where death really counts—within the realm of our friends and families—we care just as much as ever.

I had heard about Siskel and Kubrick, both of which I thought were tragedies. But death happens, right? My housemate then brought DiMaggio's death to my attention. "But, bad things always happen in threes, so we don't have to worry about anything else for a while," he said.

Ironically enough, about two hours before he said this on Monday, unbeknownst to me, my grandmother died 300 miles away. She was 99. She was that close to making it through an entire century and into the next millennium.

So bad things happen in fours, I guess.

Death is so frighteningly final. It makes those closely affected suddenly naive. Kill every member of my family one by one, and the last death will pain me as much as the first. There is no "getting used" to losing loved ones. Not in a healthy mind.

On Friday, I will go to Philadelphia for the funeral, and I will very likely pray to the God in whom Nana vested her very strong faith—the same God that I have actively doubted for about seven years. Basically, these prayers would start with a mental, "If you're out there . . ."

How should I feel about that? To me, it feels cripplingly incomplete.

It has yet to hit me, really—that I have lost her. That she is gone. No "going, going," just—BANG—gone. If you've experienced a loss, you know this feeling. It doesn't sink in until you're not ready for it. And I can't figure out if I'd rather it sink in or not.

But when will it? When I'm sitting or kneeling in a foreign church, praying to a foreign god, with my closest family members around me?

Think of that: my closest loved ones with me in one of the most uncomfortable locations for me to be. Talk about extremes in comfort and discomfort. Will family and church counterbalance one another—will I be set at medium tense? Or will the two work together to form a completely separate, independent level of solace?

I have the feeling that my family and my memories will make the church more habitable. I hope.

But if my family is my ultimate in comfort—heaven—and church is my ultimate in discomfort—hell (ironically)—what's in the middle? Reality?

(continued on page 7)

We're all single, and looking.
Write for *The Campus*.

Kudos, accolades and acknowledgements: did you ever know you're Hinzman's hero?

Who sings to heroes anymore? I mean, besides Bette Midler. "Did you ever know that you're my hero? You're everything I wish I could be."

There are a few people on this campus who simply are not appreciated enough, and this column is for them.

Michael Hinzman

First of all, there are the Marriott workers. We Allegheny students expect way too much because we're spoiled. I admit it. I'm spoiled. There is a guy in Brooks—Todd—who makes the *best* damn omelets in the world. I am not kidding. The man is a master of eggs. He can do things with the very few tools he has that would make Julia Child sit up and beg. He actually made me an omelet with sautéed mushrooms, onions, and green peppers. Magnifique!

But when I came in and he said he was leaving in hopes of joining the housekeeping staff, I felt horrible! How could Todd do that to me? Then I thought, "Who the hell am I to say that?" He probably gets paid a block away from nothing, and the man has kids. So, the move would probably be the best for him. I would love it if he would stay because of a huge raise, hint, so I continue being selfish.

Another worker who is seldom seen, but often appreciated, is Chef Charles. The man can make food like nobody's business. Otherwise, he wouldn't be a chef, right? But more than that, the man is genuine, a real nice guy.

Speaking of nice guys, how about President Cook and Dean Smith—can there be nicer people? Can there? President Cook, as a fellow tall guy, has a respect for everything at this school and supports everyone from the sports to the arts. Granted, I was partially responsible for the thoroughly embarrassing my in front of a large portion of the Allegheny population during my sophomore year, but that's beside the point. And then there is Dean Smith. Who else could come to class to teach about the sophistication of Alexis de Tocqueville

in jeans and a flannel? From a road crew cleaning asphalt to a college professor cleaning minds.

And speaking of cleaning, the people that clean the campus center are dedicated. They are there all the time. It is always clean. Almost to the point of being scary.

Then there is Physical Plant. They do so much for being so few people. They might overdo the salt sometimes, but I'd rather crunch through salt than fall on my ass and slide halfway to Carnegie while trying to get to Arter.

Another group of which some may not be aware are the crews for any show that happens on campus. When there is a Centerstage event, a Playshop show, a dance concert, or anything else one is required to see for class, there is a host of people working to make sure everyone gets the most out of every performance. Turning Shafer into an ice rink was no small feat, and it was the crew people that did it.

Speaking of no small feet, Glenn Holland is a funny, funny man.

Speaking of funny men, I miss James Hogan from the Classics department. Now, I only had one class with him—my freshman seminar—which was kind of ironic, because he hated freshmen. He was rude. He was ignorant. He used all sorts of remarks that should never be said in a classroom. I loved the man.

Professor Hogan was no holds barred when it came to teaching. People hated him because he would hurt their precious egos. People who could withstand his undaunting classes, his misuse of large words and his extremely opinionated lectures gained his respect—that was worth more than any grade.

He was someone I could talk to. He once told me "There is always someone better than you, but you are a lot better than a lot of people." Of course that's not true for everyone, but it is true for those who know it. People with egos support one another, and he was someone who helped.

Other people who help are those who try to make connections between the college and the community. There

are so many. A lot of people have a terrible image of Allegheny students, and in turn, a lot of Allegheny students have a bad image of Meadville people, but those who try to make connections often succeed because we're all good people when we decide to be. This happens in the arts and community service more so than anything else.

I also give a lot of credit to the people who work at the VISA office. You know we're lying. We don't have a damn thing to do, but we don't want to have prospective because we are lazy and protective of our personal space. They call and call. They leave us messages, and some of us break down and accept these sometimes weird, but most of the time nice, people into our rooms.

I feel bad for Marcie Coward because she is introducing something new to this campus and people often reject new things. Don't run away, Marcie! We are dependent on you, at least for this year.

All those professors here for a year and then gone, are great people. Learn from them while you can. Take advantage of their knowledge. It's like the student teacher in high school or the interim pastor who has some really key things to say.

Anyone who does anything to actually bring some fun to this campus. ASG, GAP, WARC, *The Campus*, people hate all of you because people are petty and never happy. It's a fact of life. They won't get off their butts and do it, screw them, huh? It's tough to plan things and have classes.

Finally, the last people who never get credit are your friends and family who listen to you bitch and moan and yet still care.

I think tomorrow should be a Band-Aid day. That's what I call days of healing. Apologize to those who hurt you. Get rid of that grudge, order a pizza. Make peace with people. Say some thank-yous to the people whom you feel deserve them. Tell people how you really feel, because there's no time like the present to make some sung heroes in your life.

Michael Hinzman is a columnist for The Campus.

Reconciling loss and lack of faith: when ideologies clash

(continued from page 6)

Purgatory?
Mourning?
I suppose my state of mourning is a purgatory of sorts, because although I have no defined faith as to what happens to dead loved ones, I certainly hope there is *something* else for them. I want to believe Nana went somewhere or became something when she died, but my lack of faith will not let me be secure in believing those wishes.

Do you see my predicament? You don't have to believe it to understand it. And I'm not asking to be

saved. I just want to be comfortable. So here I am again, lost in some kind of spiritual limbo, hoping and caring but never believing. I feel like such a child. I am, in a sense.

I will pray at the funeral, but I question my methods, if not my motives. One side of me says that I should pray to her God for her. Another side asks me, "What good will it do to pray to something if you don't believe in it?" That side is telling me that if I pray in opposition to my own lack of belief, I am in effect patronizing her beliefs, not honoring them. It hurts to think that

might be true.

Which of those two sides is the least hypocritical? I know I can't avoid all hypocrisy, but perhaps at the very least I can choose between permitting more or less of it.

I respect her beliefs, and I want her afterlife to be exactly what she believed it would be, so I will pray to her God. If I had a similar belief which I embraced, it might be different. In such a case, I could respect her beliefs, but also pray according to my own, because I would probably envision the same wonderful afterlife for her that I saw for myself.

But where does it leave me when I can't put faith in any particular notion about what's next?

Oh sure, I could tell you what I would like it to be, but I wouldn't actually believe it. Should I just pray for that? And I could tell you to whom I'd like to pray, but I wouldn't believe he/she/it existed. So, to who, then, am I praying? My preferred ultimate being? My grandmother's memory? Myself?

I can't simply do "what comes naturally" here, because I don't know what natural is anymore. I've been taught too much.

So how do I compromise my lack of belief with her steadfast faith? I can't answer that. If you can, God bless you.

It would seem that this is the best I can do: Nana, I love you. And for your sake, I hope there's a heaven.

Luke Boger is Managing Editor for The Campus.

Burning bridges

(continued from page 5)

looking at them, yet people continually find it acceptable—and even "cool"—to publicly demean and humiliate the homosexual population in an attempt to soothe their own egos or to find an outlet for their own fears and apprehensions about sexuality.

It may behoove our students here at Allegheny to take a look around once in a while and consider that many of their friends—the same people whom they admire and respect athletically, academically and morally—are homosexuals. It may be in our best interest to condemn people who joke around about this person being a "fag" or that thing "being gay." After all, if one group is the target of our jokes and "humor," then what is to say that we might not be the minority next time?

Until you can start determining people's sexual orientation simply by looking at them, hold your tongue and keep your comments to yourself. You might not know who you are hurting or what bridges you are burning until it is too late.

Mark Hudson is a columnist for The Campus.

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Clinton helps to relieve Central America of Hurricane Mitch's destruction

WASHINGTON (AP)—Making a pilgrimage to the sites of Hurricane Mitch's worst horrors, President Clinton proffers Central Americans hope for their reconstruction so that despair does not turn into political trouble for the region.

The president embarks—without his wife, sidelined by a recurring back problem—today on his four-day, four-nation mission just as 15,000 Guatemalans and Salvadorans in the United States illegally become eligible for deportation. He has turned down pleas for an extension of the halt in deportations that was instituted after last fall's devastating storm. The stay in deportations expires today.

But Clinton's first stop—at one of only a few of the homes that were left standing in several villages after a wall of mud slid down

Nicaragua's Casitas Volcano in October—promises to underscore that many of those illegal immigrants have nothing to go home to.

To have them return now "would cause us tragic problems of stability," warned Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol, who will greet the Clintons in San Salvador tonight. In advance of their arrival, Calderon pleaded for the United States to reconsider an extension of the stay on deportations.

White House spokesman Michael Hammer said the United States has determined the region is capable of "beginning to receive their nationals." He said, however, that deportations are not expected to begin immediately.

In the meantime, Clinton's trip was scripted as a neighborly show of compassion, solidarity and assis-

tance—as much as the president could muster while his \$956 million emergency aid package remained tangled in domestic spending politics on Capitol Hill.

On the dried, cracked mud at the foot of Casitas Volcano, he was laying flowers at the impression left by the body of a small girl, victim of the Oct. 30 landslide that killed 2,000 people.

In a nearby Posoltega, Nicaragua, schoolyard, Clinton was meeting with homeless, jobless and—many of them—hopeless survivors still living in plastic tents four months after Mitch moved on.

In advance of Clinton's arrival, thousands of people poured into Posoltega by truck, bus or on foot. Many carried American flags or signs such as "Welcome Bill Clinton."

Police set up roadblocks all along the coastal highway that has been rebuilt since Mitch cut it in dozens of places.

"People are losing hope and you don't want an uncertain future," Hammer said, laying out the goals of Clinton's trip, which follows on separate official missions to the region by Mrs. Clinton and Tipper Gore, wife of the vice president.

"Without rebuilding schools, homes, roads, crops and jobs, it can lead to despair and corruption," Hammer said. "The people need to realize that the United States stands with them." Clinton brought to Nicaragua only a small grab bag of \$10.6 million from the Agency for International Development to repair, equip and staff health clinics.

—Another \$1.5 million in AID money for the International Red Cross to build 4,000 temporary homes starting this month.

—\$1.8 million from the State Department to find and remove the civil-war-era land mines remaining in Nicaragua and Honduras. Mitch's floods and mudslides complicated the problem by shifting mapped areas of land mine deployment.

Similar packages for El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala would be announced at Clinton's subsequent stops in those nations, officials said.

Each grapples with its share of Mitch's ravages: more than 9,000

dead, thousands more homeless, and as much as \$10 billion in infrastructure damage.

In light of the crisis, Central American leaders fault Clinton's trade policy as halfhearted.

Clinton submitted legislation to Congress last week providing enhanced trade benefits to Central American and Caribbean nations under the so-called Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Diplomats from those nations, who have long pressed for the same free-trade benefits that Mexico received under the North American Free Trade Agreement, said Clinton's latest CBI enhancement does not go far enough to build markets for Central American exports and, thus, restore jobs in the region.

Worse, Nicaraguan officials said, Clinton doomed the controversial trade package by sending it to Congress separate from the more politically popular direct-aid request.

Nicaraguan President Arnoldo Aleman beseeched Clinton in a letter last week to throw his "credibility and prestige" behind the CBI legislation.

"Without that," said Nicaragua's ambassador to the United States, Francisco Aguirre Sacasa, "I don't think it has a snowball's chance in Hell of being approved—even in its diluted form."

- ? a) Depression is a bunch of symptoms exhibited by weak people.
- b) Depression is an unbearable suppression of brain activity that can strike anyone.

Straightening out all the misconceptions, the correct answer is 'b'. It's a concept we should all understand and remember, and here's why. Depression strikes millions of young adults, but only 1 out of 5 ever seeks treatment for it. Too many just drag themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide. Why not treatment? Partly lack of awareness. Partly the unwarranted negative stigma. This is what needs fixing. This is where we need you to change your attitudes. It's an illness, not a weakness. And it's readily treatable. Spreading the word and making this common knowledge is everybody's assignment.

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Arts & Living

Latest outbreak of illness infects some, affects all

By **KIMBERLY REHAK**
Assistant Arts & Living Editor

of the illness generally appearing during the third week of the epidemic and normally hitting 20-50 percent of the population.

"I got a good laugh out of that," said Heath Center nurse Sue Plunkett, when asked if she had people feeling extremely nauseated actually asked administration to shut and weak. Sleep was a major factor down the campus because of the towards ridding the disease from the sickness that has plagued the college body. Unfortunately, sleep also over the past week. Unfortunately, prevented students from getting to the rumors proved false. Plunkett class and completing their emphasized, "I don't have the power schoolwork.

to shut down the campus."

Senior Rob Ostrom said, "I had 'Neither the deans nor I were ever the flu, it was awful. I put my work advised by the health professionals aside. I had a lot of stuff to do and that closing the college would help now it is all piled up. When you're stop the spread of this outbreak," sick, that's what happens. And none confirmed President Richard Cook, of my housemates gave me little "By the time the nature of the kisses."

outbreak was identifiable, most of the "I sat on my couch," said population—both on and off sophomore KC Hartwig. "I was too campus—had already been exposed. sick to do anything. I couldn't Closing the college had never been concentrate on the TV let alone discussed because there was no work." Hartwig also added, "I got indication that doing so would be at really behind, I did no work for two all effective in keeping students and days and missed a full day of classes. staff healthier."

"I feel that students trust I would of] practice. I'm still coming back close the college had I been advised from that."

it would be in the best interest of "Over the weekend I had a lot of their health," continued Cook. plans to get stuff done, but last "Rumors are an inevitable part of Thursday I started feeling screwed up," said senior Luke Boger. "It got relationships and trust to diminish their effect."

Although the school is not going any work done. I can deal with the to close down, it is very evident that symptoms, but I started to feel illness has been infecting the campus. detached. Once I got medication I was fine."

Along with a series of bronchitis and sinus infections there is, "I had two different strains," said according to Plunkett, a strain of senior Andrea Santamaria. "The first Type A Sydney flu spreading throughout the population. The first case was confirmed on January 29.

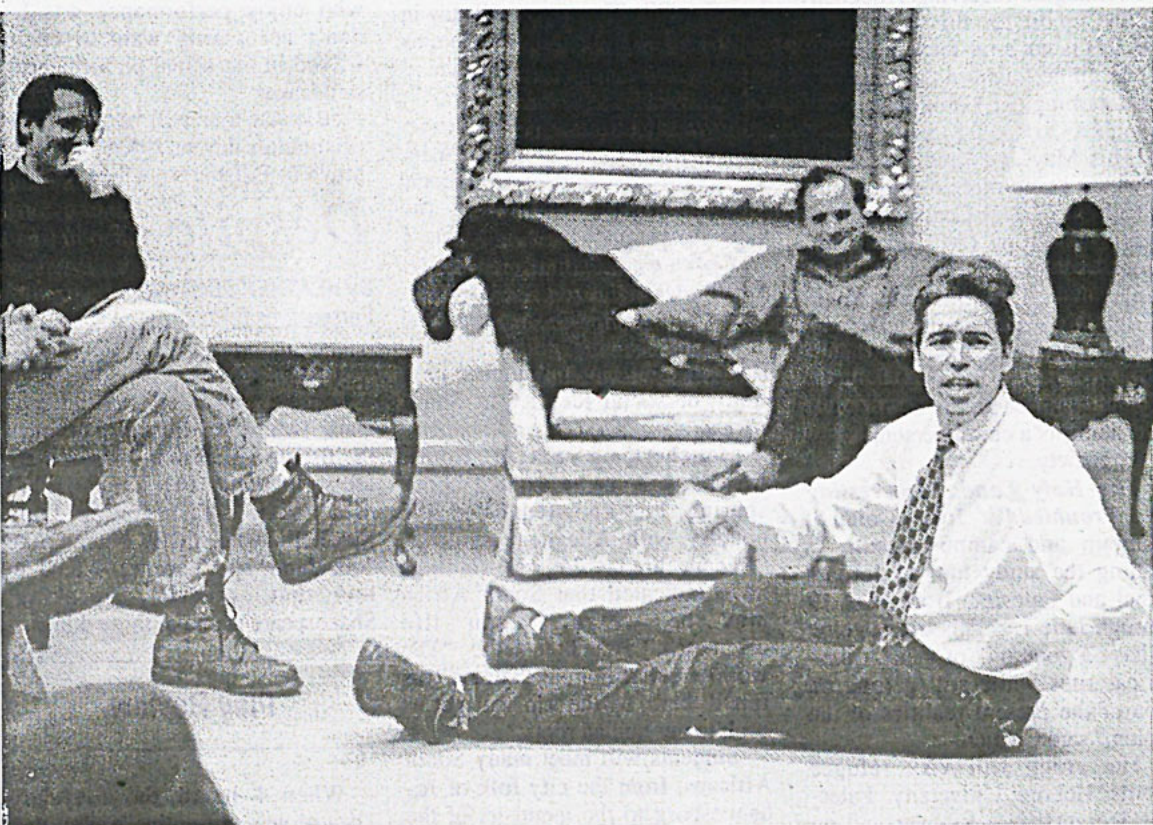
This flu was spread via "respiratory roots, through coughing and sneezing," explained Plunkett. "If someone sits next to you and coughs and you breathe it in, you can catch it. That's why it is so contagious."

"Our challenge is even greater for being a residential community," added Cook. "The residence halls provide even more opportunity for spreading the virus. Going home also has its risks since this influenza virus is widespread in the general population."

Plunkett explained that the symptoms include "a fever over 101 degrees, especially at night, a powerful cough, sore throat and nasal congestion. Your body aches like you were rolled over by a truck—a lot of weakness."

The flu usually lasts 5-7 days and medication is available in the Health Center to minimize complications. "I am hoping that the outbreak is on the peak and is going on the wane," said Plunkett. She explained that flu outbreaks normally last six weeks in a community, with the peak

The speaker now has the floor



Assistant Professor of Communication Arts Daniel Crozier spoke on "Teaching and Acting" on Monday, March 8 in Brooks Alumni Lounge. Crozier explored what acting is and how it should be taught—and gave his audience quite a show.
—photo by Ben Wyrick

Injustice in our backyard—Seddig speaks

By **JENNIFER MIDGLEY**
Arts & Living Editor

Amnesty International is concerned with human rights abuses around the world—and in our own backyard. On Tuesday night, March 9, Lyta Seddig, a former Protestant chaplain at Cambridge Springs State Prison for Women, spoke about abuses of the rights of women prisoners at that institution. The prison is located approximately 11 miles north of Meadville.

The talk was co-sponsored by Amnesty and the Society for Advancement of Gender Equality (SAGE) in honor of International Women's Day, Monday, March 8.

Seddig, a soft-spoken woman deeply supportive of the inmates with whom she worked, is a Presbyterian minister and currently chair of the justice committee of Lake Erie Presbyterian Church and co-chair of Synod Women's Ministry.

A recurrent theme throughout her lecture was her idea that laws are written in ways that—whether intentionally or unintentionally—cause women to be unjustly imprisoned, or cause their sentences to be unjustly harsh.

Furthermore, she said, women in prison are subjected to demeaning and sometimes abusive treatment, which hinders their attempts to move on with their lives and

improve their circumstances.

Cambridge Springs is located on the former campus of Alliance College. It is a minimum security prison, which means that the women incarcerated there are "on their way out of the system," according to Seddig.

Seddig worked as a part-time chaplain, a job which involved talking at length with the women about their lives—past, present and future—as well as holding a weekly religious service for them.

She said that originally, she was reluctant to take the job because she did not think she would have time to prepare two sermons—one for the prisoners and one for her congrega-

"I talked to women who stole so that they could feed their children," Seddig said.

tion—every week, but she learned that she could deliver essentially the same sermon to both groups.

"[The prisoners] are human beings, just like us," she said, "and they deal with the same problems."

Seddig said that when she first accepted the job at Cambridge Springs, she held a number of stereotypes about prisoners, all of which were proven false.

"There but for the grace of God any one of us could go," she said of the prison. Some of the incarcerated women had masters' degrees, she said, and she recalled one woman who had worked as a manager at the Grove City outlet mall.

The time Seddig spent working with the prisoners also opened her eyes to what she described as "the devastating effect of abuse on self-esteem." She told the story of one woman who took her husband's sentence for cultivating marijuana because she did not think she would be able to provide for their children if he went to jail.

"And the man treated her like dirt," Seddig said. "But she had absolutely no concept of herself outside of her husband."

Drugs, Seddig continued, have a similar debilitating effect on self-esteem. She described women who realized, once they were forced to live without drugs, how poor their quality of life was.

Sophomore Jacob Simon raised the question of whether the popular political stance of being "tough on crime" has any real value beyond its current popularity. "I have talked to women who stole so that they could feed their children," Seddig responded, pointing out an uncomfortable gray area.

In addition to religious services, Seddig arranged programming for (continued on page 13)

Far-off lands, new experiences to be found through EL Term

By HEIDI WALSH
Arts & Living Writer

Imagine traveling to an exotic new country to learn about its culture, customs, history and economy. Now imagine receiving Allegheny course credit for this experience. No, this is not a far-fetched fantasy. It can all be found in the Experiential Learning (EL) program here at Allegheny.

This May and June, five study tours are being offered through the Allegheny College Center for Experiential Learning (ACCEL). Students will travel to Costa Rica, Jordan, Israel, Palestine and South Africa to learn about different cultures by seeing them first-hand. Each trip is led by an Allegheny faculty member and is designed to give students a close, personal view of the society.

The Holy Land: "Interesting and Troubled." John Colatch, chaplain and campus pastor, is leading the study tour to Jordan, Israel and Palestine from May 19 through June 1. "This trip is going to have a good mix of visits to historical sites while still getting an idea of the present realities of the region," said Colatch.

The group will visit refugee camps, Hebrew University, Palestine University, a kibbutz and an archeological dig.

"This is not just the Holy Land," said Colatch. "It's a very interesting and troubled part of the world." Colatch visited the region in 1989 and said he is eager to

return with Allegheny students to help them understand the delicate balances the region holds.

Environmental Issues in Costa Rica. Donald Goldstein, associate professor of economics, will lead the study tour in Costa Rica from June 6 to 27. The group will stay in San Jose and study the economics of sustainable development in the region.

"We plan to take a first-hand experience of the economic, environmental and international pressures that influence the economy of Costa Rica," he said.

From Apartheid to Diversity: South African Social Identity. From May 18 to June 7, associate professor of psychology J.W. Heuchert will lead students in a study of social identity in South Africa.

Heuchert, a native South African, said he is excited about sharing his knowledge of the country with Allegheny students. "Recent archaeological findings have indicated that South Africa may be where human life originated," Heuchert said. "The world's oldest human skeleton was found there, so the trip will get us back to our human roots."

Students will meet many South Africans, from the city folk of Johannesburg to the members of the Zulu tribe, in an attempt to understand how social change has affected the nation's culture.

Artistic Administration. For administratively inclined students, Deborah Baker, director of events,

offers a study tour in Meadville, Pittsburgh and Cleveland. From June 11 to 18, participants will experience the administrative components of coordinating events in the arts. "This study tour is geared toward the many students who enjoy performance arts but don't necessarily want to be involved in the actual performance," said Baker.

Baker's tour will begin with an orientation day at Allegheny, then move to Pittsburgh, where students

will get behind the scenes at various performance venues, hear from those who plan the events and learn how the performances are funded. While in Pittsburgh, students will visit the Mellon Jazz Festival, the Andy Warhol Museum and the Three Rivers Arts Festival. They will also see productions of "West Side Story" and "The Glass Menagerie."

While in Cleveland, the group will tour venues such as the Playhouse Square Center to learn

about the conservation of theaters and the funding which supports them. They will visit the Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and will see a production of "Victor, Victoria."

Applications for EL study tours can be found in Reis Hall and are due March 15. Program costs include tuition, airfare, lodging, meals, group transportation and most entrance fees. Financial aid is available.

Despite faulty script, "Goodnight" succeeds

By HEATHER SOUTHWELL
Perspectives Editor

I like to think I'm cultured. I watch the Discovery channel specials, I know the difference between the Bronte sisters, and I know there are some things one just shouldn't mess with. As a former Lady MacBeth (who totally botched the "out damn spot" scene), I tend to feel that, generally speaking, Shakespeare is one of these things.

Play Review

When I heard the Playshop Theatre was presenting a play that featured modern-day adaptations and alterations of "Othello" and "Romeo and Juliet," I was somewhat skeptical. Truthfully, I didn't think it could be pulled off very well out of context. I was

totally wrong.

"Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)" opens with a seemingly erudite monologue delivered by a well-dressed Corey Rieger, who functioned as the chorus. Though impressively delivered, I realized a few sentences into the script that I had absolutely no idea what he was saying. This monologue appropriately set the stage for what was to follow.

Enter Constance Ledbelly (Beth Winslow), a flustered and bustling academic with a theory about the real story behind two of Shakespeare's most well-known tragedies. Ledbelly, in the garbled and largely incoherent language of an obsessed academic, conveys through self-directed monologue the notion that "Othello" and "Romeo and Juliet" were scripts stolen by Shakespeare and then radically changed. In short, Ledbelly believes that, in original form, the plays were

comedies.

After a lot of explanatory monologue and a hilarious cameo appearance by Professor of Religious Studies Glen Holland, who plays a pompous paramour, Constance is suddenly and strangely transported to another world—the world of Shakespeare.

First Constance finds herself in the midst of the pivotal scene between Othello (Andrew Bryer) and Iago (Taehyo Park)—the scene in which Iago lights the fires of Othello's jealousy, which eventually lead to Desdemona's murder. In an uncharacteristically brave move, Ledbelly successfully foils Iago's plans and is befriended by the fierce and fiery Desdemona, played by Sara Angelino.

After sufficiently changing the entire plot of "Othello," Constance finds herself in fair Verona, where, mistaken for a young boy, she must do her best to ward off the unwell-

(continued on page 11)

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The health center knows best—get a flu shot next time around

(continued from page 9)

like I was in an euphoric trance and the only cure was punk rock music. It was hard to sleep because I kept coughing. I got about two hours of sleep each night. It distracted me greatly," he said.

Sickness prevented some students from special events. "I missed my pledge formal," said junior Sarah Hadaway. "I didn't go to the health center, but I have had bad aches, a fever, sore throat, and slept for four days. It was not a big deal. I missed classes because I had a light week. The professors know about the sickness on the campus so they've been pretty lenient."

"I have lots of rehearsals," said junior Adam Kukic. "I had to miss two on Tuesday. When you reach the pinnacle point [of sickness] you just want to lie in bed, have someone

make you soup and cuddle and watch movies with and be sick with you. I sleep and eat oranges. It makes me even more apathetic."

"I had a terrible cough and an achy body. One day I slept 17 hours," said senior Iona Dickinson. "I just had to turn my comp in—that was a big problem. I had to put up with [being sick] because everything had to get done."

Everyone expressed gratitude towards the understanding of their professors during the time of their sickness.

"I have a voice class and I lost my voice for awhile," added Chapman, "and my professor was very understanding. One professor even told me to stay in bed and not to come to the next class after I talked to them on the phone."

"It seems to have affected attendance," said Professor of Modern Languages Jochen Richter, referring to the Allegheny flu. "I'm a benevolent person so I assume that when students miss class they are sick. I feel very sympathetic though, because I can see people suffering. Some have difficulty talking. I guess those who are ill stay in bed and take care of the flu first."

The professors were not immune to the virus, though.

"I had the flu and it turned into a sinus infection," said Professor of Classics Craig Champion. "I'm still not recovered—I still feel a little fuzzy. I did not come to class one Monday. I felt terrible. I had no energy and a headache."

"I canceled class for the first time in years," said Professor of English

James Bulman. "I graded papers at home and drank tea all day. Sometimes people come to class sick. It has definitely lowered the energy level."

"I canceled class for the second time in 17 years," concurred Professor of English Sonya Jones. "The most unsettling part of this dreaded condition was the motion distortion. Sometimes I couldn't decide whether I was asleep or drunk."

"I couldn't work," attested Professor of Art Sue Buck. "I had such a fever and was so dizzy that I couldn't even stand up. I came to work for two days but had to leave. Everyone is doing the best that they can. This is one of those things that it's not fun to miss. I'd rather be at work than be sick."

"It's sad to see people really suffering," said Plunkett. "Hopefully, people will learn for next year. I hope that next year more people will get flu shots." The Type A Sydney virus was included in the flu shot this year. "Less than 5 percent of the population got the flu shot, more faculty and staff than students."

Plunkett added that there has not been an outbreak such as this in about four or five years and "since people weren't exposed, [they] didn't realize it could happen."

So now you know, and knowing is half the battle. Next year, get a flu shot and stay healthy.

Erin McAdams is not a fascist, and certainly not an Oompa-Loompa

By ANDREW MIHAIOFF
Arts & Living Writer

In Chocolatetown, where I lived before I came to Allegheny and words like "squall" entered my vocabulary, we have Hershey Kiss streetlights, just to give you an idea of the milieu. It's a quaint abode in winter months, but laden with sweaty tourists garnished with pink tank tops the rest of the year. The people who live there try their best to maintain the "Chocolatetown, USA" image—it's a kind of Oompa-Loompa syndrome.

As I sat facing senior Erin McAdams, I realized that our interview was going to be very unlike my encounters in Chocolatetown. Erin is not an Oompa-Loompa.

During our interview, the Grounds for Change coffeehouse is sparsely attended. A few students lounge, reading on the couches. We choose a booth, and coincidentally, the same tea.

Erin is poised and confident. Her answers to my questions often touch on a myriad of facets, all interesting and relevant to the topic; all well-conceived and articulate. My own curiosity sometimes leads to digression, but more frequently furthers conversation. Our discussion is engaging and my apprehensions quickly dissipate.

Tonight my job is to find out why Erin spent a week at the Air

Force Academy during the latter days of this past February. The Academy, which is located in Colorado Springs, annually hosts an assembly designed to bring college students together to discuss a major political issue. This year, the issue was "U.S. National Interests and the Western Hemisphere: Searching for Common Ground." As we shall see, common ground was scarcely realized.

In many cases, it is best to begin at the end. So I asked Erin what she learned from the experience. Her response was startlingly immediate—it was as though she had anticipated the question, which is very possible, given its relative banality in an interview environment.

First, after days crammed with tedious debate and political banter, Erin gained a better understanding of political processes. She learned that change is hard to come by, and that opinion classified as minority is often "slewn in the mud."

A majority of the students (a group which included cadets from the Academy) maintained a very conservative perspective. Erin, who was twice called a communist and once a fascist, categorizes her politics as very leftist. Her standing made it clear to her that the political structures currently in place hinder the possibility for change.

The approximately 120 students were sectioned into 14 discussion

groups called roundtables. Each roundtable was led by a specialist in the field. Erin's group was led by Dr. Raymond Duncan, who stimulated fervid debates.

In these debates, Erin had her chance to shine. An eloquent speaker, she was able to persuade her adversaries to at least consider some of her arguments. The group, which Erin described as close, achieved consensus most of the time.

However, the final document compiled jointly by all of the groups at the end of the conference, which supposedly was a consensus of some sort, contained many ideas with which Erin did not agree.

The document, which will eventually be sent to Washington, supported policy that is in many cases already in place, Erin said. The political system's inability to facilitate change aroused feelings of frustration for Erin, which led to her second lesson—how to change frustration into motivation.

The fall semester of this year had depleted Erin of her usual vehement activist passion. It was the semester of her senior comp, to which she devoted herself energetically. The outcome was apparently a masterpiece, but also perhaps a stagnancy that called for rejuvenation.

The conference provided just that. Erin met opposition there that allowed her to emerge from apathy.

She was provoked to argue, and to disagree. Her voice was heard and her desire to make a difference rekindled.

The Rocky Mountains provided a picturesque setting and the campus itself was very clean and beautiful, Erin said. The schedules were in military time and students ate in the mess hall with the cadets, who were different than Erin's preconceptions of them. She was impressed by their self-discipline and respect for tradition—and, at first, alarmed by how attentive they were to her needs.

The cadets opened doors for her, carried her things and treated her in a way that she said was suspiciously nice. But when she asked a cadet what was going on, he told her that they treat all guests with respect, not just women. Erin said she learned that almost one in five cadets is a woman and that in some cases the cadets have more liberal views concerning gender than she had thought. Overall, she said she developed a respect for the Air Force cadets.

When Erin first arrived at the conference, she was apprehensive in terms of her ability and knowledge of political affairs. She wasn't sure how she would compare to the rest of the students there. However, after a few debates, she realized that her background was "exquisite."

She praised Allegheny and the professors here, who she said en-

courage multidimensional thinking and who expose students to a variety of criticisms as well as to popular thought. Erin said the students she encountered often did not have the tools or knowledge needed for decision-making on such a high level.

Aside from the formal aspects of the conference, Erin also viewed the trip as an experience very spiritual in nature. The Rocky Mountains were breathtaking, and the chapel on the campus was one of the most amazing structures she has ever seen. It was sectioned into areas according to religion and Erin was especially struck by the Jewish synagogue which contained stones from the holy ground donated by the Israeli Special Forces in 1971.

"The trip was an important healing process for me," said Erin, explaining that she didn't want to leave. That said, she did emphasize how refreshed she felt upon returning to Allegheny. After this year, Erin plans to take a break before eventually enrolling in graduate school, where she would like to earn a Ph.D.

It was no surprise to me when Erin revealed her intentions of becoming a professor later in life. After conversing with her, it was apparent to me that the faculty at Allegheny have made a significant impression on Erin. I am left with no doubt as to if she will make a difference, and remain assured that when it comes, it will be great.

"Desdemona" experiences good nights

(continued from page 10)

come advances of both Romeo (Robert Ostrom) and Juliet (Lindsey Knodel). In this second (and perhaps most humorous) part of the play, we get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of a cross-dressing Romeo, a hilariously horny Juliet, and some wonderful sword play between Tybalt (also played by Bryer) and Mercutio (also played by Park).

In the end, when both plays (or all three plays, rather) intersect with one another, we are given something of a parable-esque ending, which is

somewhat disturbing in light of the non-didactic nature of the play as a whole. The didactic ending can be forgiven, however, due to the interesting and creative references to feminism, self-knowledge and non-traditional expressions of sexuality.

"Good Night Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)" presents the director with a difficult script, and Ann McEntee steps up to the challenge. She, along with the entire cast and crew, took difficult lines and difficult staging and transformed a potentially

problematic play into a very enjoyable experience.

Costuming was creative and provocative (Michael Mehler and Gail Kralj), and the scenery (designed by Emily Kelly-Padden) was both inventive and appropriate. I say without reservation that the lights, colors, sounds and scene changes were among the best I've ever seen in a Playshop Theater production. Congratulations to the cast and crew on a job well done.

The Office of Diversity Affairs is your ticket to free cultural entertainment.
The first ever Diversity Film Festival will be held this weekend in Quigley Auditorium.

Films to be shown include:
"Smoke Signals"—March 13 at 7 p.m.
"Combination Platter"—March 14 at 1:30 p.m. with "Daughters of the Dust" immediately following.

For further information contact Terrence Mitchell at 332-3332.

I Was Just Thinking...

A humor column by Gail Giewont

By now, most of the residents of this fair campus are aware that this past weekend was the last of the Allegheny Scholars series, during which many presumably intelligent youngsters come here in order to eat really nice desserts.

What's truly wonderful about these weekends is that, if you're sneaky enough, it is possible to locate actual fresh food and make off with it. One of my survey respondents, who will remain nameless, stole a whole pineapple during one of the weekends.

That would actually be a good marketing campaign. "Visit Allegheny College. Get a Free Pineapple." I have to admit that I never received an offer like that in any of those shiny college brochures. Something like that would have convinced me to apply. I like pineapple a whole lot.

There were allegedly 300 little people—I mean, prospective students—on campus last weekend. I don't think I saw any of them, but I'm sure they were here. I could feel their presence, like feeling a draft while wearing a hospital gown.

In order to bring all these infants to campus, hosts must be located to baby-sit them. This is the task of the Volunteers in Support of Admissions (VISA) office, which is easily confused with the credit card company of the same name.

Both VISAs like to call me. It's not so bad, really—it's nice to have somebody to talk to. Most people seem to view these calls as entirely undesirable harassment, but I don't see it that way at all. How many offers do you get to have a real, live person delivered to you, a person you get to entertain for almost a whole day?

Not many. I believe the VISA office employees call people because they are nice.

I like to use as much hearsay in this column as possible since I don't really think anyone believes (or perhaps, should believe) what I say. So I have a story supplied by Nick "Superman" Paladino, which he heard from one of his friends.

Apparently the VISA office called Nick's friend every day for a week to try to convince him to host a prospective student. When his prospective didn't show up, VISA couldn't find a replacement because, apparently, there was a host "waiting list."

That is one of those rare cosmic incidents that is simply beyond mortal comprehension.

My first hosting experience was interesting. When my original little person didn't arrive, I was given a different one due to a run of good luck I'd been having at the time.

This person called herself "Mischa." Mischa was a very nice girl who liked to swim and do mathematics. I like to write and occasionally play tidlywinks. Thus, it was apparent early on that nothing I said was going to do her any good, particularly after my effort to engage her in tidlywinks failed miserably.

Amazingly enough, Mischa isn't a student here now.

During the first of the weekends this year, I was granted a little prospective all to myself. Its name was "Emily." Or so it said.

I actually liked Emily a lot. She spent most of her time here reading. Although she also lacked enthusiasm for tidlywinks (which I will never, never understand), at least she was an English kind of person.

English majors need other English people because, quite frankly, we typically don't understand what the math people are talking about.

I think that sometimes, in this entirely more sophisticated environment, it is easy to forget that we, too, were once high school students. That's because it's a terrifying concept. I am ashamed to admit that I used to be in high school, particularly after an incident on Friday night involving me reading poems in a Shafer Auditorium full of regional orchestra members.

Regional orchestra members are in high school, for those of you who don't know. They're also very hormonal.

Some of them would even yell out comments when I talked. They didn't realize that they were supposed to look bored and inspired.

As I was about to read my last poem and flee from their adoration, I heard yet another voice yelling to me. That voice yelled, "Take it off!"

That was, I thought, far weirder than the whooping and hollering. Fortunately, I experienced one of those moments of brilliance in which you know exactly what to say when a stranger orders you to take off your clothes in front of a large group of extremely hormonal young people.

I said to that misguided infant, "You don't want to see that!"

Rumors that I followed up that statement with "See me after the show" are entirely unfounded, even though I started them.

All this discussion about high school makes me reminisce about those long-ago days of yore. In high school, I was widely known in my community for writing a news column.

People wrote fan mail and volunteered to participate, stopping me in the halls to tell me their grievances and bad jokes. The popularity was quite stifling, especially when they erected the monument in my honor in front of the school.

If there are people out there that would like to share stories, especially those who have stories about dental floss. Let me know.

Gail Giewont is a columnist who would like to hear from you. You can contact her c/o The Campus, at box 12 or <campus>.

Hut, hut, hut



Habitat for Humanity braved snow and cold temperatures during their Hut-A-Thon in front of Cochran Hall from Friday, March 5 to Sunday, March 7. Junior Cara Havck, pictured, collected donations on Sunday morning.
—photo by Ben Wyrick

"Analyze This"—Britten accepts challenge

By BOB BRITTEN
Arts & Living Writer

Thank the Lord for friends with cars. I was more than a little concerned this week, because with the way things were looking by Monday, it seemed as though I was going to have to hike downtown and see "8 mm" (but don't rest too easy, because there's still a chance that you'll get it next week).

At the last minute, though, Providence saw fit to smile upon me, tease that She is, and I was able to travel up to that most Tinseltown, via luxury Ford Escort.

Film Review

I even got to go to the Imperial China Buffet, located on scenic downtown Peach Street across from Long John Silver's, which is truly the glutton's choice of dining venues while in Erie—although the quality of the Crab Rangoon has gone down over the course of our last few visits, they have excellent butter shrimp, and make a mean batch of chicken-on-a-stick.

Somewhere in the midst of all this gorgeous prose lies a review. On with it, then, before I lose my job. "Analyze This" is this week's movie. It stars Robert DeNiro as a mob boss and Billy Crystal as a neurotic psychiatrist.

Yes, I know. But it's not what you think. The pairing is quite funny, albeit in a sitcom-esque kind of way.

Odds are that you like at least one of these actors, if not both, and so the movie starts out with a few points right there—granted, it's no "Raging Bull" or "City Slickers," but on the other hand it's not "My Giant," either (now there was a premise—"Hey, there's this guy, and he's really tall!" "Brilliant, Johnny! Get me a script by Tuesday!"). So far, so good.

A synopsis for the people: as previously mentioned, DeNiro plays Paul Vitto, a mob boss who's starting to lose it. He's having panic attacks, suffering depression and difficulties with little Paul as well. Not his son. Little Paul.

More than you ever wanted to know about Robert DeNiro, right? Anyway, one of his associates (read: goons) is rear-ended by Dr. Ben Sobol (Billy Crystal), a psychiatrist, who gives him his business card to call him about the damage.

And so once again a comic alliance of mismatched stereotypes is forged in the smelting pool of the silver screen.

The conflict bound to arise here is obvious to any casual observer—can a young psychiatrist really afford to pay for the damage done to a stretch limousine? Crystal's financial strain weighs heavily upon all the viewers in the audience. Oh, and also, DeNiro is in the mob.

Basically, it's a ride you've been on before, but that you nonetheless enjoy. Circumstances force two opposites into an alliance through which the "bad" guy is redeemed, while the "good" guy learns how to use a little chutzpah to deal with his life.

Again, this is the perfect time to say "hijinks ensue," but that's getting old. A quick scan of Digital Webster offers "skylarking commences" or even "revelry follows" as synonyms. Take your pick.

By the way, another plus is that this movie is written and directed by Harold Ramis. You like Harold Ramis.

Maybe you don't even know who he is, but trust me on this: "Stripes." "Meatballs." "Ghostbusters." "Caddyshack." "Groundhog Day." You like Harold Ramis.

"Analyze This" has an admittedly trite and overused plot—a few things have changed, but you've seen most of it before—but the plot is handled interestingly enough to make it enjoyable to watch.

The film probably wouldn't have worked without the big guns it has in the credits, though. If you go to see it, you're going to see DeNiro and Crystal, not the film itself.

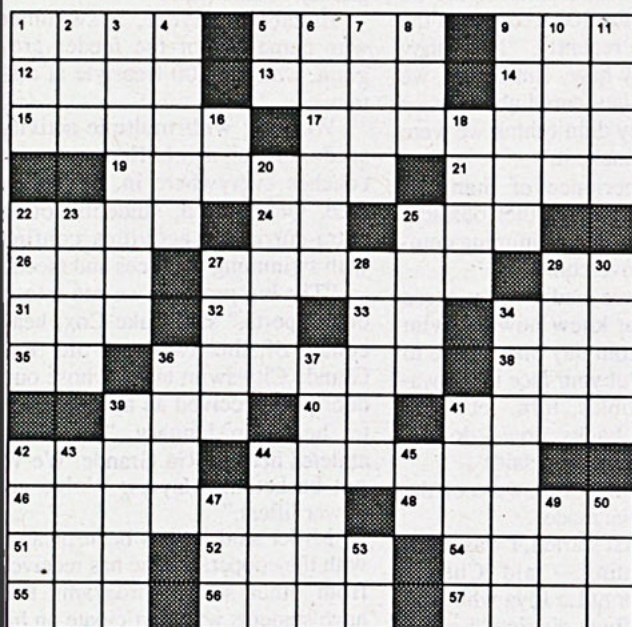
There's a lot of pointlessness going on, and supporting characters and themes go absolutely nowhere. Crystal's inferiority complex about being placed next to his prominent psychiatrist father suddenly disappears midway through the film, for example.

Lisa Kudrow, as Crystal's wife, alternates between being bland and being annoying. But she has her moments.

The film will probably fade from memory in a week or so. Matinee prices sound about right—it's certainly better than most of the other chaff submitted for your approval.

Campus Crossword

puzz137



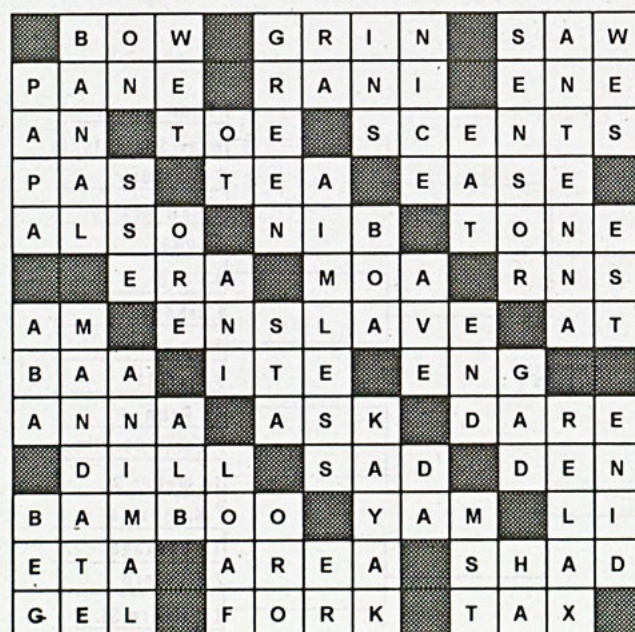
ACROSS

- 1 Male deer
5 Czechoslovakian river
9 Tree fluid
12 Type of boat
13 Type of bean
14 Frozen water
15 Leather belt
17 Assuring
19 Quick
21 Heating vessel
22 Foot apparel
24 Person in a specified condition (suf.)
25 Anger
26 She
27 Refer
29 Father (abbr.)
31 Talent
32 Leave
33 Never
34 Three (pref.)
35 Northeast state (abbr.)
36 Plant
38 Decompose
39 Dirt
40 Impersonal pronoun
41 Book
42 Affirm
44 Sound system
46 Helpful to others
48 More than enough
51 Belongs to the Extra-terrestrial (abbr.)
52 Leeward side
54 Rind
55 Digit
56 Ripped
57 Spoken

DOWN

- 1 Compulsory military selection (abbr.)
2 Make lace
3 Where aircraft land
4 Stare fixedly
5 Indicates alcohol (chem. suf.)
6 Drive away
7 Release
8 Raced
9 Meshwork
10 4,840 sq. yds.
11 Hammerhead
16 River in Italy
18 Center
20 Vine fruit
22 Fake
23 This place
25 Person admired
27 Old
28 Make one
29 Preposition
30 Ceremony
34 State policeman
36 Tradition
37 Nervous giggle
39 Perception
41 Music speed
42 Encourage
43 Reject a bill
44 Farmer's storage place
45 Egyptian sun god
47 Obese
49 Meadow
50 Building wing
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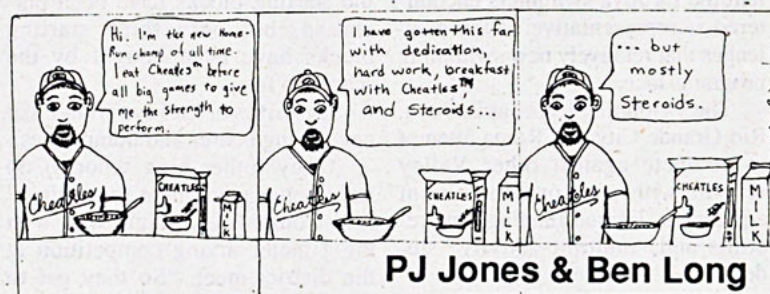
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Breakfast of Champions



PJ Jones & Ben Long

Prisoners face traps inside and out

(continued from page 9)

events such as Black History Month and Women's History Month. She said they also celebrated Mother's Day, although for many of the women it was a painful celebration.

Only one percent of prisoners in Pennsylvania are from Crawford County. Many of the Cambridge Springs prisoners are several hours away from home and the incarcerated mothers rarely see their children.

Seddig said that Pennsylvania has 26 prisons, 24 of which are for men (the other women's prison, Muncy, is located near Williamsport). Four percent of the total number of prisoners in the state are women, and many women (36 percent) are incarcerated for cases involving drug abuse or possession.

The strongest evidence supporting Seddig's point about laws being biased against women was her argument that drug laws, in particular, lead to harsher sentences than many women deserve. She said the law should take into account "the current understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence."

This modification is needed, she said, because "the drug laws are not getting the drug dealers—they're getting the women who don't have the nerve to stand up for the guy who's making them carry his drugs for him."

Women are sentenced for drug possession, she said, when what they really need is counseling and support to help them get out of the

dangerous situations in which they find themselves.

"Society thinks it will be all right if these people are in prisons—out of sight, out of mind," she said. "But there is a real need for prevention, so that women don't get trapped in these awful situations."

Traps aren't only found in the outside world, however. Seddig described problems with sexual abuse in the prisons by both male and female guards, and demeaning pat and strip searches which bring considerable discomfort to women who have been sexually abused in the past.

While working at Cambridge Springs, Seddig said she let it be known that she had had training in counseling women who had been sexually abused, and gradually women began to come to her with their stories.

Seddig said she had to fight to keep the confidentiality she felt she needed to preserve as a religious figure; the prison officials wanted to require her to inform them of any reports of sexual abuse.

"I said I would encourage the women to report it," Seddig said. "But if I didn't have confidentiality, no one would talk to me in the first place."

The women, she said, were often afraid to come forward with the stories. They were frightened of retaliation from the guard in question and from other guards as well.

"The guards were often loyal to each other," Seddig explained. "They would say, 'He's happily

married. He'd never do something like that.' And who's going to trust an inmate over a guard?"

Women who report sexual abuse are sent to "restricted housing" for their protection, Seddig said. However, women are also sent to restricted housing as punishment for disobedience. They are cut off from everyone and spend an allotted period of time—usually between 15 and 60 days—in this virtual solitude.

"The women didn't like that. They didn't want to be sent there, even if it was for their protection," Seddig said.

Despite all the troubles Seddig watched the inmates of Cambridge Springs face, she said they were often terrified of leaving the prison and would "manufacture situations" to keep themselves locked away. They felt safer inside the prison, Seddig said.

That fact, more than any other, drove home Seddig's point that prevention, not punishment, is what is really necessary. If women cannot feel confident enough to re-enter the world once they have served their sentences—if they have no way to get back on their feet—they will stumble and perhaps even return to Cambridge Springs to serve more time. The cycle of traps both inside and outside of the prison system is one that, once entered, is difficult to escape.

High school swimming teams face uphill battle when building young programs

LA JOYA, Texas—For five long years the water heater at the Municipal Swimming Pool used by the La Joya High School swim team was too small to adequately heat the water, but the Coyotes practiced during the winter anyway.

"We'd get chills just thinking that we were going to jump into the water," said Gracie Garcia, a junior on the La Joya swim team. "We'd jump in and we'd start swimming really fast so our body would warm up. After a while, it (our bodies) would get numb, so it wasn't so bad."

La Joya High School installed a larger water heater in April of last year, which became operational in December and raised the water temperature about 20 degrees. The problem the La Joya swimmers encountered is representative of the challenges that relatively new swimming programs face.

The swimming teams at La Joya, Rio Grande City and Roma attempt to compete against other Valley schools with poor or non-existent equipment, limited funding, raw recruits and "multiple-activity" students.

Although the water heater problem has been solved in La Joya, its swim team still faces other equipment problems.

"We don't have starting blocks to practice our starts," said Lisa Guerrero, La Joya's head swim coach who was named the district's boys coach of the year.

Guerrero's team practices its starts from the side of the pool, and at swim meets.

"We go to the meet and we practice when they say, 'OK, you all can do starts,'" she added. "We have five or 10 minutes to do starts. So our starts aren't that good, especially on the backstroke."

The city of La Joya and its high school are taking steps to solve the problem.

La Joya City Manager Oscar Cuellar said starting blocks have been purchased and will be installed soon. Guerrero said the anchors to the starting blocks have been purchased, but only three starting blocks have been bought by the school so far.

The divers at La Joya would like new diving boards and trampolines.

"They (other high schools) do have better equipment for diving," said Constancio Zuniga, who won the 1-meter diving competition at the district meet. "So they get to practice better. Better diving boards that make you go higher. They have trampolines."

Roma High School's girls swim

squad won the team championship at the district meet. Roma had new starting blocks built and installed for its indoor pool.

The Roma swimming program lost all its funding for the 1996-97 school year. Only the dedication of the Roma swim coach, the swimmers and the parents saved the program.

"We had a financial crunch a couple of years ago, and they discontinued funding to the swim team," said Greg Miller, the Gladiators' head swim coach who was named the district's girls coach of the year. "(The high school administration) told us we didn't have enough money in our budget to have a swim team."

His swim team fought for survival. Miller coached for free that year. The school did not charge the team for use of its pool, something for which Miller is grateful. The swimmers and their parents raised \$12,000 through fundraisers.

"During football games, we sold tacos," said Larry Ramirez, who took first place in the 100-yard backstroke and the 100 freestyle at the district swim meet.

The next year, the funding was reinstated, but the temporary cutoff took a toll on morale.

"I didn't know if the school just

didn't care about us anymore," said Rebekah Snyder, winner of the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle at the district meet recently. "Now they show that they care. But before, we didn't think they cared about us or anything. They didn't think we were ever going to make it."

The inexperience of many of their swimmers is another obstacle that teams new into swimming competition must overcome.

"I may have had two or three swimmers that knew how to swim already, but from day one, I have to teach them, 'Put your face in the water, blow bubbles, turn, let's flip over on our backs now—do the same thing,'" Guerrero said.

The swimmers are aware of the strides they have made.

"When I first started, I was practically drowning," said Charlie Torres, a junior at La Joya who won the 100 butterfly at district. "I could swim a little bit—the 'canal' stroke."

Miller has implemented two programs for sub-high school age swimmers in Roma to improve the skills of the recruits his team receives. Three years ago, he started an age-group program, which caters to swimmers ages 5 to 12, and a junior high program.

"This is the first year I could

glean anybody out of it (feeder programs)," Miller said.

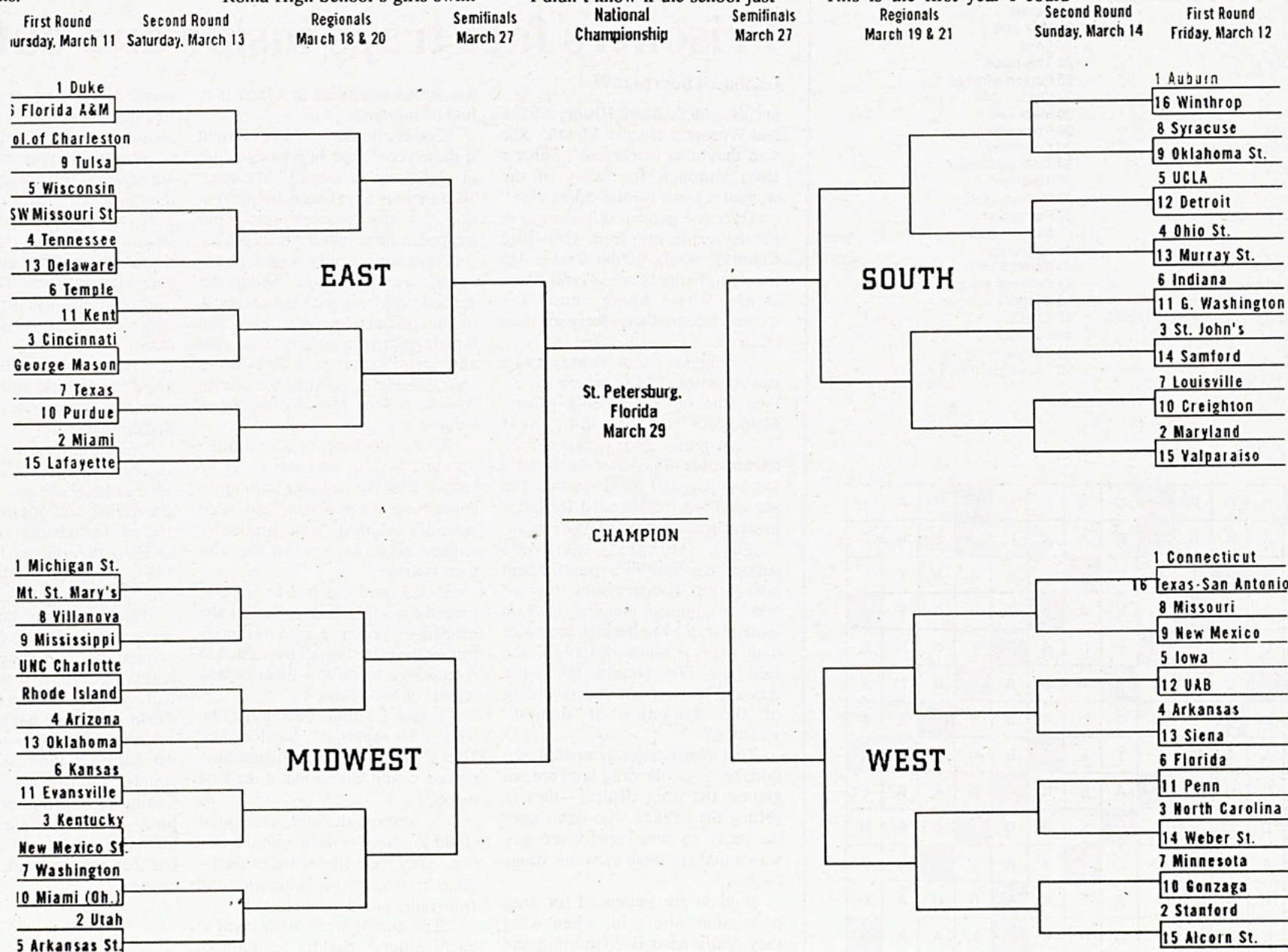
Elizabeth Snyder, a swimmer who came out of the feeder program, won the 200 freestyle at district.

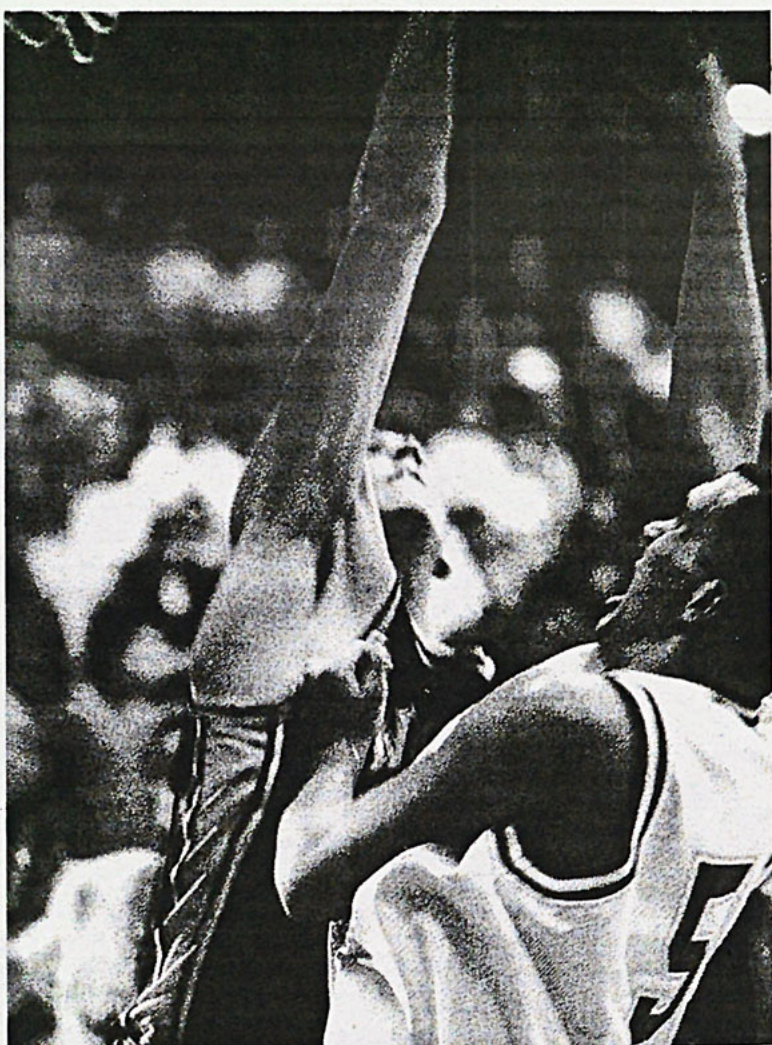
Working with multiple-activity students is a challenge swim coaches everywhere in the Valley face. Quite often, students' other extra-curricular activities conflict with swimming practices and meets.

"The big problem we run into is other sports," said Luke Cox, head coach of the two-year-old Rio Grande City swim team, whose outdoor pool received an adequate water heater in January. "We share athletes here in Rio Grande. We've got basketball players. We've got power lifters."

Miller said he has been pleased with the cooperation he has received from other school programs that have students who participate on his swim team. Roma's band director has shuttled swimmers from band activities to swim meets.

Despite the difficulties the coaches and swimmers have encountered, they said the sacrifices they've made and the inconveniences they've endured is made all worthwhile by success they've experienced in competition.





ANGRY JOHNNY—Junior John McLaughlin battles for a rebound earlier this basketball season in a game against Wooster. McLaughlin will be one of three returning starters in search of a third consecutive NCAA tournament bid next season. —photo by Ben Wyrick

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Pitcher who nearly ended DiMaggio's streak reminisces

VERO BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Elden Auker still remembers that game back in the summer of 1941 when he almost stopped Joe DiMaggio. It was the day he nearly changed history, too.

DiMaggio had already hit in 37 straight games, well on his way to a record 56. But Joltin' Joe, who died Monday, was 0-for-3 and down to his last bat against the side-arming Auker and the St. Louis Browns.

"I had struck him out the first two times and got him on a popup the third time," the 88-year-old Auker before a round of golf Tuesday. "I thought I had his string stopped."

New York led 3-1 at the time, and DiMaggio was scheduled to bat fourth in the bottom of the eighth inning. With the game at Yankee Stadium, there likely would not be a ninth.

With one out, Red Rolfe walked. Tommy Henrich was up next, and he spoke with manager Joe McCarthy before stepping to the plate.

"We all saw him talking to

McCarthy, but we didn't know what it was about," Auker said.

Henrich was worried that he might hit into a double play and deprive DiMaggio of one last chance. So Henrich bunted, bringing up DiMaggio.

"I had no idea of what Joe's streak was at, whether it was 35 or 36 or 40 games," Auker said. "None of us on our side were making a big deal about it. It wasn't a legend back then. I just wanted to get him out."

Auker recalled that DiMaggio hit a hard grounder that skipped off the left shoulder of third baseman Harlan Clift. The ball caromed into the outfield and it was scored a double, extending the streak to 38 games, three away from George Sisler's then-record of 41.

"I used to have pretty good success against him," Auker said. "He used to tell me that he had trouble picking up the ball the way I threw it underhanded."

"A few years later, he signed a picture to me," he said. "He wrote,

'To my friend Elden. A tough submarine to sink.'"

DiMaggio went on to establish The Streak, the accomplishment that defined his career and an achievement that became a part of American history.

Auker retired a year later after going 130-101 for Detroit, the Browns and Boston Red Sox. He was already a part of baseball history—in 1934, while with Detroit, he lost to Dizzy Dean and the St. Louis Cardinals 11-0 in Game 7 of the World Series.

Auker moved in 1974 to Vero Beach, spring training home of the Los Angeles Dodgers. He had not seen DiMaggio for 40 years or so, but three weeks ago attended a dinner with the Hall of Famer's brother, Dom, at Ted Williams' museum in Hernando, Fla.

Of course, DiMaggio's streak almost got derailed that June day more than a half-century ago. If that had happened, who knows what his legacy would be?

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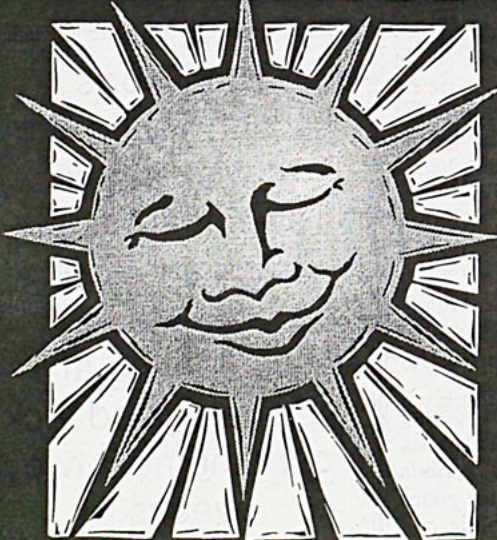
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The Campus Sports

Schuckert and Ross earn NCAC indoor track honors

By PAT SHELTON
Sports Editor

The Allegheny men's and women's track teams competed in the North Coast Athletic Conference Indoor Championships last weekend and several Gator individuals turned in strong performances at the meet. The Gator women picked up second place in the team standings with 96 points, while the men finished sixth with 44 points. Coach Bill Ross was named Women's Coach of the Year for his team's accomplishment.

Senior Amy Schuckert led the way once again for both Allegheny squads in the meet. Schuckert captured the 800-meter title with a time of 2:18.87 and followed that victory with a win in the 1,500-meter run on a time of 4:49.00. Schuckert picked up the NCAC Middle/Distance Runner of the Year award on the strength of her two wins.

Freshman Donna Donnelly was

the Lady Gators' second individual winner, capturing the triple jump with a mark of 34-6. Junior Shannon Orr finished second in the event with her jump of 33-6 3/4.

The Gators' point total increased with freshman Shaughna Loncar's second-place finish in the 55-meter dash. Loncar's time in the event was 9.06 seconds.

Freshmen Carolyn Sikora and Jennifer McGuire each picked up fourth place finishes at the meet. Sikora ran the 55-meter hurdles in 9.41 for her individual place, while McGuire ran the 300-meter dash in 44.19.

The Allegheny women also picked up points in the relays. The 4x400-meter relay team finished second with a time of 4:14.28 and was comprised of Sikora, Switzer, Donnelly and McGuire.

Sikora, freshman Erin Switzer, Donnelly and Loncar combined for fourth place in the 4x200-meter relay with their time of 1:52.87, and

freshmen Jill Atherton and Tara Trent teamed with sophomore Alyssa Mack and Sikora for a fourth-place finish in the distance medley relay.

Senior Bob Matter was the top individual performer for the Allegheny men. He cleared a height of 13-6 in the pole vault to claim second place in the meet.

Sophomore Nick Radio earned a third-place finish in the 800-meters with his time of 1:58.25, while junior Daryn Morgante picked up fifth in the 1,500-meter run, covering the distance in 4:19.5.

The Gator men also claimed third place in the distance medley relay with a time of 10:49.62. The team was comprised of sophomores Dave Jirousek and Brett Zook and freshmen Seth Houwer and Dan Prinic.

This weekend the Gators will compete in the NCAA Division III Indoor Championship Meet at Ohio Northern University.



I BELIEVE I CAN FLY—Chris Godios competed in the triple jump last Saturday at the NCAC Indoor Track and Field Championships. The women's team picked up second place with a strong team performance, and head coach Bill Ross was recognized as Women's Coach of the year as a result.
—photo by Ben Wyrick

Women's lacrosse has high expectations for new season

By ED AMBROSE
Sports Reporter

The upcoming season looks especially bright for the women's lacrosse team, with the return of the majority of starters from last year's squad. Jane Popelka is the team's only major loss from last year's squad, and several key players are returning.

Among them are seniors Brooke Burgess, Eleni Kacoyianni and Diane Lecky, junior attackers Gina Baudille and Erin Hartong and junior goalie Jen Jenks. Add junior Kara Bailey and freshman Barbara Eklund to the mix and the Gators have a strong nucleus for a successful team.

"Kara has made huge steps from last year, and since few teams know about her, she will be our secret weapon," said Kacoyianni. "Barbara is amazing. She can play with anyone, and considering she is a freshman, she can only get better."

Kacoyianni also commented on the experience of this year's team in comparison to previous years.

"It's a lot different than past years. We were very young and would usually take anyone on the team who wanted to learn how to play. Now we have some high expectations for this year and for the future. The program has come a long way," she said.

The team will see just how far it has come when it opens the season on March 27 at the Wittenberg Invitational Tournament. It will be a real test for the Gators, considering the fact that the snow hasn't given them a chance to practice outside.

"We are using the Wise Center

courts, which are actually about one fourth of the size of the normal lacrosse field," said Kacoyianni. It will take some getting used to, but I think this team is definitely up to the challenge."

With each 5:30 a.m. practice, March 27 gets closer, and for the

team it can't come soon enough. "We usually make the first round of the playoffs, but this year we expect to step it up and go much further," said Kacoyianni. "We've put in too much hard work and given up too much sleep to not expect to win a lot of games."

Allegheny basketball season ends in frustration at John Carroll University

By JOHN O'CONNOR
Assistant Perspectives Editor

A smothering pressure defense forced 14 turnovers and caused Allegheny to shoot only 39 percent from the field, as the Gators lost to John Carroll University in the first round of the NCAA Division III tournament, 68-62. The loss last Thursday night, which dropped the Gators to 19-9 on the season, was very physical inside and out.

"We were expecting a war," said Gator coach Phil Ness. "They're a darn good team and you're in a championship situation. They let you play, and it gets physical."

Early on the Blue Streaks used a size advantage to score points in the paint. Senior forward Chris Creahan responded with a jump shot and a three-point bucket, and junior guard Jake Delsandro added a layup for an early three-point Gator lead, 7-4.

Carroll guard Luke Dautovic hit a pair of jumpers to give Carroll a one point lead, but senior guard Steve Felton provided the highlight of the game with a monster slam off a Gator missed shot. The dunk gave the Gators a one point lead with 12:23 to play in the half.

Carroll, who double teamed the ball at every opportunity on defense, forced the Gators into eight first half turnovers and converted those turnovers into buckets, regaining the lead 18-17. The Blue Streaks kept up the pressure and hit two jump shots before the half to send the teams to the break with Carroll up 28-26.

"We tried to get some guys in the high post to outlet the ball," said Creahan. "That's their defense, and they played it pretty well. They caused some turnovers."

"It was very frustrating," said Delsandro. "They played denial defense. We just didn't execute on offense. We had too many turnovers and too many bad passes."

The Gators regrouped at the half and ran their offense much more smoothly in the second half. Ness said the Gators simply grew accustomed to the Carroll pressure.

Junior guard Kevin McGarrah started the Gators off with a jumper, and Delsandro made an outstanding steal. While lying on his back, Delsandro then passed to Felton, who made the layup and was fouled. Felton's foul shot put the Gators down by three with 18:27 to play.

The most controversial play of the game came with the Gators trailing 39-35 with about 13 minutes to play. Dautovic was trapped by a Gator double team, but stepped between the two defenders and committed what might have been a carry. No call was made, and Dautovic passed to an open teammate for a three point basket and a seven point lead. After the game Ness said he thought the referees made the correct call on the play because Dautovic never resumed his dribble.

Allegheny chipped away at the Blue Streak's lead, and after freshman forward Damon Clayton's free throws and a layup and two free throws by Felton, the Gators had a 52-50 lead with 4:43 to play.

Carroll came right back with a three, a layup and two free throws for a seven point lead with 2:51 to play. Down the stretch the Gators could not hit the big shots and Carroll converted their free throws for the 68-62 victory.

Felton led the Gators in scoring with 15 points and also added six boards. Clayton added 12 points and seven rebounds. Senior guard Tedd Gozur added 10 points and Delsandro had eight.

The game seemed almost like a home game for the Gators. John Carroll was on spring break, and Gator fans were much more vocal. The loss marked the end of the careers of five Gator players; seniors Felton, Creahan, Gozur, Aaron Ollinger and Al Seretti. The group ended their Gator careers with an NCAC tournament championship and two NCAA tournament appearances.

The Sports section would like to wish all the swimmers and track and field athletes competing at nationals good luck over the next two weeks.