

Spring/Summer 2007 Vol. 20, No. 1 \$2.95

Spectrum

Serving Columbia and Montour counties

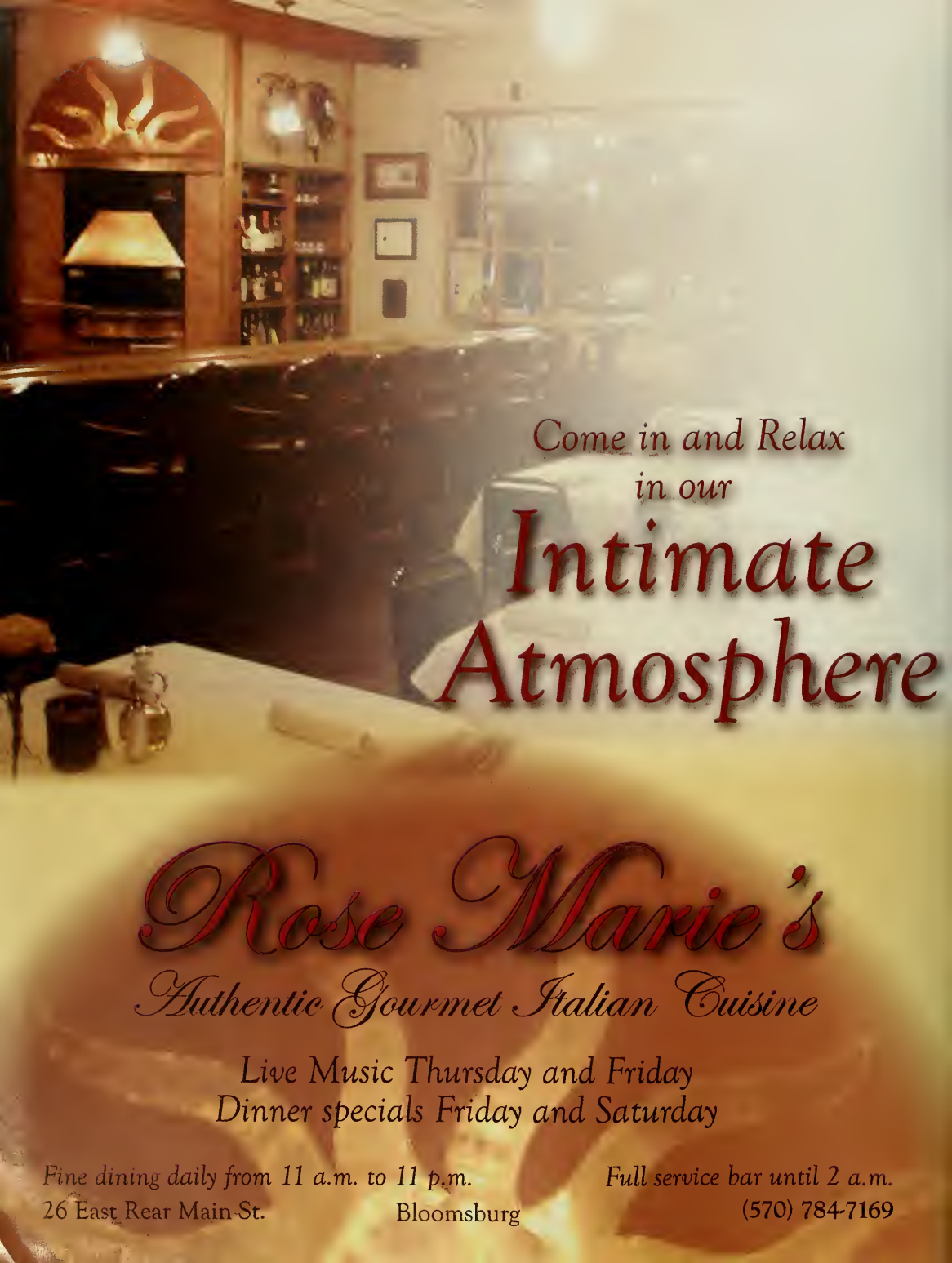
OFF THE WALL
Should graffiti art
be canned?

**AMERICAN
TRANSLATION**
Learning English as
a Second Language

**Passion in
Montour
County**

A WORLD AWAY
Bengali life in Columbia and
Montour counties





Come in and Relax
in our
**Intimate
Atmosphere**

Rose Marie's
Authentic Gourmet Italian Cuisine

Live Music Thursday and Friday
Dinner specials Friday and Saturday

Fine dining daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

26 East Rear Main St.

Bloomsburg

Full service bar until 2 a.m.

(570) 784-7169

Behind the Lines

Professional journalists are like archeologists because they must dig up research about their stories and objectively investigate all possible angles. The *Spectrum Magazine* staff is no different.

Many of this issue's stories have been strung together by a theme of communication. The opening hard news feature is about English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. Included is information about the controversial No Child Left Behind law and how some residents in Columbia and Montour counties have opposed federally-mandated ESL programs.

Another story is about the subculture of graffiti. One of the writer's sources told *Spectrum* that he uses his artistic abilities to communicate his feelings and "make the world a better looking place." Another story is an inspirational feature about a visually-impaired photographer who also has to wear hearing aids. She relies on the help and communication she has with others to help her through each day.

Some of the stories are based upon miscommunication between communities or different groups of people. There is a story about a proposal for the nation's first coal-to-oil power plant that covers the conflict between local residents and Waste Management Processors, the company that proposed and developed the plans for the \$800 million project.

Another story that is based around a lack of communication is a feature on book banning in the Benton Area

School District. Two school board members believed a policy wasn't being followed, and complained about the content of 480 of 800 books the district already purchased. All book titles are now online and parents can now use a program called Web-CollectionPlus to bar their children from certain books.

Like all previous issues, there are some stories that describe different cultures and subcultures. A series of centerspread articles focus upon Bengalis who live in Bloomsburg. Another story is about non-traditional students and the struggles they've faced with getting their degrees while juggling jobs and spending time with their families. There is also a feature about the Mohegan Tribe, which now owns two casinos, and the challenges they've faced over 400 years.

In this issue are also short stories about the health benefits of bison meat and kiwi berries. Additionally, there are features on ergonomics and physical therapy, profiles on two local businesses, popular Spring flowers, a butterfly exhibit, a local PGA golf professional, a local man who cleans up road kill, an illusion of nature, and the 15 commandments of Pennsylvania's rest stops.

Similar to archeologists, the *Spectrum* staff has worked hard to dig up unique stories for the residents of Columbia and Montour counties. We hope our readers learn more about other people, businesses and, most importantly, local issues.

—DANIELLE LYNCH, editor

Your Bike Repair Specialist.



Dutch Wheelman
BICYCLE SHOP

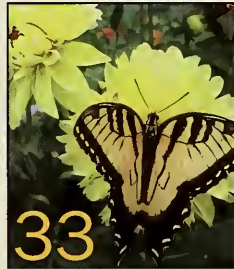
59 East Main St., Bloomsburg
(570) 784-6524 or 1-800-393-6524

www.dutchwheelman.com

Contents

Shorts

- 6** Bison Bullies the Beef
-Rebecca Marks
Competition Popping Up
-Danielle Lynch
Spring into Color
-Megan Jennings
- 33** Fluttering through Town
-Melissa Eby
- 38** Fade-out on a Movie Palace
-Kyle Rupprecht
- 39** The Mohegan Method
-Andrew Young
- 45** The Hills Have Lies
-Justin Strawser
- 46** The 15 Commandments
-Justin Strawser



Cover Stories

- 8** Every Student Learns
English as a Second Language
program helps bilingual children
-Danielle Lynch
- 19** Kiwi Passion
The super fruit from Montour County
-Mallory Szymanski
- 20** The Art of Aerosol
Graffiti artists stand up for
their work
-Justin Strawser
- 24** Bengalis in Bloomsburg
• Mind over Body
• A Celebration of Culture
• A Taste of Bangladesh
-Andrew Young

About the Cover:

When she was eight years old Zafrin (Nipa) Rahman, was a resident of Rangpur, Bangladesh. Now 29 years old, Nipa is an American citizen living in New York City.
Photo by Shahalam Amin

Spectrum Magazine - Vol. 20, No. 1 - Spring/Summer 2007

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Walter M. Brasch

EDITOR
Danielle M. Lynch

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Mike Dostal

PRODUCTION
COORDINATOR
Rebecca L. Marks

ART DIRECTOR
Nicole B. Clark

ASSISTANT
ART DIRECTOR
Emily Runge

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Justin Strawser
Mallory Szymanski

DEPUTY ASSOCIATE
EDITOR
Andrew Young

ASSISTANT EDITORS
Courtney Brandt
Melissa Eby
Megan Jennings

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS
Andrew Michie
Kyle Rupprecht
Jon Sten
Tareva Tabron
Marquis Wince

PHOTOGRAPHER
David P.T. Flores

EDITORIAL/ART
CONSULTANTS
Jonathan Gass
Brandi Mankiewicz
MaryJayne Reibsome

PRODUCTION
CONSULTANTS
Mike Bischof
Ken Engel
Dave Fry

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Steven Mock

ASSISTANT ADVERTISING
DIRECTOR
Sirron Carreter

CIRCULATION
DIRECTOR
Andrew Young

PROMOTION DIRECTOR
Casey Andersen

ASSISTANT
CIRCULATION &
PROMOTION DIRECTOR
Megan Jennings

Features

12 Conflict of Interest
Forthcoming WMPI plant heats up energy debate.
-Jon Sten

16 Moral of the Story
Book banning in Benton creates controversy.
-Courtney Brandt

34 Mothers in Tuition
Non-traditional students back in school after having children
-Tareva Tabron

40 Getting Back in Line
Learning ergonomics: A straight shot at good posture.
-Megan Jennings

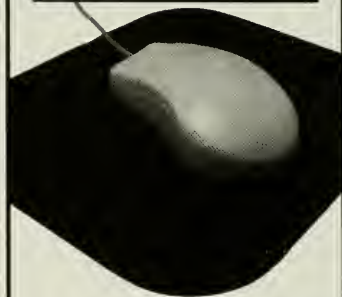
42 The Never-Ending Drive
PGA pro brings decades of experience to local golfers.
-Mike Dostal

48 Working Hard for a Buck
Berwick man cleans up the roads—one deer at a time.
-Mike Dostal

30 Profile Snapshot
With two of her senses diminished, a Danville woman focuses upon her career
-Mallory Szymanski



**Online
B@nking**
from First Columbia



Our Internet banking service offers you downright neighborly service and the convenience of full-service 24-hour access.

- View account balances, details, interest rates and recent transactions.
- Search by check number, amount or date range
- Export to your personal finance software
- Transfer funds
- Stop payments
- Pay bills online... and more!

Log onto
www.firstcolumbiabank.com
today for a free "test drive."
It's safe, easy and secure.

And of course, at First Columbia, you're still always welcome to make as many transactions in person as you'd like.

**FIRST
COLUMBIA**
BANK & TRUST CO.

neighborly

www.firstcolumbiabank.com
(570) 784-1660 • Member FDIC

Benton • Berwick • Bloomsburg • Buckhorn
Catawissa • Elysburg • Hazleton • Scott Township

BOOKKEEPER
Erin Erdley

ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT
Sarah Stridsberg

Spectrum is published twice a year
by the journalism program at Bloomsburg University.

Address: Bloomsburg University
BCH 106, 400 E. Second St.,
Bloomsburg, Pa. 17815

Phone: (570) 389-4825

Website: <http://www.spectrum-magazine.org/>

No portion of *Spectrum* may be reprinted without its
permission. Printed by GRIT Commercial Printing
(Montoursville, Pa.)

© 2007 *Spectrum*

Bison

Bullies the

Beef



Persons who eat meat can find it challenging to eat right when faced with the same cuts of beef and pork at the supermarket. Bison meat is a healthy alternative

because it's lower in cholesterol, calories and saturated fats, says Sharon Madalis, a registered dietician at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. She says bison is good for persons who are working on weight management, those trying to lower their cholesterol, and for diabetes patients.

A three-and-a-half ounce portion, about the size of a deck of cards, has two grams of total fat and one gram of saturated fat, says Madalis.

Matthew Revak, the executive chef for The Inn At Turkey Hill, Bloomsburg, says bison can be easily substituted into a beef recipe. The flavor of bison, he says, is better than beef. "It's fuller and richer," he says.

Prior to European settlement, there were 30 to 70 million bison between Virginia and Alaska says Dr. Marianna Wood, associate professor and assistant chair of biological and allied health sciences at Bloomsburg University. "The combined number in the United States and Canada currently is about 500,000," she says, "and 480,000 are raised for meat, leather, or as breeding stock to sell to other farmers and ranchers."

The nearest bison farm is the Broken Wheel Bison Ranch, Elysburg, where a variety of bison products can be purchased.

[For more information, call (570) 799-0805.]

—Story and photos by
REBECCA MARKS



Competition Popping Up

Outside the Catawissa office of District Justice Craig Long is a vending machine that holds Pepsi, Mountain Dew, and Sierra Mist. The office on Fisher Avenue is next to the Catawissa Bottling Company, a family-run business that produces and sells 23 flavors of soda, none of them from the Pepsi Corp. Long explains that although he has the vending machine outside, it's mainly for clients who have appointments with him after the bottling company is closed for the day. However, he says, "If Big Ben's soda had a vending machine, I'd definitely have one outside my office."

However, Paula Clark says the vending machine next door "is just another example of how people that live around here don't patronize local businesses," adding that most of her customers are from out of the area. Her grandfather, Bruce "Ben" Gregorowicz, opened the bottling company in 1926. She says the most popular flavor is the Big Ben's blue birch beer. "I love the blue birch beer soda," says Long, "I could live off it."

— DANIELLE LYNCH

Spring into Color

Impatiens, marigolds, and pansies are the three best selling flowers at Berlin's Greenhouse, Berwick, says Fred Berlin.

Impatiens are popular because they bloom all summer, and don't require the removal of the dead flowers, Berlin says. The most popular colors are pinks and lavenders.

Marigolds appeal to the person who wants to add southwest colors, such as orange, bronze, and yellow to their flower bed. Marigolds require full sun or the growing process is delayed.

Pansies also attract attention because of their colors. "Some pansies have different hues for each flower," says Berlin.

As for azaleas, rhododendrons, and forsythias, Berlin's Greenhouse doesn't carry them, but Eshleman's Nursery, Bloomsburg, does. These are the top sellers at Eshleman's, and owner Bob Eshleman says they are popular because "people like what does well in the garden." He also says the most important thing to do when planting flowers is to prepare the soil properly by mixing it with peat moss and to plant the flowers at the proper depth.

— MEGAN JENNINGS
Photo by Nanette Marks





COLUMBIA AIRCRAFT SERVICES, INC.

F.A.A. APPROVED REPAIR STATION NO. JM2R930K

Bloomsburg Municipal Airport
301 Airport Road
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-9512
570-784-3070

Lycoming and Continental Overhauls

Scott L. Smith, President



Come see our
12,000 sq. feet of
• pet accessories • toys • treats
• wild bird seed • feed

**NOW STOCKING
OVER 52 BRANDS
OF THE
HEALTHIEST
PET FOODS!**

**We Now Have
Fish Tanks &
Accessories!**

**Mon. - Fri. 9a.m.-6p.m.
Sat. 9a.m.-4p.m.**

**Sunlight Feed &
Pet Supply**

229 Montour Boulevard, Bloomsburg, Pa

KNOEBELS HAS AWARD WINNING FAMILY FUN!

Bring the whole family to Knoebels for a day of fun, food & fantasy! Roller Coasters, mini-golf, kiddie rides, swimming and award winning food.

All with FREE admission, FREE parking, FREE entertainment and FREE picnic facilities.



rt. 487 • Elysburg, PA
www.knoebels.com
570-672-2572

HAVE FUN WITH OUR AWARDS!

Knoebels was a big Golden Ticket winner in 2006 with seven awards from *Amusement Today*. Votes are from real-life amusement park aficionados who know what makes a park great! Here's how you can take advantage of the award-winning Knoebels experience.



Take a ride or two on the Phoenix, voted #5 for Best Wood Roller Coaster. And our new wooden Flying Turns coaster is sure to add to the award-winning fun!

Voted #3 for Best Park and #4 for Friendliest Park, find out what Knoebels' great service and spectacular staff have to add to the fun! Friendly faces, games and rides for everyone, and a beautiful wooded setting make Knoebels a memorable place to spend your summer vacation!



After a few rides, be sure to try our award-winning park food stands and restaurants! Knoebels took first place for Best Park Food seven years in a row! You can't beat our pizza, French fries, cotton candy, burgers, cheese on a stick, ice cream, BBQ... are you hungry yet?

Looking for a frightening good time? Enter the Haunted Mansion if you dare and experience the #2 Best Dark Ride! It was also named Favorite Traditional Haunted House by members of Darkride and Funhouse Enthusiasts.





EVERY STUDENT LEARNS

by Danielle Lynch

English as a Second Language Program Reaches out to Bilingual Students

Four elementary school students, one Italian and three Salvadorans, reached into their backpacks to get their homework assignments out of their folders. Francesco Giambanco sat at one table in the library at Orange Street Elementary School, Berwick; the other students sat at nearby tables.

Seven-year-old Francesco is the youngest in the after-school tutoring group that meets once a week. He practiced his first grade spelling words by rewriting them on another piece of paper. Meanwhile, the three Hispanic students worked on their homework. Francesco says that the English as a Second Language (ESL) program has helped him improve his English skills, especially with reading. "Sometimes it's hard to understand my teacher," he says. At home, his parents speak Italian and he "helps teach them English words."

Vincenzo Giambanco, Francesco's father, explains that they speak Italian at home because he and his wife, Antonina, are native speakers. Keeping up with Italian at home also prepares the Giambanco family for their visits to Italy. Vincenzo moved to the United States in 1989 to work, and then went back to Italy to marry Antonina. He returned to the United States in 1999 with his wife and opened Original Ital-

ian Pizza in Berwick that summer. Francesco was born in 2000 and their daughter, Susanna, was born in 2002. Francesco and Susanna learn English from watching television shows such as "SpongeBob SquarePants," he says.

Many times, parents want their children to learn English, "and they then act as translators for the parents who don't know English," says Laurel Peifer, ESL coordinator for the Berwick Area School District. Vincenzo says he's happy that Francesco has learned English with the help of the ESL program, adding that his son will explain things for him and his wife in English and Italian. The parents of ESL students learn English, "depending on their desire to blend in and the type of jobs they have," says Peifer.

The situation differs from family to family, says Dr. Stephanie Schlitz, Bloomsburg University assistant professor of English/linguistics. "When a family with school-aged children moves to the United States, the children can obtain native speaker proficiency in English, often within the span of a few years, even if the parents do not," Schlitz says. She explains it doesn't take generations for the family to have some members who are fluent English speakers. "On the other hand, if an older couple immigrates to the

ABOVE: Lori-Jean Foster, ESL tutor, works with Francesco Giambanco at the after-school tutoring session.

United States, and has no ESL program or resources available in the community," she says, "and isn't interested in assimilating into American culture, they may learn only enough English to buy groceries and go to the bank."

Several variables contribute to second language acquisition, including age and motivation, says Schlitz. The Critical Age Hypothesis "suggests that there is a critical language learning period and that the ability to acquire languages declines after puberty," she says. Resources such as ESL programs in the schools and in the community can support family members of all cultures in their acquisition of English, Schlitz adds. In Columbia County, 1,941 (3.2 percent) of 64,151 residents speak a language other than English at home, according to the U.S. Census in 2000. In the United States, about 17.9 percent of all persons speak a language other than English at home.

In addition to the after-school tutoring sessions with the elementary students, Peifer does ESL "pull-out" services. This means she takes the students out of their regular classes

and spends time with them weekly depending on their needs, schedules, and requests from their teachers for them to practice a specific skill. In the “pull-out” method, ESL specialists work with the students individually or in small groups. The “push-in” method involves going into another teacher’s classroom and assisting the ESL student in that class, rather than in the ESL room. Peifer meets with the students of both the middle school and high school every day for one class period.

During the 2006–2007 academic year at Berwick there were 50

family moves to another location in Berwick, which may cause the students to transfer to a different elementary school,” Peifer says.

In the 2004–2005 academic year there were 5.1 million Limited English Proficient (LEP) students in the United States out of almost 49 million students enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade, a 61 percent increase from a decade earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Education. In the 2005–2006 academic year, there were 42,542 LEP students in Pennsylvania speaking 175 languages, according to the Penn-

ferent ESL teaching methods. “What will work with one school district won’t work for another,” says John Segota, advocacy and communications manager for Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) in Alexandria, Va. The TESOL philosophy is that local school districts should have the right to use their own ESL methodology, according to Segota. School districts may choose the method they use, “but districts must have an ESL program in place,” according to Pennsylvania School Code says Mowrey. “Tutoring can be a supplement to the regular



ABOVE: Lauren Maylath and Amanda Blum help the ESL students once a week at Orange Street Elementary School, Berwick.

RIGHT: ESL Coordinator Laurel Peifer (center) works with ESL students at all schools within the Berwick Area School District.

Photos by David P.T. Flores



ESL students in the kindergarten through twelfth grade from Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Italy, Guinea, Vietnam, China, India, Dominican Republic, and Peru. The languages spoken by the students include Gujarati, Hindi, Spanish, Italian, French, Vietnamese, and Chinese. The number of ESL students was about 1.6 percent of the 3,300 students in the Berwick Area School District, according to Liz Clausen, director of student accounting. The number of ESL students constantly changes because of families moving. “Sometimes the

sylvania Department of Education. “LEP” is another term used by both the U.S. Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Education to describe bilingual students. The federal government gave Pennsylvania about \$11.5 million for the funding ESL programs in the 2005–2006 academic year, according to Barbara Mowrey, bilingual advisor and Title III director at the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Not all school districts in Columbia and Montour counties have as many students as the Berwick Area School District, and some of them use dif-

ferent ESL teaching methods. “What will work with one school district won’t work for another,” says John Segota, advocacy and communications manager for Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) in Alexandria, Va. The TESOL philosophy is that local school districts should have the right to use their own ESL methodology, according to Segota. School districts may choose the method they use, “but districts must have an ESL program in place,” according to Pennsylvania School Code says Mowrey. “Tutoring can be a supplement to the regular

school day ESL program,” she says. ESL specialists must go through ESL Program Specialist training, which usually consists of 12 semester credits or 180 hours as a minimum. Additionally, in colleges and universities, at least nine of the 12 credits must be offered through the university’s education department. Program Specialist-ESL certification became a requirement at the beginning of the 2004–2005 academic year.

At the Central Columbia School District, 10 elementary and middle school students were tested in the

2006–2007 academic year; of the 10, the five who tested proficient don't participate in the ESL Program. Three of the five who did test into services moved out of the area in the first few months of school. "So I have two students whom I see regularly and one that I monitor," says Annette Thatcher, a part-time ESL teacher/specialist.

Central Columbia is considered a "low-incident school district," says Thatcher, and the number of ESL students "doesn't necessarily reflect the community or school as a whole as far as how many students speak English as a second language." This means "there are children and adults in our schools and many other districts who speak another language besides English where English is still their second lan-

she says. The students' confidence improved, as did their vocabulary, understanding of American culture, and ability to communicate with peers. Thatcher adds.

At the Benton Area School District, ESL Coordinator Sarah B. Little has worked with a student from the Philippines and another whose father is Vietnamese. "I try to work with the students for four or five hours a week concentrating on reading, writing, speaking, and listening," says Little. "I take those four areas of learning and

and "pull-out" services, says Gwen Belding, the director of curriculum. In April there were six elementary ESL students, one middle school student, and one high school student. The ESL students are from China, Japan, Romania, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Italy.

People in school districts across the United States have brought cases to the Supreme Court that have been used in reference to ESL programs. In 1974, Chinese-American LEP students in California argued they weren't receiving the

Crossing the Line

Although the students' immigration status isn't monitored, the number of illegal immigrants in Pennsylvania has increased in the past decade. In 2005, the Pew Hispanic Center estimated 125,000–175,000 illegal immigrants in Pennsylvania of an estimated 11.1 million illegal immigrants nationally, according to Jeffrey Passel, senior research associate.

Recently, more action has been taken against immigrants in Berwick, Hazleton, and other cities. In January the Berwick Police Department and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested eight Salvadorans and two Indonesians. "Today people are scared of everything," Vincenzo Giambanco says in response to the raid. Last year, under the direction of Mayor Lou Barletta, Hazleton's City Council passed the Illegal Immigration Relief Act, which punishes people who hire or rent land to illegal immigrants. It also made English the official language of the city. However, in August 2006

Lozano et al v. City of Hazleton was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), public interest groups, and volunteer attorneys that challenged the Illegal Immigration Relief Act. A nine-day trial held in federal court concluded on March 22. The judge's decision as to whether the ordinance is in violation of the Constitution is expected this summer.



Maylath assists a student with her homework.

guage," Thatcher says. "When the children are tested, they test out of ESL program services because their English language skills are sufficient," she explains. "Looking at those numbers alone doesn't reflect the accurate numbers of ESL students," she says.

Thatcher remembers when she had two Indian children who didn't know much about fast foods in America. "I brought in lots of plastic food items from a children's kitchen set," Thatcher says, "and I put these items in a bag and made a game for them to play. After about two sessions, these kids were so happy to know the names of foods,"

adapt them to what the students are already learning, so they don't feel they're different from other people," she says.

According to the 2000 Census, 1,087 of the 18,236 Montour County residents (6.3 percent) speak a language other than English at home, about twice that of Columbia County. The Danville Area School District uses a combination of "push-in"

education they deserved, according to Title V of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. *Lau v. Nichols* became a landmark Supreme Court case in bilingual education and ESL programs. As a result, Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The Bilingual Education Act of 1968, an amendment to the Act, was reauthorized as The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

President George W. Bush signed the law on Jan. 8, 2002. Pennsylvania has required ESL programs since 2001, although Mowrey says they've existed prior to that date. The original No Child Left Behind law was based upon the philosophy that "every child can learn." The concept behind the 2007 reauthorization is that "every child does learn."

However, the law is considered controversial, according to Dr. Robert Gates, education professor and chair of the education studies and secondary education department at Bloomsburg University. "All children can learn, but they have separate and different abilities, talents, and rates in which they learn," Gates says. "The goal of the law should be to ensure that all children be successful in their abilities and talents," he says. Gates explains, "traditionally schools have been under local and state control." He says that there is also a cost issue with the law and the federal government isn't providing enough money to the states. Additionally, Gates points out that the law has required high-stakes testing and by the year 2014 the federal government wants all children to be proficient. "The federal government thinks that all children should be the same, but they really need to look at students as individuals," he says. "Some children need more help and this relates to not only ESL students, but all students," adds Gates.

The National Council of La Raza believes the No Child Left Behind law has been helpful for English language learners and Latino students, says Melissa Lazarin, senior policy analyst for education reform. Some of the changes the National Council of La Raza would like to see in the reauthorized bill include improving the assessments for English language learners and Latino students, in particular assuring tests are valid, stressing opportunities for these students, increasing graduation rates, and making sure students get access to highly qualified teachers. "We

want to make sure that all teachers are able to instruct English language learners and Latino students," Lazarin says.

Achievement gaps in reading and math between African-American and Hispanic nine-year-olds and their white peers have fallen to all-time lows over the past five years, according to The Nation's Report Card. "There are multiple factors contributing to the perceived decrease in the achievement gap," says Rebecca Neale, deputy press secretary at the U.S. Department of Education. "LEP programs haven't hurt, but empirically haven't been cited as the reason," she says. The law requires that students be allowed

"It's rewarding to see the non-English speaking students piece words together to form questions and sentences."

—Laurel Peifer

to take the reading test in their native language for up to three years. "In allowing non-native speakers to take standardized tests in their native languages, schools aim to more accurately measure students' knowledge in those specific content areas (such as math and science) not their ability to perform in and/or read English," says Schlitz. "Offering non-native speakers a transitional period during which tests can be taken in their native languages is an effort to ensure validity and reliability," she adds.

ESL programs have become controversial. Although Thatcher believes that ESL instruction has become so political and has acquired some negative connotations, her experiences with students have been positive. However, Rebecca Heller, a Berwick school board member, told the *Press Enterprise* that she doesn't believe it's fair that legal students have to show more documentation than students who may be illegal immigrants. Heller said that she'd have to provide a birth certificate, vaccination records, and she'd have to give her Social Security number to register a student and verify her income if she wanted her child to receive free or reduced-price lunch. However, Heller

(who refused to talk with *Spectrum Magazine*) is wrong. Public school districts require all students to present the same documentation upon enrollment, which includes proof of date of birth, an immunization record, completion of a Parent Registration Statement, and proof of residency, according to Michael Storm, assistant press secretary at the Pennsylvania Department of Education. No one is required to provide a Social Security number and immigration status upon enrollment, according to Storm.

"It seems to me that (educating the children of illegal immigrants) is an unfair [financial] burden," Heller told the *Press Enterprise*. However, federal law requires that all children be entitled to free public education. "School districts are not federal entities and, therefore, are not responsible for monitoring immigrant status," Mowrey says. Federal law requires that (according to *Plyler v. Doe*, decided by the Supreme Court in 1982), school districts may not deny a student education based on their immigration status or their parents' status.

Despite some people's views in Columbia and Montour counties, all students are entitled to education regardless of the language they speak. "It's rewarding to see the non-English speaking students piece words together to form questions and sentences," says Peifer. "I feel proud of them for persevering through the difficult process of learning another language and can sense their happiness also," Peifer says. "Each year I attend graduation ceremonies to support and applaud my seniors who have overcome so many barriers to reach that pinnacle," she says. Thatcher also says that she enjoys the challenge of teaching ESL students survival language, academic language, culture, and social skills. "I will never visit all of their countries, so they—along with their parents—bring pieces of the world to me," she adds.

[Samantha Bussanich helped the writer communicate with the Giambanco family in Italian for this article.] S

Conflict of Interest: Unearthing an Energy Debate



by Jon Sten

The United States is examining coal as a future source of energy.

Schuylkill County is home to five waste coal burning power plants—the highest concentration of these facilities in the country—and now a 75 acre lot in Mahanoy Twp. is being targeted for the nation's first proposed coal-to-oil refinery. Waste Management and Processors (WMPI) has been trying for over 13 years to begin development on the \$800 million facility which would generate 5,000 barrels of diesel fuel a day. "Why would the government fund such a project if it really wanted to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide pollution?" asks Helen Sluzis, 46. The proposed site is only 2,000 feet from her home.

Because of increased demands for oil and gas across the nation, the United States is searching for alternative methods of energy creation. "This technology will ensure that we keep money and jobs inside the country," says WMPI President John Rich Jr., who believes that his refinery will be good

for America. Rich says his project offers a realistic blueprint to reduce the nation's addiction to foreign oil. Rich, owner of the property, is depending on the cooperative efforts of the state and federal government to bring his vision to life. Pennsylvania spends \$30 billion annually on imported energy, says Tom Rathbun, press secretary for the Department of Environmental Protection, who believes exploring cleaner burning fuel alternatives will ensure that this money is kept inside the state.

The abundance of anthracite coal available in the region, combined with a limited supply of fossil fuels, has launched a new movement intent on building coal-to-oil refineries. The process transforms waste coal into diesel through a process which changes the discarded coal into a usable source of fuel.

"This would lead to huge amounts of solid and liquid waste which would be dumped throughout the region," says Mike Ewall, director of the Action PA Network. Turning coal into a source of fuel is devastating to the immediate environment, says Ewall. He believes that the United States insists on pursuing dirty methods of extracting these materials instead of moving towards more environmentally friendly solutions. Rich disagrees. "This project is about as environmentally benign as you can get," he says.

The idea for this project—known formally as the "Gilberton Coal-to-Clean Fuels and Power Project"—was



Photos by David P.T. Flores

masterminded by Rich, a well-known anthracite mining entrepreneur who also owns the nearby coal generation plant. He formed WMPI after aligning himself with SASOL, a South African Petrochemical corporation which had been closely scrutinized by environmental watchdog associations including Global Community Monitor and the Groundwork Union. Also included in the WMPI collaboration are industry giants Shell, Chevron Texaco, Nexant, and Uhde GmbH, a corporation which designed and built more than 2,000 industrial plants throughout the world.

"The proposed refinery will cause irreversible damage to the land, water, and air surrounding Mahanoy Twp.," says Ewall. The plant will release almost 2.3 million tons of carbon dioxide, an ozone-depleting substance, into the atmosphere each year, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. However, Rich says, "air quality is monitored by the state, and we make sure everything complies with the regulations and the laws."

Leftover toxic ash—which contains lead, mercury, and other poisons—would be dumped into the surrounding area. "The ash is a non-leaching byproduct that can be marketed," Rich replies, noting, "It's not going to seep into the soil."

Rich emphasizes that this refinery would bring much needed employment into an area that has a 12.6 percent poverty rate, according

to a 2005 U.S. Census Bureau report. "This plant will bring quality jobs into the area, jobs that you can take a mortgage out on," he says. The new plant would generate 600 permanent positions, according to Rich. Indian laborers will be used for construction of the plant, but WMPI will also create employment opportunities for local applicants. Ewall disagrees. "The real issue," he says, "is corporate profits for the few who want to maintain our current methods of extracting dirty fossil fuels, not jobs."

WMPI secured a permit in 2005 to pull nearly seven million gallons of water a day from the Gilberton mine pool. Bob Gadinski is a retired hydrogeologist supervisor from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection who is concerned with the hazards involved with the project. "Lead levels are showing up in the water indicating significant contamination as a result of the other waste-coal burning plants in the area," he says. Gadinski isn't confident there is enough water available to sustain the operation. "This project will actually remove contaminated water from underground by pumping it out of the mine-pools," Rathbun counters. The list of environmental hazards associated with these factories has motivated local citizens to form Schuylkill Taxpayers Opposed to Pollution to stop the process and save the land before the destruction becomes irreversible.

Residents of Morea, a community of about 441 (according to the 2000 census), take pride in having their own water company which utilizes an artesian well as its source. "The U.S. Department of Energy states construction of this facility would eliminate the Morea water supply," says Sluzis. Community residents would then be forced to draw water from a neighboring township. However, Rich claims that the people of Morea will not be directly affected by the project. Yet, the community questions the validity of his statement and the intention of the project itself. "We already have three coal generation plants within a five mile radius," Sluzis says. (In reference, there is only one operational coal to electricity plant located within Columbia and Montour counties. The facility, owned by PPL in Derry Township, generates about 1,542 megawatts of electricity per hour and burns between 12,000 and 13,000 tons of coal per day, according to Larry Getkin, yard supervisor.)

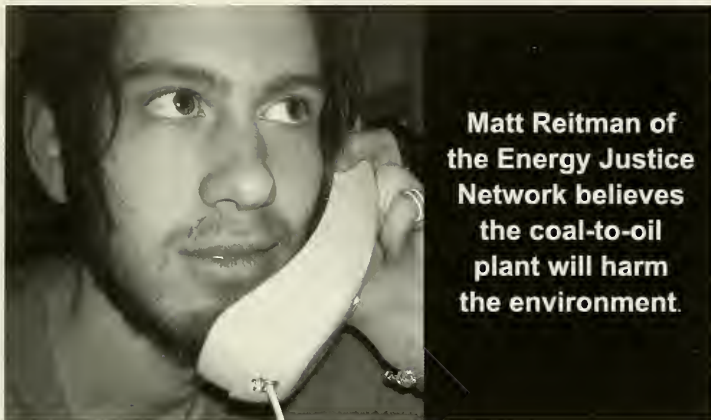
The land for the proposed refinery is located in Mahanoy Twp., between SCI Mahanoy and an already operational coal-to-electricity plant. "We can't even comprehend why they want to build this plant to begin with, let alone put it adjacent to a state penitentiary," Tim Teltow, a correctional officer at SCI Mahanoy says. Recently, 402 inmates at the prison wrote letters to township officials to protest the plans for the coal-to-oil plant construction. Reports from the Department of Energy claimed the prison was a sealed facility. "The reality is that none of the buildings are air-tight and all the air we breathe is drawn from outside and re-circulated," says Teltow. "If the refinery gets built, over 2,300 inmates would be forced to inhabit an environment exposing them to hazardous and toxic chemicals," he says. This



"This technology will ensure that we keep money and jobs inside the country."

—John Rich Jr.

Waste coal piles will be transformed into diesel fuel through a process called Fischer-Tropsch.



**Matt Reitman of
the Energy Justice
Network believes
the coal-to-oil
plant will harm
the environment.**

problem could lead to the very real issue of severe health risks among the prison population. "These inmates don't have a choice of what prison to go to," says Teltow. His distrust of Rich is unmistakable. "All John Rich can see is dollar signs. He could care less about the human factor involved, the environmental issues, or the surrounding wildlife," he says.

Rich has gained some powerful allies in his crusade to build the first coal-to-oil refinery in the nation. Gov. Ed Rendell, Sen. Arlen Specter, Sen. Bob Casey, and Rep. Tim Holden have been pushing hard to develop this project for almost a decade. Pennsylvania has made a 10 year commitment to purchase fuel from WMPI to ensure the business' success. "This operation is going to contribute to solving our energy independence," says Tom Rathbun. Many prominent members of government see this technology as the solution to the escalating costs involved with importing fuel from overseas. "Anything that stops empowering these offshore oil suppliers—whether it be bio-diesel, wind, or ethanol—is a good thing," says Rich.

The coal-to-oil concept, known as Fischer-Tropsch technology, was discovered by two German scientists in the 1920s. Later, when the Nazi party came to power, these facilities were used to perpetuate Germany's ascension into attempted global domination.

"The Nazis were forced to resort to this technology because they cut off their social relations with the rest of the world," says Matt Reitman of the Energy Justice Network. "This technology represents social and economic isolation," he claims.

Nathan Wilcox works as an energy and clean air advocate for Penn Environment. "Putting resources into

this type of plant instead of focusing on ethanol and bio-diesel is not a wise decision," Wilcox says. He believes there are cleaner and more efficient technologies available today which aren't being pursued by those in government. Instead the focus is on coal, widely regarded as the dirtiest of all fuels. "Many people don't realize that an oil crisis would disrupt the entire country," Rathbun says. "There is only a limited supply, and nobody has the magic bullet to solve the problem," he says.

Leftover coal presents a major pollution problem. Discarded coal pieces are known as waste coal or "culm." "The Pennsylvania landscape is already cluttered with 2.4 billion tons of these coal mounds," Rathbun says. These waste coal piles release aluminum, manganese, and iron into the fresh water resources of the state. "Rich's project would actually help the environment by eliminating much of the state's waste coal," he says. Many of these piles can prevent



PNC BANK

www.pnc.com

50 W. Main Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
570-387-4501

Member
FDIC

vegetation from growing and killing neighboring streams. Rich's solution involves removing these piles so that nature has a chance to heal once again, according to Rathbun. When burned, waste coal releases dangerous toxins into the air and leaves behind toxic ash that finds its way to landfills and eventually into the soil, according to Gadinski. "The issue is that you are burning rock which produces extremely high levels of metals in the ash, and there are no regulations on the books enforcing the disposal of coal ash which should be classified as an industrial waste," he says.

The cost for the operation has recently escalated from \$612 million to \$800 million. The original estimate was covered by state and federal subsidies. WMPI recently secured a \$100 million loan from the Department of Energy. This loan wasn't finalized until the department issued its final environmental impact statement which has been repeatedly challenged

by environmentalists. "These delays do nothing more than drive the cost of the finished gallon up," says Rich. WMPI has secured the necessary air, water quality, and storage tank installation permits. These permits must be covered before any construction on the site would begin.

"The real question is what is going to happen to the waste because if it's contained in the ash we may be creating an enormous problem for the anthracite coal region," Gadinski says.

The struggle between WMPI and many of the Schuylkill County residents continues to spark controversy. As the fossil fuel problem gains momentum, no clear-cut idea seems to emerge as a unique solution to the crisis at hand. Instead, America is presented with a series of choices to make

which may dictate the future of the nation itself.

"This is an area we need to clean up and reclaim," says Rich. "Now we can get rid of all the waste coal, clean up the coal region, and stop American money from flowing into the Middle East," he says. The conflict that presents itself in Schuylkill County offers no strategy for a simple solution. *S*



Motorists on Route 81 are greeted by a WMPI billboard located near the Frackville exit.



New York Style Pizza

You know you want a piece!

Open Late! Noon — 3 a.m.

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT Pizza

with one drink and one topping EVERYDAY from 12 - 4 p.m.

2 Slices for \$2
Every Tuesday & Thursday
from 12 - 7 pm

NOW SERVING
HEROS

Jo-Jo's Place (Formerly Sal's)

FREE DELIVERY - DINE IN & TAKE OUT - ORDER ONLINE @ WWW.CAMPUSFOOD.COM

(570) 784-3385

134 East Main St.
Bloomsburg



Ginger Notargiacomo encourages her daughter to read while sitting outside of the Benton Middle/Senior High School.

The Moral of the Story

Protecting Young Minds or Censoring Education?

by Courtney Brandt

student. Accelerated Reader, a program offered at many high schools, provides students with a list of books to read. After reading each book, students are quizzed on what they've just read and are awarded points based on their performance. "If we were going to be forced to read books, I wanted to read books at my level," Morgan says.

Lysk says she and Shultz weren't attempting to limit students' education, but acted with the understanding that the existing policy had not been followed. According to the policy, the school librarian must work in conjunction with English teachers to compile a list of titles to purchase, which is then given to the high school principal for approval and then to the superintendent.

Gerrie Newhart, school board member for the past 24 years, says she believes the policy had been followed. "I trust the administration to make the right decisions and throughout this ordeal I backed them entirely," she says.

Lysk says she and Shultz were primarily concerned with the age appropriateness of the books in question, which Joan Bertin, executive director at the National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) argues is an problematic basis for censoring

books. She says "age appropriateness" is often used to refer to material adults think children should not read, rather than what children can understand based on their life experience and level of understanding. Limiting students to what adults consider "age appropriate" is often a way to limit their exposure to important educational material.

To solve the problem between adult desire to limit students exposure to profanity and students' educational needs, Bertin says librarians should "combine the interest and experience level of students with the recommendations of teachers and librarians." This would help to establish a collection of material that students want to read and that teachers and librarians find relevant to both the background of the students and their educational needs.

Lysk says the pair was "looking after the parents who don't have the time to read all the books." She also admits she hadn't read the books herself, which she says may have impaired her understanding of the books in their entirety. Instead, she based her decision on a list of excerpts provided to her by Shultz.

Newhart argues against relying on excerpts. "You can't judge a book by a piece here and a piece there," she says. She also admits that she hadn't read all of the books. Instead, Newhart relied on the expertise of the school librarian and teachers.

Shultz found the list of excerpts on an external Virginia-based site run by Parents Against Bad Books in Schools (PABBIS). PABBIS de-

The beginning of the 2006–2007 school year marked a turning point for Benton parent Ginger Notargiacomo. For the first time in her daughter's educational career, she believed that Morgan's ability to learn was being jeopardized.

Evy Lysk and Nicole Shultz, two members of the Benton area school board, withheld 480 of the 800 books purchased until parents could become better informed about profanity and sexual content in the books. The books were initially purchased with a \$60,000 state grant to expand available reading material for students like Notargiacomo's daughter who had advanced beyond the reading levels offered in the library.

Morgan Notargiacomo, an advanced placement level senior at Benton Senior High School, was primarily concerned with the impact temporary censorship would have on her ability to perform as an Accelerated Reader

finer several guidelines for choosing books to stock in public school libraries, including age appropriateness, good taste, ability to reach educational goals, relevance to curriculum, and necessity of one book as compared to another. Although the PABBIS site (www.SIBBAP.org) is frequently used by parents and school districts to define inappropriate books, Bertin says she's unaware of any success the group has had at permanently removing the titles from its own area in Virginia. Shultz refused to return several phone calls for clarification as to why she used the site.

In an effort to limit the pervasiveness of censorship, the American Library Association (ALA) lists a set of guidelines that differ from the PABBIS site. They advocate seeking professional recommendations, thus eliminating the potential for uneducated or otherwise ignorant persons to make decisions for those who wish to advance their educations. They also advise librarians to choose books based on the representation of viewpoints surrounding controversial issues, serving to create an environment in which students are required to think critically about controversy and intelligently decide on a stance.

Of course, a public school should purchase books that represent the viewpoints of the community in addition to the views of others. "A library that doesn't have anything that anybody wants to read isn't of use to anyone," says Erin Byrne, associate director for the ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom. She says that although a library's collection should be built around the population, there should be material that stretches beyond the values of the area.

Newhart was surprised with how the books first came to the attention of Shultz. "The ironic part is that many were second copies or replacement titles. A lot of the books bought were already on the

shelves," she says.

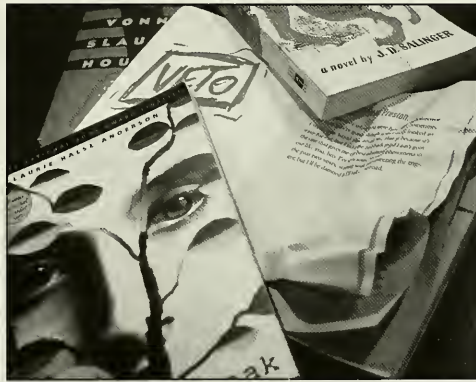
Books have historically been banned for going against the establishment of authority. In communist Soviet Union, books, cinema, radio, and television were censored to conform to "political correction." Today in communist China, web access is restricted to keep citizens ignorant of the outside world.

In addition to controlling the masses, books are often banned because they deal with issues that people are too afraid to talk about. Homosexuality, violence, incest, and rape are among the many sensitive, controversial subjects. "They think by putting blinders on your child that

sex and ethnicity. Although issues such as slavery, racism, rape, incest, and homosexuality may be difficult topics for some students to discuss, books dealing with these issues can prove invaluable to a student who is forced to confront them. A sexually confused student may feel less alone after reading *Empress of the World* by Sara Ryan, about a teenage girl struggling with feelings of homosexuality. A rape or incest victim may find solace in Chris Crutcher's *Chinese Handcuffs*, or in Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak*, both of which discuss the emotions of a young rape victim. "Going to the library is one place where they can turn to not feel alone and where they don't feel judged," Byrne says.

The list also includes some of the classics of the literary canon, which is surprising to both Byrne and Bertin. By removing classic pieces of literature such as *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger from curricula and the shelves of school libraries, Byrne argues that school districts are ultimately cheating students. "These are major authors with major ideas. These books have stood the test of time for a reason," she says. Students who don't have access to books, such as *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison or *The Odyssey* by ancient Grecian poet Homer, would be "woefully unprepared and would be at a marked disadvantage for college," says Bertin.

The authors on the list are largely award-winning authors. Chinua Achebe, author of *Things Fall Apart*, which appears on the Benton list, has won The Commonwealth Poetry Prize, The Nigerian National Trophy (1961), and Peace Prize of the German Book Trade. Truman Capote, author of *In Cold Blood* (on the list) and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* was a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. Richard Peck won the Edgar Allen Poe Award,



Photos by David P.T. Flores

Among the titles on Benton's list are *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson, *Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut, *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, and *Chinese Handcuffs* by Chris Crutcher.

everything will just go away," says Byrne. Books containing these subjects should be available in public schools, she says, because in a society where the tough issues aren't discussed students need somewhere where they can feel at home. Bertin agrees. Presenting controversial material is "the essence of what education is about. The best place to read these books is in school because students have the opportunity to discuss and to learn."

Bertin's organization commonly encounters challenges directed at books that address issues of race,

awarded by the Mystery Writers of America, in 1977 for his book *Are You in the House Alone?* (on the Benton list) in the category "Best Juvenile." In a *New York Times* book review, William Kennedy praised Gabriel Garcia Marquez for his book *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (on the Benton List), calling it, "the first piece of literature since the *Book of Genesis* that should be required reading for the entire human race." He also won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982. Lois Lowry's book *The Giver* (on the Benton list) was awarded a Newbery Medal by the Association for Library Service

to Children, a division of the ALA, in 1994. Only one book per year is awarded the Newbery Medal on the basis of excellence in theme, plot, characters, setting, and clarity.

These honors are among the best reasons to read a book, according to Bertin. When discussing Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*, Bertin says, "You could read other books with some of the same themes, but few would provide an equivalent educational experience. This one happens to be internationally recognized for its literary merit." Morrison won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993. Bertin asks, "Isn't a Nobel Prize enough reason to want to read a book?"

Lysk was concerned with the appropriateness of the books for children in her district, despite the honors they've received. "When you see word after word, you know, 'mother F' and 'the N word,' well I don't want to waste my time with reading the whole book," she says.

However, according to Supreme Court case *Island Trees School District v. Pico* (1982), Shultz and Lysk's desire to read a book has nothing to do with whether or not the book should be censored from students. According to the case: "local school boards

may not remove books from school library shelves simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books," because, according to a 1969 Supreme Court case, *Tinker v. Des Moines*, students "do not shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech and expression at the schoolhouse gate."

Ginger Notargiacomo was primarily concerned with possible curriculum deficiency censoring books would cause. "I threatened to notify

"They think that by putting blinders on your child everything will just go away."

a Christian, then why would you let kids read those books?" Lysk says. She also says she was disappointed with Superintendent Gary Powlus, who, according to Lysk, originally backed their cause. Lysk attributes Powlus's shifted stance to his lack of wherewithal. "After he saw parents getting mad, that's when he changed his mind. He did a complete 180. I don't understand why he couldn't just be a man and be strong," she says. Powlus refused to talk with

Spectrum.

Lysk and Shultz accomplished what they set out to do.

— Erin Byrne
The Benton Area School District

the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The school board could have been cited, and this motivated them to make a decision quickly," she says. Chapter 4 of the Pennsylvania Department of Education Code focuses on reading, writing, math, and science skills. According to Notargiacomo, withholding 480 books from students would severely limit students' abilities to perform within the content area outlined in Chapter 4 regulations and, thus, handicap them in standardized tests. "We send our children to school for eight hours out of the day. Shouldn't we value that a little more?" Notargiacomo asks.

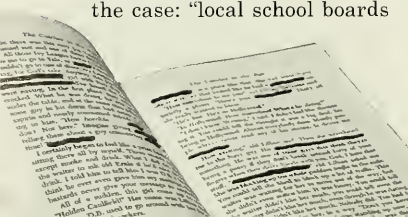
At this same meeting, Newhart read a letter from the school librarian, Ann Weatherill, who couldn't be in attendance. The letter stated that the policy had, in fact, been followed, and that any allegations to the contrary were unfounded. "I think everyone started to realize the policy had been followed and there wasn't really an issue," she says. As a result, seven of the nine school board members backed the school administration and dropped the notion of book censorship.

Despite being outnumbered by her fellow school board members, Lysk still says that Notargiacomo's threats to notify the Pennsylvania Department of Education were her attempts at "talking tough." She says she was disgusted with parent's alignment with Newhart. "She's such a fine Christian. If you have faith and call yourself

has made its library holdings available online to the general public and through a program called WebCollectionPlus parents can peruse the listings and bar their children from access to books they deem inappropriate. Thanks to Shultz and Lysk's efforts, parents are now fully aware of what their children are reading.

However, this hasn't deterred the occurrence of morality based censorship in Benton. In March, the production of *Anything Goes*, a Cole Porter musical from the 1930s which was also performed by the Bloomsburg High School, was challenged. The play follows a young man, Billy Crocker, chasing after his old love, Hope Harcourt, who is engaged to Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. In the end, Billy wins his love and Lord Evelyn lives happily ever after with Reno Sweeney, Billy's friend. Lysk, Powlus, other members of the Benton district, and some of the local citizens opposed the production of the play because of the affair, references to drugs and alcohol, and blatant sarcastic remarks towards Christianity. However, the play was performed.

[Shultz resigned shortly after a resolution had been made due to an unrelated issue. Lysk remains on the school board and is up for re-election in May, steadfast in her resolve to maintain her position at the pinnacle of moral fortitude. "I really, truly care," she says. "I just care about the children."] **S**





Kiwi Passion

Montour County's Juicy Secret

by Mallory Szymanski

Superheroes come in all shapes and sizes and fight various evils. This bald, green miniature marvel hails from Montour County and battles its less healthy counterparts with unique flavor that "pops."

The kiwi berry, deemed a "super fruit," has five times the Vitamin C of an orange, more potassium than a banana, twice the Vitamin E

of an avocado and only one gram of fat per serving, providing a "sweet" alternative to unhealthy snacking.

Even sweeter, the world's only certified organic grower of the berry is from rural Pennsylvania. David Jackson, of Kiwi Korners, Danville, finds the health benefits of the fruit along with its appealing taste an agricultural masterpiece.

"We consider it a super fruit due to the amount of Vitamins C, E, and the antioxidant values within the fruit," Jackson says of the kiwi berry.

He compares the flavor of his signature Passion Popper kiwi berry to that of "a melon ball with almost a cotton candy finish."

In addition to the Passion Popper, about 20 percent of Jackson's farm is dedicated to the Aloha Anna kiwi berry, a fruit that packs the flavors of kiwi and pineapple with a slight "hint of mint" into its small round structure.

Annas, according to Jackson, are the most popular form of miniature, smooth skinned kiwi grown in North America. A unique product only grown in his "kornor" of the world, Jackson has deemed his signature Passion Popper "Pennsylvania's best kept agricultural secret."

Although Jackson's farm along Phippen Road has existed for around 19 years, few area residents know

about the tropical fruit that's grown right in their backyard.

"They haven't tasted it; they don't know it's out there. A little Pennsylvania farm here has developed a berry that nobody else in the world is producing," says Jackson.

Jackson says lack of public awareness about his product could be attributed to its short shelf-life when compared to the longevity of other fruits sold.

"Most fruits are available 12 months of the year in the grocery stores. This is only available for about six weeks," Jackson says. The fruit has a shelf life

of about a month.

The harvest season is the last two weeks of September through October.

This is the fifth year Jackson has put the Passion Popper on the

market. In true superhero fashion, it has been affectionately received by the public.

"We have been sold out every year," says Jackson.

The Popper is currently available in three store chains in the Northeastern United States: Wegman's, Whole Foods, and Trader Joe's.

It takes about eight years after planting the kiwi to get a full-sized crop. Since Jackson spent 14 years putting the fruit through trials, deciding which family would grow best in a colder climate, he has yet to see a profit. His goal is to be the first grower of the kiwi berry to become sustainable.

"I don't think there is a grower/packer that has made a penny on

this yet; it takes a long time to grow a new fruit and put it out there," Jackson says.

There are three known types of kiwi in the world: Adeliciouso, the fuzzy green kiwi most often seen in stores; Actinidia chinensis, a partially smooth-skinned fruit grown in more temperate climates; and the Arguta, the smallest kind of kiwi with no fuzz. The fruit Jackson grows is of the Arguta family.

Jackson says health experts have invested about \$10 million in hardy kiwi studies. Dermatologists from across the United States have looked into the fruit's effects on skin conditions including rosacea and atopic dermatitis. Efficas, a biotech company, has worked off recent scientific research stating that hardy kiwi

We're putting a very healthy product out on the market.



David Jackson

"has unparalleled natural healing properties." They use the kiwi as adjunctive therapy with steroids to treat eczema. Hardy kiwi, according to Efficas, makes for better healing.

Studies have also looked into the benefits of hardy kiwi as a treatment for certain kinds of cancer.

"It's original. We're putting a very healthy product out on the market," Jackson says of the fruit.

[For more information on Kiwi Korners or the kiwi berry, go to www.kiwiberry.com.] S



The Passion Popper

Photos courtesy David Jackson

The ART of AEROSOL

Story and photos by Justin Strawser

Graffiti May be More Than a Stain Upon Society

The end of a cigarette glows intensely for a moment before he lowers it from his mouth. A waft of smoke lingers against the background of the room, which is adorned with various artwork and posters. On his lap is *Wall and Piece* by Banksy:

"...it exhibits on some of the best walls a town has to offer. Nobody has to pay the price of admission. People who run our cities don't understand graffiti because they think nothing has the right to exist unless it makes a profit. But if you just value money, then your opinion is worthless. Some people become cops because they want to make the world a better place. Some people become vandals because they want to make the world a better looking place."

He pauses, allowing the smoke to exit his lungs and the words to take effect. "That's what graffiti is to me. You take the ugliness that society has given you and turn it into something beautiful," he says. He would like to be known as Reis, his name of choice when he tags (see sidebar for interpretation). He chose this name because he

likes how the letters work together.

Reis, who lives in Northumberland, is now 21, but says it was during a freshman art class in Williamsport Area High School that a teacher first introduced him to graffiti. The teacher showed him and the other students a short documentary on the subject. "It didn't glorify it but it also didn't dismiss it as filth," Reis says.

It intrigued him. "People believe graffiti is used by young poor urban kids. These kids didn't go to art school. They didn't jump through any hoops. They're just doing things on their own terms," Reis says.

While growing up in a single-parent household, he, his mother, and his grandmother moved several times within Pennsylvania. "For the first chunk of my life, I didn't know where my dad was," he says,

later discovering that his father had committed suicide. "My grandmother was an excellent role model before she died. My mother tried, I guess, but she wasn't there a lot," he says.

Eventually, he and his mother moved in with her boyfriend. "He had a lot of pent up aggression that he liked to display physically," he says, remembering his mother almost encouraging it, saying 'You never had a male role model in your life. He's just showing you authority and discipline.' It wasn't until this "role model" kicked her that she decided it was time to leave. After living in a few other locations and suffering the death of the grandmother, they arrived in Northumberland County. He still lives here, but his mother moved out in August.

"This was the last time we were going to move," Reis says. When they walked in, the house was horrible, and hasn't changed much. "Plaster was falling, the roof leaks, there's a musty smell. The heating rarely works, sometimes when I take a bath, I plug in a hairdryer and let it run across the water for five minutes before I get in," he says. He



One of Reis's designs decorates the river side of Sunbury's floodwall.

feels that simple solution reflects the culture of graffiti, using the broken and making it work.

Reis created his first graffiti tag about four years ago. He was walking along the Susquehanna River in Sunbury and had brought a can of green spray paint with him with artistic intentions. He decided to hit the bridge, but the writing looked poor. After visiting it a year later, he spent more and more time with it, and "I was able to make it look really good," he says.

As he speaks, he takes another cigarette from his pack and sticks it into his mouth. The Gold Coast menthol hangs between his lips while he continues, ready to be lit by a waiting lighter. He thumbs through various notebooks, stopping every few pages when something of influence catches his eye, and expresses his pride concerning a random letter 'R' in a picture he constructed.

Grffiti has been used by inner city youth for many years, although writing on the wall has been popular since the time of the cavemen more than 30,000 years ago. Even the word "graffiti" comes from the Italian word "graffito" from early Rome and Pompeii. Ancient civilizations including the Greeks and the Mayans had unauthorized forms of graffiti on the walls. In the 19th to early 20th centuries, American hoboes communicated by marking fences with symbols in order to tell others when certain houses were good for begging, sleeping, or medical assistance.

Grffiti evolved into what it is known as today, springing up from the urban areas of New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Los Angeles. Trains, subways, and buildings were the preferred targets of choice. Eventually, authorities in different cities increased the penalties for graffiti, made it illegal to sell spray paint to minors, and required stores to keep their paint supplies in locked cases to avoid stealing.

Grffiti has always appealed to the generation that loses a place in society. For youth who metaphorically don't have a name, graffiti is an opportunity to become a name. The more writers get up, the more

well-known they are. People take notice and soon the alias is better known than the actual person.

"It's a way of infamy," says a California youth who calls himself Ekis. He wonders how many people will see his name or how long it will stay. "If you have a nice car, you're not going to want to keep it in your garage. You want to show it off so the next time people see the car, they know it's you," he says.

Ekis is 16 years old. He has grown up near poverty and currently lives with his divorced father. "I first became involved in graffiti about three and half years ago," he says, explaining that he has always loved to draw and this type of urban art interested him. He witnessed a writer hit up a window and was curious. From that moment, he has been active in the culture.

"I wanted to get known for my work," Sam S from Iowa says, adding that he also works on canvases and paper. He is 17 years old and

has grown up in an affluent family. With a father who is an important part of a large corporation, money has never been much of a problem.

When it came to artistic ability, Sam believes he was born with it. "When I was in school, I was known as being the excellent artist. My artwork over the years started to change and branch into different

Staples recently removed graffiti from its property.



Photo by Steven Mock

The Writing is on the Wall

People see graffiti with one set of eyes. However, it's a culture governed by its own rules and policed by its own citizens. Even the words they speak are a language of their own.

Writer—a graffiti artist

Tag—the writer's signature

Throw-up—very simple quick piece, a little more than a tag, usually 2 colors

Piece—short for masterpiece, usually 3 colors

Burner—large, more elaborate type of piece

Mural—a large scale piece

Bomb—covering an area with your work

Crew—a group of writers associated with each other

Getting up—tagging repeatedly to spread your name

Kill—bombing excessively

Piecebook—writer's notebook of ideas and outlines of future work

Toy—can refer to a writer who lacks experience or original style

Up—a current writer who has a lot of tags

things,” he says, never thinking art would be something he would like to pursue in life. That is, until he found graffiti. “It had everything I wanted. Vandalism, rebellion, and art.” he says.

Back in Columbia County, graffiti has rarely been a problem to deal with. However, at the end of December, Staples, along Route 11 in Scott Township, didn’t expect vandalism. It was discovered by management that an unknown person had spray painted the receiving and loading dock door. “Someone had too much time on their hands,” says Heather Garman, Staples general manager. She wonders why this person doesn’t use their creative energy elsewhere, because “I believe they are real artists,” she says. To Garman, there is no difference between vandalism and graffiti. “It wasn’t wanted. It’s one thing to make a mural, and another to do it without permission,” she says. In March, the graffiti was cleaned off the Staples property.

Although there has been no evidence of gang activity in Scott Township, gangs and gang graffiti were once problems in Berwick in early 2006. “MS-13 was trying to develop some sets in the borough. We caught on fairly quickly and most of them

have been disrupted,” says Francis Brennan II, Berwick police chief.

A misconception of graffiti is that it is gang-related, which provokes feelings of fear and violence. “It’s not about violence, or drugs, or gangs, or anything like that,” Reis says, and Ekis agrees. “It does not relate to me or any real graffiti writer,” Ekis says. Gang-related graffiti is used strictly for marking territory, and most graffiti connoisseurs dismiss the brand as trash.

Despite Berwick’s gang problem, other incidents have popped up on vacant buildings, streets, grocery stores, and garages. Last summer, a group of teens vandalized a pool. “Graffiti on anyone’s property is vandalism. They did not ask for

“You take the ugliness that society has given you and turn it into something beautiful.”

—Reis

their property to be painted with designs,” Brennan says.

The Pennsylvania Crime Code defines graffiti as “an unauthorized inscription, word, figure, mark, or design which is written, etched, scratched, drawn, or painted. According to the code, a person is guilty of criminal mischief if he “intentionally defaces or otherwise damages tangible public property or tangible property of another with graffiti by use of any aerosol spray-paint can, broad-tipped indelible marker, or similar marking device.” Depending on the dollar amount of damage caused, offenses range from misdemeanors to felonies.

Vandals are subject to fines, jail time, or community service. “The punishment is at the sole discretion of the judge,” says Leo Sokoloski, Bloomsburg police chief. He explains the judge will consider past charges, where it happened, or the nature of the damage. “Each

A tag “improves” the look of a trestle on an abandoned railroad bridge in Rupert.



case has its own merit,” he says.

“You have to look at the big picture,” Brennan says. “If they make good on it, pay for the damage from their own pocket, and learn from it, we knock the charges down. Most of these kids won’t ever do it again.”

“Run-ins with the law is a daily thing,” Ekis says, noting that his experiences have been nothing serious. “When I saw them coming, I hid my paint and wiped my fingers. They had little evidence to accuse me of the act,” he says.

Despite the problems with the law, it’s a common misconception that graffiti is lawless. The writers themselves have their own rules. For instance, churches, houses, and cars are supposed to be strictly off limits by true writers.

Painting over someone’s work is considered disrespectful. “However, it’s like when the small fish gets eaten by the big fish, and that big fish gets eaten by a bigger fish. If you have a tag, someone can do a throw-up over that. Then someone can do a piece over a throw-up, and then a mural,” Reis says, explaining that persons have that right to go over other’s material only if they’re doing something bigger and better or if a writer has been breaking the rules.

A graffiti name is usually four letters and budding artists should never steal the name of a fellow writer. If a name is admired, putting a number at the end of the name and claiming it as your own is perfectly acceptable.





Reis bombs a wall in Sunbury.

Just as stealing names is not allowed, copying someone's style is also not permissible. "My graffiti doesn't have much style to it yet," Reis says, adding that even after a handful of years of aerosol art, he still considers himself an inex-

perienced writer, otherwise known as a toy. After all, in the central Susquehanna Valley, there's not a large community of writers to challenge him.

Reis, with a scarf around his face and a can of paint in his hand, squints as the cold wind blows through. A mist of color escapes the nozzle and slowly blends with the stone. Green, white, and black merge together to create an intricate display of letters.

He would tell you there is more to this than just mindless vandalism, more than just destruction for the sake of destruction. He would tell you that he's not a criminal, but rather an artist. Instead of a brush, he has a spray paint can. Instead of a canvas, he chooses a

wall. And perhaps he's right. Perhaps when viewed in a different light, graffiti becomes more than a stain upon society. These nameless kids don't know how to do it by society's standards, and must figure it out for themselves. Perhaps what it becomes is a way of life. **S**



91.1 FM  **WBUQ**

LISTEN ONLINE - WWW.WBUQFM.COM

STUDENT RADIO

THE REVOLUTION

Mind over Body

A Bengali View of the American Dream

by Andrew Young

One Summer day Sarah Amin scrolled through a clothing website geared toward Bengali youth. Looking for something unique, Sarah laughed as she came across a brown T-shirt with writing spanned across it. Her mother, Zareen, came into the room and asked to see what was making her laugh. When Sarah turned the laptop screen and revealed a shirt saying, “Bang the Best in Bangladesh,” her mother’s smile faded to a disapproving frown, as she quickly assured Sarah that kind of message wasn’t meant for her home. “I thought it was funny,” says Sarah, “and I wanted to get it, but I knew she wouldn’t have it.”

Now a sophomore majoring in international studies at Dickinson College, Sarah believes there is a gap between the Bangladeshi parents who once came to Bloomsburg and the

children they’ve raised here. “Of my two brothers the youngest [Shayan, 18] is furthest from Bengali tradition. He’s more Americanized,” says Sarah. This is in contrast to the customary Bengali thinking of her parents. “Even if my parents weren’t brown, they would still have trouble evolving in a completely new culture,” Sarah says. Many second generation Bengali, Pakistani, and Indian children use the term “brown,” like Hispanics as Sarah says, “to set themselves apart from the whites, blacks, yellows, and reds of the world.”

Although the term brown is a distinction, Sarah says, “A lot of people think because I’m brown, I’m a speaker for ‘my’ people. But I’m not, because I’m distinctly different.” Sarah believes her parents and the older generation don’t see the level of racism the second generation endures. “Of course when you’re younger, kids pick on you,” says Sarah, “but when you get older they feel it’s alright to say openly racist things and get away with it as a joke.” Her mother believes the second generation are put at a disadvantage “because of exposure to two different cultures, there is a confusion of which to be a part of, and they become torn,” she says.

Zareen experienced western culture and ideals before she left Bangladesh and didn’t feel the shock of seeing different clothes, foods, languages, and practices. It was when

Surrounded mostly by India and the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh is slightly larger than England and has a population of over 145 million.



she saw the behavior and attire of younger generations that she began feeling a cultural departure with the United States. Once a project manager for the American School Health Association and recently a human sexuality and biology instructor at Bloomsburg University, Zareen sees what she believes is the promiscuity of the younger generation. “It’s degradation of character, because you just don’t go out with everyone to gain an identity,” she says.

Born and raised in the United States, Sarah has a Westernized perspective. “I didn’t know I was different until I met other people,” she says. Her parents knew of the cultural diversity they’d be met with as immigrants. The American way of life was different from the existence her parents knew in Ban-





Sarah Amin at age 11.

Photo by Shahalam Amin

gladesh. Instead of fully assimilating and dropping Bengali culture, Sarah's parents try to maintain tradition by eating Bengali foods and wearing Bengali clothing at Bengal Association of Bloomsburg Area (BABA) events.

Before Zareen came to the United States in 1982, she dreamt of a life in medicine. "It was my passion, and still is," she says. Born to an affluent, highly educated family of physicians in Bangladesh, Zareen believed she would follow in their footsteps. After receiving her medical degree from Dhaka Medical College under the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh's oldest and most prestigious school, she followed her husband to Canada and the United States. She

received her masters in health education from Kent State University, Ohio, gave birth to Sarah and relocated to Illinois and then finally to Bloomsburg.

Shortly after Sarah's birth, however, Zareen realized she would

"I didn't know I was different until I met other people."

—Sarah Amin

never practice as a physician. Born with a degenerative bone disorder that forces her legs to bow and curve away from each other, Sarah would need continuous supervision from her mother. Stress from the curvature on her femurs causes them to fracture. "There were countless operations that didn't work or needed

frequent correction," says Sarah. She has undergone almost 50 surgeries, making each of her 19 years a struggle. For her first five years, Sarah couldn't eat properly, so Zareen had to feed her from 60 cc. syringes every two hours and keep constant watch on her. When she was 15, a world-renowned orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Dror Paley of the Rubin Institute for Advanced Orthopedics, Baltimore, conducted the last surgeries she would need to walk. But because of the pain walking still causes her, Sarah has been in and out of a wheelchair for the past 12 years. Although her operations were a success, Sarah's joints and hips continue to deteriorate.

Zareen knew there was something wrong with Sarah just weeks after

her birth when she became ill and developed a 107 degree fever. This fever may have been the reason for another affliction Sarah believes might be worse than her bone problem. She developed a temperature imbalance that causes her to sweat profusely when it's cold, and warm up to the point of passing out when she's hot. "The sweating gets so bad that I have to do a full load of wash every other day," says Sarah. Having bowed and broken legs, coupled with the perspiration problem, took an emotional strain on Sarah and her parents. "No one can relate to or understand this," she says, "I can't do anything in the winter and if I leave my 85 degree room I start sweating." These combined afflictions make it difficult for Sarah to maintain a social life. Not only is it hard for her to get around, "but when I do," says Sarah, "I have to make sure I'm not dripping sweat."

Sarah knew, growing up in Bloomsburg, that she was different. Bound to a wheelchair, she spent her days excelling in advanced classes at the elementary and high school. Although she was intelligent, achieving a 1280 on her SATs, Sarah says she was underestimated. "The mindset that bothered me the most was that people thought because I was physically handicapped, that I was mentally handicapped too," she says, but when it came time for Sarah to approach the dais and graduate from Central Columbia High School in June 2005, the crowd stood and applauded.

Sarah was the inspiration for her parents to stay, almost 20 years ago, and make a better life in America. In 1980, Sarah's father, Dr. Shahalam Amin, took his leave from teaching and studies at the University of Dhaka. "I

left Bangladesh because I needed to pursue my career abroad," he says, and found a job as a professor's assistant at

the University of Guelph, Canada, where he sent for his wife and son, Saad, who is now 26 years old. Shahalam and Zareen pursued career advancement in America and came to Bloomsburg. Now a geography and earth sciences professor at Bloomsburg University, Shahalam says, "We stayed in America to ensure better healthcare for Sarah, and reside in Bloomsburg because of the warm people and the atmosphere of the university."

Initially, entering the western world, Zareen and Shahalam felt a cultural disparity. For the first few weeks of classes in Guelph, Shahalam would stand as his coworkers entered the room and would only sit when they were seated and comfortable. It took time for Shahalam to call them by their first names because in Bengali culture, elders are treated with respect and called by their title. He says, "It didn't matter if professors became friends or colleagues, it took me a while before I could call them by their first name." Shahalam brought with him an element of the Bengali class structure that developed a societal hierarchy which values respect above all else.

After 11 years in Bloomsburg, Zareen and Shahalam are still reminded of the imbalance between Western culture and Bangladesh. "In America," says Zareen, "not only are elders treated with less respect but there doesn't seem to be as much importance placed on family." However, Zareen believes that the strong friendships her family has created make her feel at home and grounded. Zareen says, "We've been treated so well in this community. We peoples from Bangladesh are all not where we once were, but it feels like home here." S

LEFT: Sarah Amin, February 2006.

RIGHT: A crowded street in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, where the population has grown to an estimated 11 million, making pollution and congestion widespread problems.





A Celebration of Culture

What influenced about 60 Bangladeshis to come to Columbia County was the presence of their culture rooted in downtown Bloomsburg at Sakuntala Restaurant. Dr. Mushtaq Elahi, Sakuntala's owner, came to the United States in 1977 after studying and teaching journalism and mass communications at the University of Dhaka. In Bangladesh, Elahi was a student activist who opposed the corruption and graft of the newly formed and developing government. "Political corruption in Bangladesh is the worst in the world," he says, adding that, "bribery and injustice keep social mobility low and not easily manageable."

After coming to Bloomsburg and opening Sakuntala, Elahi, with the help of Dr. Ruhul Amin (no relation to Zareen or Shahalam Amin), formed the Bengal Association of Bloomsburg Area (BABA). "The purpose," says Elahi, is "to share the heritage of our people with mainstream society and to enrich Pennsylvania by creating cultural harmony and awareness."

Since its inception in 2000, BABA has hosted numerous events showcasing the dances, cuisine, and music of Bengali culture. "The last two years for BABA have been a huge success," says Elahi, who says "at least 600 people came to our New Year's celebration last May. It was a celebration of life that displayed mutual respect and appreciation for all cultures." With the help of Bengali brothers and sisters from all over the northeastern U.S., BABA has become a beacon for cultural diversity and understanding in Columbia, Montour, and surrounding counties.

Reazan Manzoor, a Bangladeshi native and member of BABA and the Bangladesh Student Association, is a senior management major

at Bloomsburg University. "It was actually a coincidence that I came here," he says, "At that point Dr. Ruhul Amin was the head of the BU management department and my dad knew him from Bangladesh." The popularity of Dr. Amin and Dr. Elahi in Bangladesh turned into a community in Columbia County. "We're a family with many members here, and when we're all together it feels like Bangladesh," says Elahi.

Conversely, a globalizing world has brought the United States to Bangladesh. Before he left North South University in Bangladesh, Manzoor was already familiar with western culture as it had already integrated with urban Bengali life. He believes westernization "is not a matter of other countries trying to adopt and replicate American culture. It's a matter of technological advances that will inevitably make things better for countries like Bangladesh." Raised in Bangladesh as a military tactician's son, Manzoor was exposed to American culture every time he went to Dhaka. He says, "You'd see kids dressed like American preps and American Blacks, and you'd see American businesses and products all over." Other than products and clothing, Dhaka has become an overpopulated and corrupt window to the western world, says Manzoor.

Elahi saw the corruption and overpopulation as motivation to leave Bangladesh. He saw an opportunity in Bloomsburg to settle down and open his restaurant. "What makes Bloomsburg different," says Elahi, "is that it has the university and the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, which gives it culture that other towns don't possess." As an actor, political activist, writer, teacher, and chef, Elahi sees vibrant culture in the area and believes it's perfect for BABA.

—ANDREW YOUNG

A Taste of Bangladesh

Fred Kressler's first experience with Bengali food was at Sakuntala Restaurant's opening night in 1999. "It was the first time and definitely not the last. It was amazing," says Kressler, a Bloomsburg resident. He and hundreds of other residents of Columbia and Montour counties go to Sakuntala not only for the Elahis' cooking, but for the atmosphere they create. "They have helped immerse us in a different culture," says Kressler, "both they and the restaurant go so well together with the community." Kressler and J. Scott Anderson, Bloomsburg, agree that Sakuntala is the best Bengali food they've tasted. "I've been to many Indian restaurants," says Anderson, but, "Sakuntala stands out because of the pure ingredients and delicious dishes at great prices."

The Elahis' passion for food keeps restaurant patrons faithful and setting reservations weeks in advance. "I keep going to Sakuntala because I need to have good home cooking that not only tastes good, but is good for me," says Solange Garcia-Moll, Bloomsburg. Mushtaq Elahi says he took a chance opening the restaurant in an area dominated by pizza shops and fast food, "I know it's different from anything else in Bloomsburg, there is a misconception that the food is too hot or spicy. But the people aware of the food crave it," he says.

Most of the ingredients call for fresh herbs and vegetables, so during peak months, "we purchase from local growers to invest in the community while getting a fresh product," says Millie Elahi. Bengali foods, while sharing some ingredients with Indian foods, are adaptations of recipes over thousands of years old. Dishes usually combine ingredients such as rice,

chickpeas, lentils, chicken, lamb, fish, and vegetables, coupled with many different complementary spices, including tarragon, curry, cinnamon, coriander, and more.

Mushtaq Elahi believes the metaphysical effects of Bengali foods make him feel closer to Bangladesh. "Food is spiritual, intellectual, and emotional," he says, "it's a tactile experience that is very important in Bengali culture. You take it in your mouth and absorb the emotion of it and the experiences of who cooked it." Not simply for nourishment, the preparing and tasting of food is dramatic and spiritual. "Eating it is a full absorption of body and soul," says Mushtaq Elahi.

—ANDREW YOUNG



Photos by David P. T. Flores



ABOVE: Clockwise from the Rose Lemonade: Shrimp Masala, Meat Samosa, Chicken Curry.

RIGHT: Mushtaq and Millie Elahi prepare several dishes for their dinner buffet.

HELP BY GIVING BACK

Clothing and
Food Drive

Your donation WILL
make a DIFFERENCE.

WHEN

October & November

WHERE

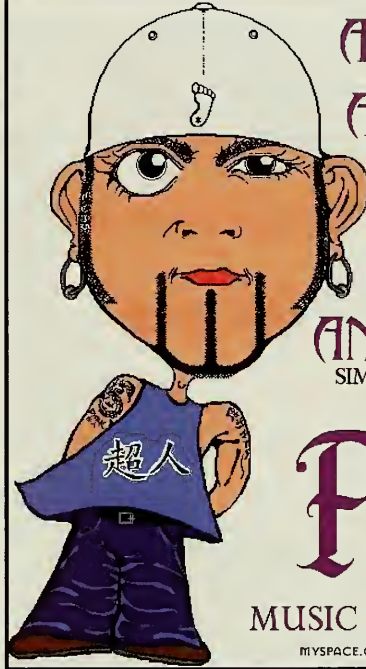
Pick-up points throughout
Bloomsburg Univ. Campus

FOR OFF-CAMPUS PICK-UP
CALL (570) 389-4825

Sponsored By

Spectrum

in association with
Alliance Against
Homelessness



ANY SONG
ANY EVENT
ANY BUDGET
ANY WHERE
ANY QUESTIONS?
SIMPLY PUT. SIMPLY THE BEST.

DJ
PHREAK

MUSIC LIKE "YOU" WANT IT.

myspace.com/DJPHREAK2005 (570) 594-3639



For Women Of All Ages.

**OB/GYN ASSOCIATES**

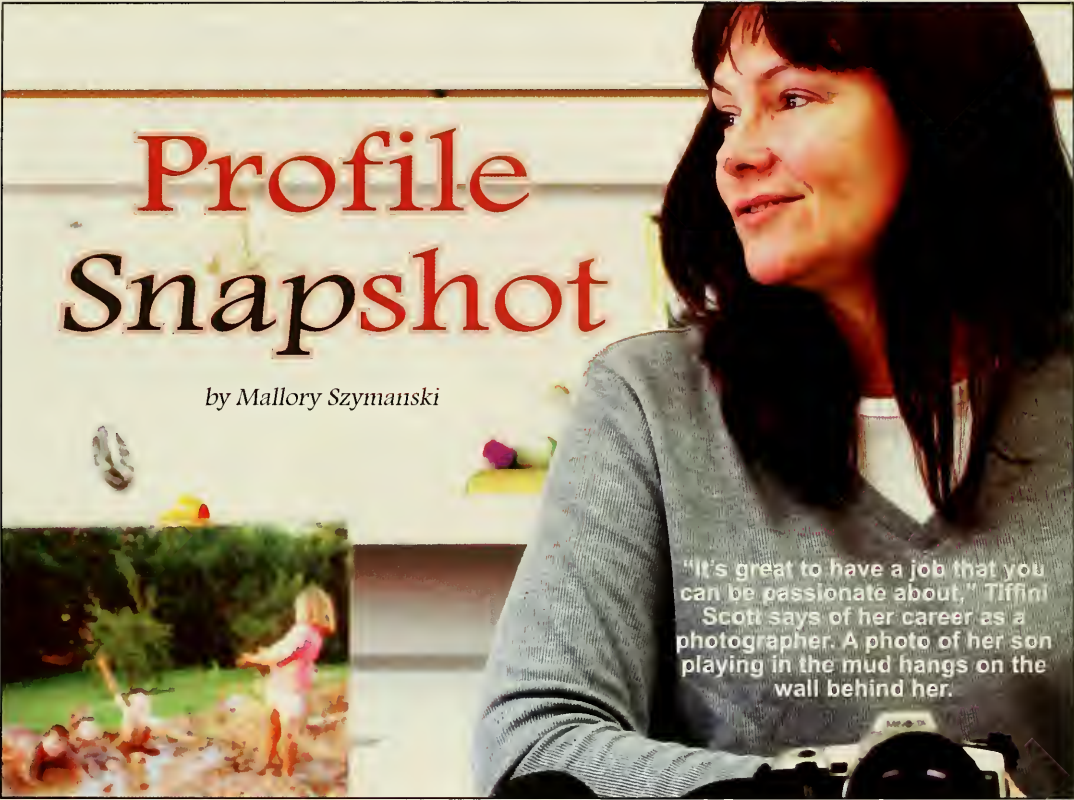
Bloomsburg Physician Services • Bloomsburg Health System

OB/GYN Associates
at Bloomsburg Hospital

387-BABY

Profile Snapshot

by Mallory Szymanski



"It's great to have a job that you can be passionate about," Tiffini Scott says of her career as a photographer. A photo of her son playing in the mud hangs on the wall behind her.

Photo by David P.T. Flores

Through the Lens of a Visually-I

Tiffini Scott's world was silent five years ago. Significantly hearing impaired since birth, she could never hear the click of her camera, the birds outside her bedroom window, the intricate sounds of everyday life. But she could see them. She could see details. And with the press of a button, she could capture them just as well as anybody else. Then something happened that not even her trained eye saw coming. An accident would leave the then 33-year-old professional photographer partially blind. In a flash, life as Tiffini Scott knew it would change forever.

She bobs her head up and down behind the viewfinder of her camera, lining up her shot. Blind in the lower portion of her shooting eye, she cannot see the bottom half of

the pictures she is taking. As she ages, the blind area in her eye will move upwards.

"The doctors have not given me any kind of options. I just keep tabs

on it [the blind spot] and deal with things when they happen," says Scott, now 40. Optometrists, however, have told her that gravity will play a role in relocating the blind area as she grows older. She doesn't know what to expect.

Scott, a Danville resident, is the co-owner of Creative Images Plus, Lewisburg, where she does event photography, weddings, outdoor portraits, and printing. For her, photography has always been a "passion." It's something she is good at, a skill that had always come to her naturally.

That would change in her mid-30s.

All the women in her family had to have hysterectomies by the time they were 40. Scott was



Photo by Tiffini Scott

Tiffini Scott's favorite picture was taken at the Lewisburg Veterans Fourth of July parade in 2002. "It had so much emotion behind it," says Scott.

no different. She went in for the operation at the age of 33.

"My uterus prolapsed, so I had to have it done. I was, however, cancer free," she says. What was a seemingly routine procedure, however, went drastically wrong. The surgery caused an infection and Scott had to have a blood transfusion. She suffered a stroke and lost vision in her right eye.

"When I first had my stroke, my biggest fear was never being able to take photos again," Scott says. "It was very intense and very stressful. I didn't know for several months how much of it [sight] I was going to lose."

Although lawyers said there was "without a doubt" negligence involved in the surgery, they thought it would be difficult to win a malpractice case, so Scott never sued.

"The lawyers told me it was complicated, but that in order to sue for malpractice, you have to prove that there was negligence and permanent damage. A jury would have a hard time seeing and understanding my permanent damage," she says.

Photo by Tiffini Scott



"Pow Wow Dancer," taken at Camp Lavigne, Benton, on Labor Day 2005.

Scott. She remembers an algebra teacher who didn't face the class when teaching, making learning nearly impossible for her since she got through school by "reading lips."

"I made it all the way to my freshman year in high school before any of my teachers figured out I was deaf. I am very good at 'faking' it. I lip read and pick up sound vibrations," Scott says.

She was finally fitted with special hearing aids when she was 35 years old. After being in and out of the offices of audiologists all her life, none of whom effectively solved her problem, she sought the help of Ace Hearing, Lightstreet. She says she wasn't expecting much of an outcome.

"When I was 18, they tried to fit me with hearing aids," Scott says. She recalls, however, that the devices had no hearing control, so her ears would be flooded with so many sounds that she couldn't differentiate between them. To her, it was all noise.

With the help of an MRI, she learned there were malformations inside her ears.

"It wasn't until newer medical advances when they could pinpoint the why," says Scott. After diagnosing her problem, doctors created specialized hearing aids, costing \$4,200, to help correct it. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation [OVR], a Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry agency that assists disabled Pennsylvanians with sustaining their employment and independence, footed the cost.

"They create them to fit you perfectly," Scott says of her hearing aids, pointing at the discreet device clipped behind her ear that she calls "very comfortable."

Finally, she can hear the things she's been missing her whole life.

"The first real-life sound I remember hearing was the turn signal in my car; I never knew it made a sound," Scott says.

She remembers how her partner, Scott Weiss, and their two children Nikki, 19, and Shaun, 12, enjoyed watching her first exposures to certain sounds. Her head would dart

paired Photographer

Although Scott lost only a portion of sight in her shooting eye, she also has a lazy left eye, making it harder to focus when taking a picture. Scott says she never considered giving up photography, even if that means bobbing her head up and down to see the bottom of the pictures she takes.

"You learn to deal with it; you learn to adapt," she says.

Scott began learning to adapt about 40 years ago. With two senses affected, she believes her persistence is because of "the brain's ability to overcome obstacles."

Nevertheless, growing up with a hearing disability wasn't easy for

"My dad wanted to kill me when he saw this picture," Scott says of this shot taken during her modeling days.



Photo courtesy John Grazer

around and they would intuitively know she was hearing something she'd never heard before.

"The people in my world were very good at being my hearing aids, my interpreters," Scott says. Whenever she didn't know what a sound was, her family quickly identified it for her.

She's excited while talking about how snow makes a crunching noise when it's stepped on, how birds are chirping in the trees outside of her business, and how she can now listen in on their melodies.

"I listen to the birds and the leaves [crunching] and all these things people take for granted," she says.

Scott first got into photography as a 17-year-old junior while working for her high school newspaper.

"One way or another, I've been involved in photography for mostly all my life," she says.

She attended three different high schools in Montana and began runway modeling in eighth

grade. Her mother was a fashion show coordinator.

While working a show after graduation, Scott met John Grazer, a photographer who asked her to do print modeling for him.

"That was where I got more into doing darkroom and photo printing. It was at that point that I got more in-

"When I first had my stroke, my biggest fear was never being able to take photos again."

— Tiffini Scott

terested in being behind the camera instead of in front of it," she says.

She looks at photos of herself taken by Grazer, stopping at one where she wore a fur coat with nothing underneath it.

"My dad wanted to kill me when he saw this picture," she says, laughing at the photo that would nonetheless be considered modest by today's standards.

In her bright, cozy office on Market Street in Lewisburg, Scott reminisces about triumphs and memories

from her life as sunlight streams in through the window and bounces from scattered portraits to the room's clean white walls.

"It's great to have a job that you can be passionate about," she says at her desk.

She doesn't spend time wishing things were different. She doesn't dwell on the past. Scott doesn't think about her disabilities. Most of her customers aren't even aware of the problems she faces each day.

"Whatever it is, I am not thinking about it. I'm just mentally in the shot," she says.

With just the right amount of light, Tiffini Scott lines up her shot. *Click.* She takes a photo. *Click. Click.* She snaps a few more. Capturing life's moments, she is focused on the picture in front of her.

"I see details and things that other people miss. I am constantly looking at things. I love to be able to capture things that I see," Scott says. **S**



Artwork by Adam Lunger

Catch the Squirrel

the new CD by
Jeremy dePrisco

CD Release parties announced!

Sat. May 19, 2007 7pm
Phillips Emporium, Bloomsburg
570.387.8027

Fri. May 25, 2007 7pm
Brews N Bytes, Danville
570.275.8666

Reservations recommended.

Music! Contests!
Prizes! Squirrels!
www.mindspcak.com

Fluttering through Town

by Melissa Eby

Photo by Deborah Rhodes

Eastern Tiger Swallowtails, Variegated Fritillaries, Cabbage Whites, Clouded and White Sulphurs, and Monarchs are stopping by the Bloomsburg Children's Museum. This summer, more than a dozen species of butterflies are expected, as well as a pair of goldfinches, says Deborah Rhodes, museum director.

Last season, the garden had an "amazing count" of Monarch butterflies, about 40 to 50 per day, says Rhodes. The Monarchs were migrating to Mexico. "I've never seen that many Monarchs at one time," Rhodes says. "For a few weeks there were at least 20 to 30 in the garden every day," she says. One of the plants in the garden, the Swamp Milkweed, is a host to Monarch caterpillars. The garden has several species of milkweed plants.

The garden also includes five Butterfly Bushes, along with "many native Pennsylvania species that serve as host plants for the butterflies," says Rhodes. Butterfly Bushes aren't native to this country, but they're an addition to the garden because the scent and nectar attracts the butterflies.

"Butterflies are able to see things on flowers that we can't," says Dr. Gary Wassmer, associate professor of biological and allied health sciences at Bloomsburg University. "Patterns on the flowers give signals to but-

terflies to have them land there," he says. Butterflies pollinate flowers, although they aren't as important as bees. "They are beautiful creatures," says Wassmer. One of the ways they're beneficial is the pleasure humans get from watching them, he says. Songbirds also benefit from butterflies. Butterflies are a main food source for songbirds.

There are about 150 species of butterflies in Pennsylvania, which fall into six families. These family groups are Swallowtails, Whites

and Sulphurs, Gossamer-wing Butterflies, Metalmarks, Brush-footed Butterflies, and Skippers. There are about 165,000 described species of butterflies and moths, which make up the second largest group of animals, behind beetles. Butterflies are said to have originated during the time of dinosaurs, which falls into the Mesozoic Era, 63 to 230 million years ago.

[For more information call the museum office at (570) 389-9206 or go to www.the-childrens-museum.org.]



LEFT: The Tiger Swallowtail, shown on a Tall Penstemon wildflower, is found across the United States.

BELOW: The Atlantis Fritillary, a western species of the Brushfoot family, is perched on a western species of thistle.



Photos by Jared Gricoskie



Mothers in Tuition

by Tareva Tabron

Tammy Matthews-Hunter, one of about 960,000 non-traditional students over 40 years old, combines her job with her studies.

Every day Tammy Matthews-Hunter wakes up at 5:30 a.m. so that she has time for normal preparations, breakfast, and prayer and scripture with her husband before leaving for class at 8. Although she lives in Bloomsburg, she doesn't live in town, so if she's walking she leaves her house around 7.

Matthews-Hunter, 43, is a student at Bloomsburg University. She started college when she was 17 and later got married and had children. She found it difficult to go to school while trying to raise a family. "I needed to be there for them," she says about her decision to leave school. However, she always knew that when her kids were older she would finish school. Matthews-Hunter has three children: her eldest daughter, Crystal, is a graduate student at University of Scranton; both of her sons, Jonathan and Eric, are students at Bloomsburg University. After 15 years, she found the time and support to go back to school.

Matthews-Hunter struggled with financial circumstances when she lost her job as office manager at The Visual Difference, and had to settle for minimum wage positions on campus because she couldn't find another job that was flexible with her class schedule. Still, she didn't want to drop-out of school because she says it's her priority now. Matthews-Hunter also struggled with dizziness to the point that she couldn't read her notes or textbooks. "There were days I would sit in class and not take notes because I was so dizzy I could barely see," she explains. She was ready to quit school, but she stayed focused on her goal, and did everything she could to get good grades. She plans to graduate in 2009 with a degree in exercise science.

For many women, the process of obtaining a college degree is interrupted by raising a family; some women never take a break, going to school while raising children. Others wait until their children are older, and some never go to college.

Non-traditional students are students who either have children, work full-time, are over 24 years-old, or all of the above. In the 1999–2000 school year, about 73 percent of undergraduate students were non-traditional. In the United States, 2.8 million female students are over 24; of those students, 960,000 are over 40, according to a 2005 report from the National Center for Education Statistics. Bloomsburg University statistics state that 361 female students are non-traditional; 285 are degree students with 40 percent of non-traditional female degree students attending full time.

In contrast to traditional students, non-traditional students also face challenges that come from having greater responsibilities which tax their time and resources. Where there are federal support programs for traditional students that are at risk, there are none for pregnant or parenting students. These students either struggle alone or find alternative agencies that offer guid-

ance, mentoring, and support. Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Bloomsburg provided support to Matthews-Hunter by helping her and two of her children get scholarships and grants through the Central Pennsylvania Conference.

Keli Reed, 23, is an education major at Luzerne County Community College. She works at Ruby Tuesday's Restaurant in Wilkes-Barre, is a cocktail waitress at Mohegan Sun Casino at Pocono Downs, and the mother to one-year-old Elijah. She started her college career at Bloomsburg University and found out she was having a child at the end of her sophomore year. She decided to continue school and returned in the fall. She went to school full time through her pregnancy, "Being pregnant on campus was the worst. I had to deal with all the stares and stereotypes," she says.

Towards the end of her pregnancy she received incompletes in all of her classes. Still, she refused to withdraw, knowing that she would have her child over winter break and have to return less than a month later to take on the spring semester,



Photo by Tareva Tabron

Keli Reed takes care of Elijah at her home in Wilkes-Barre.

while finishing the schoolwork left from the fall semester. She stayed at Bloomsburg University because she thought she was close to graduating, and moved to Wilkes-Barre. She says she couldn't find a landlord in Bloomsburg who would rent to her knowing that she was having a child.

Reed left Bloomsburg University after the fall 2006 semester and transferred to Luzerne County Community College where she is now getting an associate's degree in elementary education. She transferred because she was in her fourth year at Bloomsburg University and was still undeclared. "Bloomsburg Univer-

sity was too much money having been there for four years and still not getting into my major," she explains. She believes she wasted 85 credits on general education requirements. Reed plans to student teach while she pursues her bachelor's degree. She doesn't feel like her education can be put on hold. Raising a child on her own, she knows that she will do better with a degree. Even with two jobs, she still feels stuck.

Much like Reed, Leah Eaton found herself working at a job that was going nowhere. Eaton, 48, is a mother of four children, and is currently a senior majoring in communications at Bloomsburg University, where she sits on the board of the ACT 101 development program as both a student and a parent. Act 101 is an equal education opportunity program for students who have been traditionally under-represented in higher education. Thirty years ago, when Eaton graduated from high school, all she had in mind was getting a job, her own place, and a car. She got married shortly after graduation and started a family.

Years passed, and she found her-

Leah Eaton decided to return to school after 17 years of employment.



Photo by David P.T. Flores

self with 17 years of employment as a collections clerk with Geisinger Health South. Eaton struggled with finances and with raising her children on her own after her 10-year marriage ended. She says she has spent many hours in the offices of her advisors crying about issues at home because she thought she wouldn't make it. "With children and work issues, I didn't feel like I had the support I needed," she says. Still, they encouraged her to continue and pushed her to succeed. Dr. Irvin Wright, Act 101 director, is one of Eaton's advisors. "It takes a very special person to juggle that many balls and stay sane," says Dr. Wright. Eaton says she realized that she had to do this for herself because she wanted it. "Don't do it for anybody else," Eaton says. "When you make your mind up that you want it, you need to do it for you. And I think that's enough, at least for me," she says.

There are a lot of things that can happen between a person's freshman year in high school and their senior year in college that can make the length of time span well over eight years. The reasons for going back or for staying in school while raising young children are different from one person to another. Some say it's for the money, for some it's the prestige; for others, it's just to gain more knowledge. Whatever the reason, the struggle proves to be worth it when women like Matthews-Hunter, Reed, and Eaton accomplish a huge goal, and are better able to provide for themselves and their families in a career that they enjoy. **S**

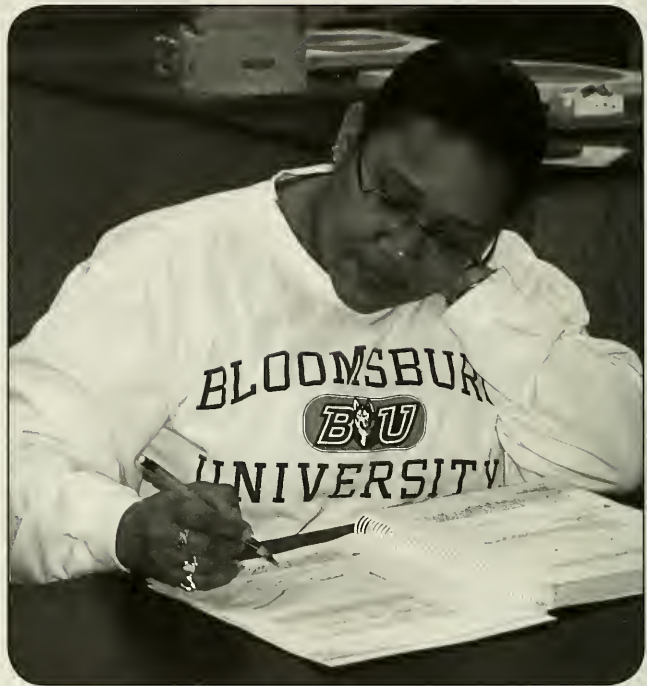


Photo by Rebecca Marks

Tammy Matthews-Hunter works on an in-class assignment during a lab for a required course.



Fourteen years after dropping out of Bloomsburg University to mother her twins, Stefanie Dawson, Selinsgrove, received her business degree in Administrative Medical Assistance from the McCann School of Business. "I got the chance to see my kids grow up instead of missing it," she says.

Housing and Justice for All

It would have been easier for Keli Reed if she could have found housing in Bloomsburg. "I couldn't find an apartment because no one would rent to me knowing I was pregnant," she says. However, the Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings based on race, religion, sex, disability, or family status and size including pregnant women and parents with young children.

Victims of housing discrimination may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). When someone files a complaint concerning Fair Housing, it becomes a legal concern. The complaint is investigated. If reasonable cause is found, it goes to court at the defendant's expense unless the defendant signs conciliation with the plaintiff, saying that they will make the housing available. If conciliation is not signed, the court will order the landlord to make the housing available. The landlord will also have to compensate the plaintiff for humiliation, pain and suffering, and pay court and attorney fees. There is a maximum fine of \$10,000 for a first offense and \$30,000 for the third in seven years.

Photo by Justin Strawser

Alternative Credits

There are more ways to earn college credits than by enrolling in and attending classes. The American Council on Education (ACE) makes college credit recommendations for students who learn outside the classroom. Their evaluation staff, which consists of faculty from colleges around the country, recommends credits to be awarded to students at cooperating schools.

One such source of credit is through military service experience. ACE (www.acenet.edu) examines a student's military courses and recommends college equivalent credit. ACE's website has an online version of the guidebook available.

CLEP, or the College Level Examination Program, is one of the most common ways to earn credits outside the classroom. Non-traditional students can test out of courses they need college credit for, which helps save on tuition costs as well as time. CLEP examinations are administered by the College Board, and most colleges in the United States award the same amount of credits for a successful examination score that they would for attending and passing the equivalent course.

CLEP tests are designed to correspond to one-semester courses, although some correspond to one-year or two-year courses. All the examinations are 90 minutes in length and consist of multiple choice questions, except for English Composition with essay tests. ACE has a guide for minimum credit-granting scores on CLEP examinations.

A program designed for servicemen and women called Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) allows members of both the active duty and reserve branches of the military services to test out of courses at DANTES testing centers in the same manner as other students who use CLEP to earn credit. This

is also available to eligible civilian employees and spouses of Reserve Component and Coast Guard personnel. All DANTES testing is free for those eligible.

Corporations and businesses which offer formal training and courses also receive credit recommendations from ACE. "Every major company has courses that we give credit recommendations for, from McDonald's to the CIA," says Susan Porter Robinson, vice president of life long education at ACE. Credit may be awarded for vocational, associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees.

Numerous institutions also give life experience credits. Students prepare a full portfolio of their work, including documentation and recommendations, and may receive three to 15 credits. For example, a first aid instructor may receive credit for a course in advanced first aid if a university offers that course. Another student who may have spent several years as an actress might be able to receive 15 theatre credits for various competencies, such as acting, stagecraft, and costume design.

Although many colleges and faculty believe that knowledge can best be acquired in a formal classroom, hundreds of fully-accredited universities have national reputations for encouraging and assisting students to receive their degrees through non-traditional instruction.

Among the universities that have strong programs to allow students to combine several learning methods to receive credits are the University of Massachusetts, Ohio University, the University of Maryland, and Antioch College. In addition, Thomas A. Edison State College (Trenton, N.J.) and Excelsior College (formerly: University of the State of New York), among others, have extensive programs that allow persons to acquire degrees without having to leave their homes.

—MIKE DOSTAL & ANDREW YOUNG



Celebrating 30 Years



2007 - 2008 Season

- You Can't Take It With You
by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart
- A Christmas Carol
adapted from Charles Dickens
- Blithe Spirit
by Noël Coward
- Incorruptible
by Michael Hollinger



* Subscriptions begin at \$30.00. Show dates and subscription details are available online at bte.org or by calling the BTE Box Office.

Mention Spectrum Magazine and bring a friend on us!

The Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble

at the Alvina Krause Theatre

226 Center Street

Downtown Bloomsburg

Box Office: 800.282.0283 • 570.784.8181

www.bte.org

Fade-out on a Movie Palace

By Kyle Rupprecht

Once home to major Hollywood films, the Capitol Theatre on Bloomsburg's Main Street now has a clothing store advertisement on its dilapidated marquee.

For long-time Bloomsburg residents, the Capitol, closed since 1998, brings back memories of a once-bustling downtown, with the theater's neon marquee as its shining center.

Pat Parker, 81, a lifelong resident of Bloomsburg, used to go to the Capitol every Saturday afternoon with her friends. "Saturdays at the theater were aimed at the younger generation, and all the kids in the neighborhood would go," Parker says. In the balcony, teenage couples would sit to get away from the younger children. "We went up there to spoon," she says.

Richard and Bonnie Casey both grew up in Bloomsburg, and have fond memories of the Capitol. "The

general admission used to be 10 cents at the theater and my friends and I would sometimes skip school to go," Bonnie Casey, 73, says. "I loved Westerns. The Roy Rogers pictures were my favorite," she says. Her husband, Richard, 77, remembers before the feature film, the audience would see "March of Time," newsreels produced by the editors of *Time/Life Magazine*. "Back then, my friends and I thought it was boring," Richard says.

The theater, originally named the Victoria, opened on March 19, 1914. It was built for \$25,000 by L.J. Chamberlin, Shamokin, who described the Victoria as "up to date in every respect." The building had a seating capacity of 1,200. By the late 1920s, it was the first movie theater in Columbia County to be equipped with sound. The theater originally had Greek columns on either side of a large archway leading into the interior. The building was destroyed by a fire on March 12, 1927. It was rebuilt and opened a year later, renamed the Capitol Theatre.

As the Capitol, the theater remained open for 70 years, closing in 1998. It is currently owned by Marvin Troutman who bought it in 1970, and now owns 66 screens in Central Pennsylvania in five locations, including Cinema Center 12 in Bloomsburg. Troutman was responsible for adding a second movie screen in 1978. "Seeing people lined down the block waiting to come inside the Capitol always put a smile on my face," he says.

Troutman himself tried to breathe new life into the

old theater by showing art house films at the Capitol in 1998, just before it closed. "We tried showing independent movies for four or five months, but business was poor. We couldn't pay the electric bill," he says.

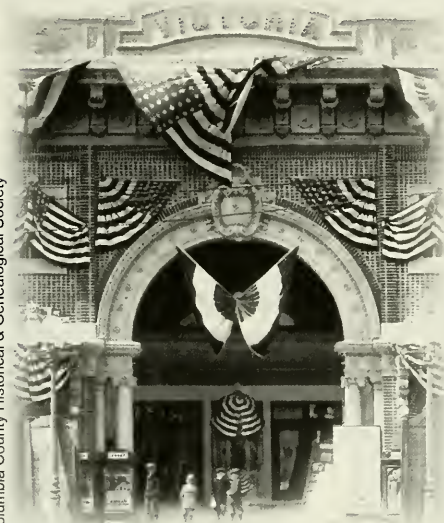
There were plans to convert the Capitol into a parking garage, keeping the facade of the building. However, many residents, according to an article in the *Press-Enterprise* in 2001, said that they wanted Main Street to remain quiet and others didn't believe a parking garage was an appropriate use for the building.

Downtown Bloomsburg changed dramatically over the years. "In the 1970s and 1980s, Main Street was a whole different world," says Troutman. On a Friday or Saturday night, there would be many people lined up and down the streets," he says. "It was a lively place," he adds. And at the center of it stood a bustling Capitol Theatre.

For now, the future of the theater is unclear. Troutman says he doesn't want the building to be a movie theater again because it would give the Cinema Center competition. The building is currently on the market. Troutman would prefer it to be used for a retail establishment or student housing. **S**



Photo by Rebecca Marks



The Victoria Theatre before it was destroyed by a fire in 1927.

The Mohegan Method

by Andrew Young

Nearly 400 years ago, the English colonized parts of the East Coast and would later tear lands and cultures from Native American tribes. The Mohegan Tribe chose prosperity and cooperated with the English.

Today, the Mohegan name is synonymous with emptying American pockets. Since its inception in 1996, Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Conn., has used each of the 300,000 square feet of its casino to enrich Mohegan culture, while leaving Americans with a few hours of enjoyment and, usually, less money than they came with. After acquiring Pocono Downs in January 2005, Mohegan Sun has become an independent economy supporting Mohegan peoples.

While Connecticut was forming in the early 1600s, Uncas, the first head chief (or Sachem) of the Mohegan tribe, saw expanding European colonies as an opportunity to strengthen his people. Instead of hostility toward the English, Uncas chose cooperation. He is now viewed as a pioneer for be-friending his European counterparts and forming alliances. In turn for his collaboration with invaders, he and his people helped the English defeat the neighboring Pequot Tribe. Uncas' sovereignty helped the tribe survive the disease, war, and hunger which decimated thousands of American Indian tribes. By the Revolutionary War, alliances with the English deteriorated and Mohegans fought on both sides.

The Mohegan Tribe now exists as a monument to adaptation. Adhering to Uncas' standards of prosperity and progression, to-

day's Mohegans built the Mohegan Sun Casino on its reservation lands in Connecticut with help from outside investors. Although it's a federally-recognized tribe, the Mohegan Council chose to decline federal reparations and land allotments to advance its economy internally rather than rely upon the federal government's Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Chuck Bunnell, the Mohegan Council chief of staff, says, "Even though we could've been provided with federal funds to maintain our culture, we chose to return those funds and asked that they be given to needier federally-recognized tribes." To become federally-recognized, tribes have to prove that they've maintained a separate and distinct culture that persevered after intervention with non-natives. There are no federally-recognized Native American tribes in Pennsylvania.

However, the Mohegan Tribe chose

Pennsylvania, specifically the resort area of the Poconos, to open a second casino. Pennsylvania has adopted new laws that allow slot machine gambling and, along with horserace betting, the Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs has revived a wilting industry.

Native American peoples "do what they can to get revenue," says Bunnell, "from bingo to gaming, to owning strip malls and gas stations, many tribes that aren't recognized look for ways to protect their culture in a growing world." Tribes that aren't recognized by the federal government cannot receive reparations they were promised, and the lands that were once theirs. So, these tribes must look elsewhere to preserve their culture.

Today, like their predecessors, the Mohegan Tribe has flourished from capitalizing on economic opportunity. *S*

Art Provided by Mohegan Tribal Council



From trading and supporting the English during the 17th and 18th centuries to owning two large casinos, including the newly opened casino at Pocono Downs, the Mohegans have learned how to use commerce to their advantage.

Photo by Warren Ruda, Citizen's Voice



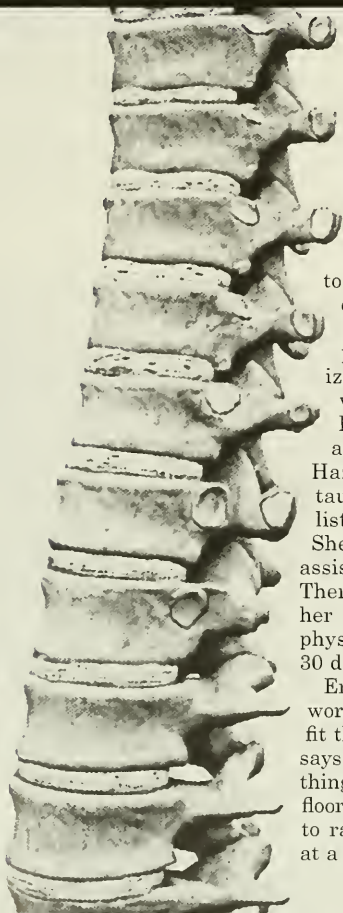
Getting Back IN LINE

by Megan Jennings

Photo By David P.T. Flores



Jennifer Ross (left), of Phoenix Physical Therapy, Bloomsburg, assists Dr. Gloria Cohen-Dinn to relieve chronic neck pain.



When Jennifer Ross was 19 she hurt her back when she and another woman were trying to lift a large box while working in a garment factory in Shamokin. "The box weighed almost 400 pounds," says Ross.

She went to the emergency room, and said she was able to walk but "the pain was excruciating." She later went to a chiropractor, and to a physical therapist. Ross realized that physical therapy is what she wanted to do with her life. She attended classes at the Penn State University Hazleton campus where she was taught ergonomics. "I learned by listening and doing," Ross says. She is now a physical therapist assistant at Phoenix Physical Therapy, Bloomsburg. She tells her patients the same thing her physical therapist said, "Give me 30 days to make a difference."

Ergonomics is "adjusting the work station a person works at to fit their body while doing the job," says Ross. It ranges from everything to having mats on cement floors to help with lower back pain to raising the height of a monitor at a person's desk to decrease neck

pain, says Castan Kiersch, a physical therapist at Susquehanna Physical Therapy, Bloomsburg.

Good posture is also necessary. Ross, who points out it "helps muscles stay tight, and supports digestion and heart functions." Some tips Ross gives for posture are making sure a person's bottom is pushed all the way back in a chair, shoulders are upright and relaxed, and legs are at a 90 degree angle. For people who have difficulty sitting upright in a regular chair, there are ergonomic chairs that fit the curve of a person's spine while also having the arm rest at a proper height, says Kiersch.

Sharon Lutz is a licensed practical nurse who had her left knee replaced in September 2006. One of her therapists at Susquehanna Physical Therapy, Michael Getz, says in Lutz's case, ergonomics is focused on her gait, or walking pattern. Getz looks at all his patients' walking patterns. "Gait dysfunction is a cause for back, ankle, or hip pain," he says. "If it can be fixed with an orthotic, we'll do that." An orthotic is a device put into the shoe to support the foot. Lutz says she experienced knee pain when walking, sometimes her hip. Getz always checks for other conditions after someone has had a

knee replacement. "It's important to be aware of other problems with the patient," says Getz.

Lutz finished her structured therapy last November, but goes to physical therapy for the wellness program. "I do a lot of the same things I did before," she says. Although her range of motion is back, the muscle still needs strengthening.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reported that repetitive strain injuries cost more than \$20 billion a year in workers compensation and are the nations most common and costly work related health problem. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics also reports that nearly two-thirds of all occupational health problems are caused by exposure to repeated trauma to workers' upper body, such as the wrist, elbow, or shoulder. A common example of this injury is carpal tunnel syndrome.

Carpal tunnel syndrome is a result of increased pressure on the median nerve and tendons in the carpal tunnel, which is made of ligaments and bones located at the base of the hand. Factors contrib-

uting to carpal tunnel syndrome include work stress such as constant computer typing, or repeated use of vibrating hand tools. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health reports that musculoskeletal disorders such as carpal tunnel syndrome are among the most prevalent medical conditions in the United States, affecting seven percent of the population. They account for 14 percent of physician visits and 19 percent of hospital stays.

According to the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), 42 of the 50 states have revised their statutes and no longer require a physician's referral to see a physical therapist for treatment. Although most states now have direct access there may be provisions a patient must follow. Insurance companies may require a physician's referral.

Ergonomics not only benefits

ORIGINS OF ERGONOMICS

There are several theories about where the study of ergonomics originated. An Italian physician, Bernardino Ramazzini, is believed to be the first to study and write about the association between work and injuries and illnesses, including musculoskeletal injuries. In 1700, Ramazzini wrote *De Morbis Artificum* ("Disease of Workers") where much of his work is summarized. Although Ramazzini is credited as being the first person to study ergonomics, Wojciech Jastrzebowski, a Polish biologist, was given recognition for coming up with the term 'ergonomics' in 1857.

people at work, but also helps them with daily tasks. "The patient can go home and not worry about carpal tunnel problems or back problems. They can enjoy whatever they like to do with their family," Kiersch says.

Ross says that if people make changes in their work environment and at home, it can help them improve their lives as a whole, and promote a healthier pain-free lifestyle. **S**

ERGONOMICS AT HOME

There are products on the market now to help people become more ergonomically efficient, if they can't make it to a physical therapist's office.

- Ergonomic keyboards are used to help reduce repetitive stress injury and carpal tunnel syndrome.

- Ergonomic chairs are designed to fit the curve of a person's spine and make them sit upright.

- Document holders are also useful not only for making typing more comfortable, but for freeing up desk space.

For more help at home, ergonomic pillows and mattress pads are available to make sleeping a more enjoyable experience. There are many pillows on the market, but most ergonomic, also referred to as memory foam or support pillows, allow the neck and spine to relax. The price range of the pillows is \$50 to \$90 and the mattress pads can range from \$150 to \$280. Mattresses with frames can cost as much as \$3,500.



Sharon Lutz continues her treatment at Susquehanna Physical Therapy, Bloomsburg, by strengthening her knee. She had a knee replacement in October 2006.

Photo By Emily Runge

The Never-Ending Drive

Bloomsburg Man Teaches Area Golfers More than Just the Perfect Swing

by Mike Dostal

Ever since an umpire told 13-year-old Gary Sohosky he had a nasty curveball, he knew he was going to be an athlete. That same year, he began playing golf; he broke par the next year. "When I was younger, I got to a point where I felt I was mastering sports," he said. Sohosky played quarterback for his high school football team, pitched for the baseball team, and played point guard on the basketball team. Now, at 49, Sohosky shows aspiring golfers how to get rid of their nasty curve—on their tee shot, that is. As an instructor at the "Tee to Green" golf center in Danville, Sohosky has spent the last 12 years working with amateur golfers of all handicaps. However, he still has competitive desires to fulfill.

"I was hoping to take a shot at the Senior Tour some time," Sohosky says. He was the "head pro" at Tournament Players Club at Scottsdale, Ariz., 20 years ago, trying to work his way onto the PGA Tour. "A lot of guys were getting into the business by working at a club," Sohosky says. That drive was cut short when Sohosky started a family. "I got married young and had two kids and I was too busy to try things playing-wise at that point," he says. Sohosky is in the process of a divorce he won't talk about.

If he follows through on his plan to compete on the Senior Tour, Sohosky, who turns 50 in late 2007, won't be

rusty. "I've been working on my own game in order to relate better to my students, since it gives me more insight into what they're going through," he says. The enthusiasm toward teaching stems from his personal desire for the game, which Sohosky says he's had his entire life. "It really took me over," he says.

Sohosky says other sports interested him, but golf is in

"I've been working on my own game in order to relate better to my students, since it gives me more insight into what they're going through."

—Gary Sohosky

a different class. Golf "is much more complex than other sports," Sohosky says. "I've read and re-read almost every book on golf, some of them three times," he says. Sohosky says the game is "very counter-intuitive," and that it takes the average player five years under someone's tutelage to get a good grip on their game.

Sohosky even uses computer analysis to help his students with their swing. By video recording his students, he can quickly find the mechanical error that sends their ball into the nearest bunker



Gary Sohosky uses a combination of video analysis and a trained eye to spot weaknesses in his students' swings.

or water hazard. The technology simplifies things somewhat, but Sohosky still trusts his eye. "I can usually tell within two or three swings exactly what's wrong," he says. Computer simulations help golfers analyze their mistakes, but Sohosky wouldn't substitute any of it for actual practice. "I'm more in a business to educate people than to sell them things," he says. "The simulations are really inaccurate and unreliable," he says.

Photo by David P.T. Flores

Sohosky has instructed at a variety of clubs besides TPC Scottsdale, including Stratton in Vermont, a golf school widely considered one of the best in the country. "Every job was just an excuse to find a place to teach," he says. He takes pride in his position as instructor, as a self-taught player. "I wasn't able to get lessons when I was younger," Sohosky says. Now, with the upcoming tour in his sights, Sohosky is glad he stayed with golf after he missed out on his first chance years ago. "It's the only job I've ever had, and the only one I've wanted to have," he says. Besides, a full-time career is like a giant sand trap, according to Sohosky. "If you take a real job, you can forget about playing golf for a living," he says.

The teacher in Sohosky is a confident man. "I've had people who had a slice in their swing for 10 years walk in to me and lose it in one lesson," he says. Sohosky is drawn to golf by how different the game is—something he stresses to his students. "There are things you do in a golf swing that you don't do in normal life," he says. His lessons sometimes pay dividends, too. He's mentored "a couple of kids that went on to get scholarships," Sohosky says. Someone with his kind of experience (he broke a record for longest hole-in-one in 1976) is hard to find.

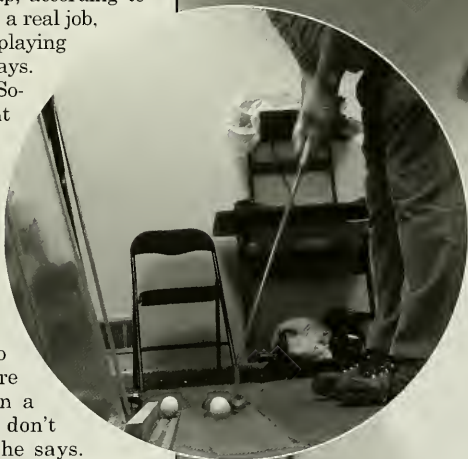
"There are good lawyers, bad lawyers, good and bad doctors, and golf professionals are no different," Sohosky says. The best money a new golfer will spend, according to Sohosky, is on lessons. He, unlike others in his field, works full time as an instructor. "Some instructors don't do very much teaching," he says.

In a game that dates back to the 16th century, golf instructors have been around for as many as four generations in the United

States, according to Sohosky. He might even be the father of his own second-generation teachers. He says both of his children are showing signs not only of interest in the sport, but aptitude as well. "My five-year-old daughter is hitting with a nine iron dead straight for 45 yards," Sohosky says.

If he doesn't make the cut for the PGA Senior Tour, Sohosky will still have his teaching to keep his game up to par. He sometimes visits the

links at Foxhill Country Club near Pittston, as well as nearby Frosty Valley in Danville. "I know good golfers and students who would drive a thousand miles to find the right instructor," Sohosky says. Until his tentative preparations cut into class time, Sohosky will stick with the passion that has sustained him. "I understand my own game and my own swing better than I ever have," he says. **S**



Gary Sohosky tries to improve his own golf game so that he can improve those of his students.

Photos by David P.T. Flores



Your one-stop shopping experience on the campus of Bloomsburg University.

- Textbooks -New and Used
- General Books
- School, Office, and Art Supplies
- Insignia Clothing and Gifts
- Convenience Foods and Drinks
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Magazines
- Phone Cards
- Computer Software and Supplies

Other Services

- Gift Cards
- Kodak Picture Maker
- Money Orders
- Laminating
- FedEx
- Western Union Pick-up
- Fax
- Copy Machine

Textbook Buy Back

At the end of each semester, the University Store repurchases textbooks that have been adopted for the upcoming semester at 50% of the retail price. Textbooks not needed for inventory may be purchased by Missouri Book Company at the prevailing market price.



Regular Semester Hours:

- Mon-Thurs 7:45 AM - 8 PM
- Friday 7:45 AM - 4:30 PM
- Saturday 12 Noon - 5 PM
- Sunday 12 Noon - 4 PM

Summer Hours:

- Mon-Fri 8 AM - 4:30 PM
- Sat-Sun Closed

Shop at our online store www.bloomustore.com

SAKUNTALA

FINE INDIAN CUISINE

"Simply wonderful"

236 IRON STREET
BLOOMSBURG
389-0281



open monday - saturday
4pm to 9:30pm



Studio D
Photography & Design

106 E. Front St.
2nd Floor
Berwick, PA 18603
570-752-4119

www.studio-d-photo.com
info@studio-d-photo.com

- model portfolios
- weddings
- seniors
- band promo
- families
- commercial



Although a car would appear to be on a hill, the vehicle will roll up the slope.

About 12 miles outside of Bloomsburg along Route 42 is a road that appears to defy gravity. The unpaved Gravity Hill Road appears to be on a slope, but if a car is parked in neutral the vehicle will eerily roll up the hill.

But gravity-defying is not a description Dr. Duane Braun, professor of geosciences at Bloomsburg University, would use to describe the phenomenon. "Gravity Hill is a short segment where one's eye is fooled into visualizing that the road is sloping down one way when it's actually sloping the opposite way," says Braun. "This is an example of a topographic optical illusion," he says. The steep sudden rise of Route 42 against the gentle slope of Gravity Hill Road deceives an observer. "You stop and expect your car to roll backwards. Much to your surprise, it appears to roll forward," he says.

What's eerier is that state officials deny having any responsibility for the road. Both the PennDOT headquarters in Harrisburg and its office in Columbia County claim to have no information about it. It's also not a township road, says Helen Lindenmuth, Locust Township secretary. She says the residents on the road wanted the township to improve it, but it was never public.

Although Columbia County's Gravity Hill Road

The Hills have Lies

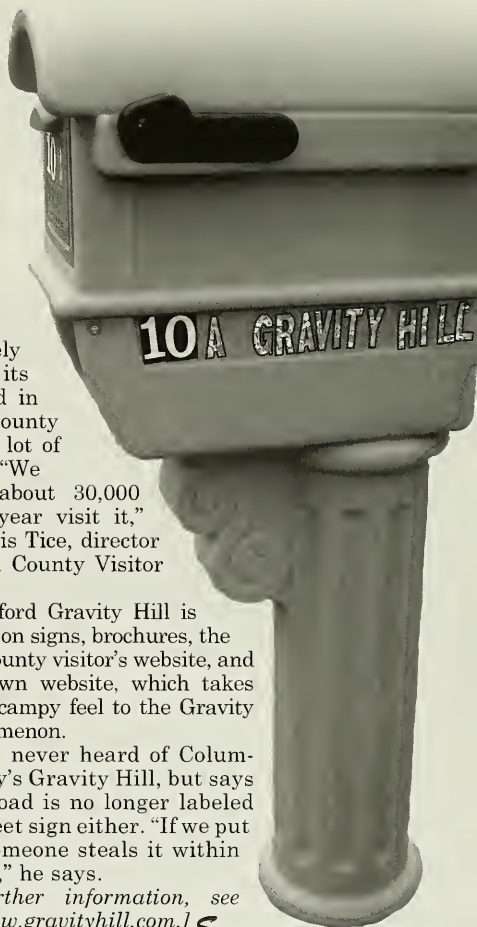
Story and photos by Justin Strawser

is relatively unknown, its sister road in Bedford County receives a lot of attention. "We estimate about 30,000 people a year visit it," says Dennis Tice, director of Bedford County Visitor Bureau.

The Bedford Gravity Hill is advertised on signs, brochures, the Bedford County visitor's website, and even its own website, which takes more of a campy feel to the Gravity Hill phenomenon.

Tice has never heard of Columbia County's Gravity Hill, but says that his road is no longer labeled with a street sign either. "If we put one up, someone steals it within that week," he says.

[For further information, see <http://www.gravityhill.com>.] *S*





The 15 Commandments

There are only 10 Commandments. But, there are 15 rules of behavior at Pennsylvania's rest stops.

Just as Moses was given stone tablets and the responsibility to oversee his people, Connie Tyson, roadside specialist II, oversees these Pennsylvania highway break areas. "The rules have been in place since the '60s to curtail any activity," she says.

The rules prohibit such things as vandalism, consuming alcoholic beverages, or driving more than 25 miles per hour. There is a two hour time limit that people can park their vehicles. "Many facilities are constantly busy. We can't have people staying very long," Tyson says. She

explains that the purpose of a rest stop has always been "a place you go, get out, use the facilities, grab something to drink, look at a map, and keep going."

The rules and regulations are in line for renovation. "Our lawyers have changed a few words here and there and tightened it up a little bit. Some of the areas were a little grey," she says, mentioning the new rules will prohibit any type of literature being distributed that hasn't been approved on the property.

Although God's commandments are literally set in stone, it looks as if Pennsylvania's rest stops rules are not.

—JUSTIN STRAWSER

Thou shalt not take part in...

- 1 Driving or parking of a vehicle in areas other than those provided.
- 2 Parking or standing of a vehicle for more than 2 hours in a single 24-hour period or in excess of the posted time limit.
- 3 Defacing or damaging buildings or other facilities.
- 4 Igniting or maintaining fires for heating or cooking equipment, except in areas or facilities designed for the purpose.
- 5 Depositing or disposing of refuse or waste, except picnic waste and contents of vehicle litter bags, which shall be deposited only in areas or containers provided therefor. Disposing of camping or household refuse in this area is prohibited.
- 6 Consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- 7 Discharging or shooting of firearms or bows and arrows, and hunting or fishing.
- 8 Maintenance or repairing of vehicles—oil changes, filter replacements, draining of coolants, washing vehicles, motor disassembly or assembly and the like—except in emergencies.
- 9 Release of pets. Animals on leashes shall be permitted only in areas designated as pet area.
- 10 Picking, breaking, damaging or abuse of plants or vegetation or parts thereof.
- 11 Use of the area or facilities for bathing or washing of garments or clothing.
- 12 Sale of a product or conduct of other commercial activity, except in emergencies.
- 13 Driving a motor vehicle in excess of 25 miles per hour, except on entrance or exit ramps.
- 14 Use of the area or facilities when closed for the season.
- 15 Engaging in loud, boisterous or abusive conduct or engaging in or soliciting lewd or lascivious conduct, including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse, indecent exposure, open lewdness or prostitution.

Berrigans

Subs

Delivery Service Available NOW!!!

A wide variety of hot and cold subs,
with salads, side orders, and drinks

**A BLOOMSBURG
TRADITION**

Sunday - Thursday: 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

142 East Main St.

(570) 784-4182

Bloomsburg

Join us for Lunch or Dinner with this special offer!



\$5.00 OFF

Your Lunch or Dinner Entrée
with the purchase of another entrée of equal or greater value.

Valid through July 31, 2007. Not valid with any other coupons, offers, discounts, or Handshake Club Points or vouchers.
Not valid on carry-out orders. Limit one coupon per table, per visit. Valid only at Charlie Brown's location listed. Cash value 1/100 cent.

All dinner entrées come
with Unlimited Farmer's
Market Salad Bar.

181 Columbia Mall Dr. Buckhorn, PA. 570-389-7880

Working Hard for a Buck

by Mike Dostal

While his wife and four daughters sleep in their Berwick residence, John Davenport climbs into his truck in the middle of the night and heads to the scene of the latest fatal incident. As one of 46 deer collectors, or “vendors,” contracted by PennDOT, Davenport is responsible for Columbia, Montour, Juniata, Northumberland, and Monroe counties. When drivers report deer carcasses in his coverage area, Davenport’s pager goes off to alert him to the location of the deer. The work environment is gruesome and dangerous, but he knows he won’t have to miss the most important appointment of the day. “I’m home by 7 a.m. every morning to take my little girls to school,” he says.

“I worked at a print factory where they didn’t realize that people work for their family and that’s more important,” Davenport says. His wife, Kim, worked with him in the same factory prior to his current job. The income for a deer corpse collector varies from county to county, but the statewide average is \$46 per carcass, according to Steve Chizman, deputy press secretary of PennDOT. Davenport collects \$35 per deer in Columbia county, and \$40 in Montour. Davenport says he was attracted to the job more for the flexible schedule than the pay. Instead of a 16-hour factory shift, he works a few hours during the night and spends more time with his family of six.

Davenport turned down an interview with WNEP-TV for the sake of his young children. “I think what their dad does embarrasses them

Davenport prefers to work during off-hours so he can take his children to school in the morning.

Photo by David P.T. Flores

a little bit," says Davenport, who also works in a plant nursery when deer fatalities decline, between November and May. "Before this I was pretty much just living to work," he says. Davenport works on a call-in basis, and only collects deer. If a deer runs into the woods or onto someone's property and dies after it's struck, Davenport leaves it behind. Anything more than 80 feet from the center line of a state highway is handled by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

In 2005, there were 164 deer carcasses picked up from Columbia County roadways, according to Rick Mason, PennDOT. The number increased to 194 last year. The number of deer carcasses collected in Montour County in 2006 was

"I worked at a print factory where they didn't realize that people work for their family and that's more important."

—John Davenport

70. Between April and November of 2006, there were 10,000 deer carcasses collected in Pennsylvania.

Splattered deer remains might cause the average driver to avert their eyes, but Davenport says they attract a small crowd of trophy seekers. By the time he arrives to clean up most dead bucks, Davenport says the rack from their head, or the entire head has been removed. "Sometimes the Game Commission can make money with nice racks that they collect

when a show comes around," Davenport says, but most of the time someone arrives ahead of him to acquire the racks illegally. "I have yet to catch someone in the act," he says. Of the last 250 deer Davenport collected, 190 were bucks, and only five still had their antlers. *S*

FANTASIES BY REBECCA



REBECCA
ERMISCH
DESIGNER

*The
Costume
Shop*

COSTUME DESIGN
& RENTAL

55 EAST MAIN ST.
BLOOMSBURG
(570) 784-4436

whlm

930 AM - 103.5 FM - WHLM.COM

**4,264 scheduled local newscasts. 20,640 local weather reports.
1,244 hours of local programming.**

**Bloomsburg University Husky Football and Basketball.
CBS News. Philadelphia Phillies Baseball.**

**Plus News Radio 930 WHLM was the only area station to
program non-stop flood coverage...for the past THREE floods.**

News Radio 930 WHLM. DEPEND ON IT!

IT'S ALL ABOUT PERFORMANCE.



CBR®1000RR

The 2007 CBR1000RR's radical body design gives this sportbike the look of a jet fighter. And under that shell the story just gets better, with a high-performance 998cc four-cylinder powerhouse of an engine in a state-of-the-art aluminum chassis. Try to catch it today at your local Honda Dealer.

J & B Honda Motor Sales
816 Old Berwick Rd.
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
Phone: (570) 784-1376



honda.com ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET, EYE PROTECTION AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING. NEVER RIDE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, AND NEVER USE THE STREET AS A RACETRACK. OBEY THE LAW AND READ YOUR OWNER'S MANUAL THOROUGHLY. For rider training information or to locate a rider training course near you, call the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at 1-800-446-9227. CBR® and Performance First™ are trademarks of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (12/06) 06-0177



SHE NEEDS HER FUR MORE THAN YOU DO

Please choose compassion
as *your* fashion.

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES.**

2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037
202-452-1100

www.furfree.hsus.org

©2007 The HSUS. All rights reserved.

We Cater to Your Every Need



Our professional staff is prepared to assist you in preparing your next event, no matter what the occasion. Services offered include personalized & wedding cakes, party rentals, flowers, decorations, deli trays, boxed lunches, soup & salad buffets, bartending and beyond.

So Sit Back, Relax and Enjoy.



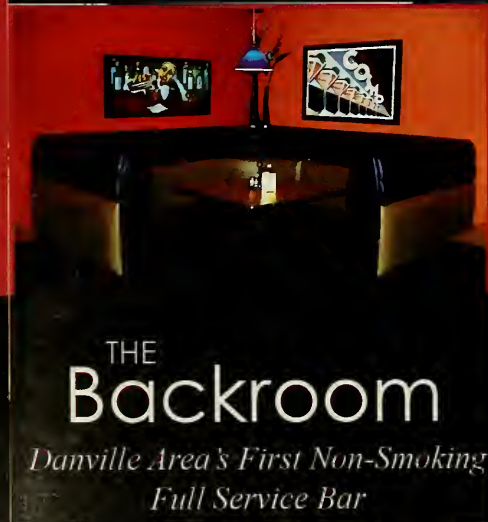
Weddings
Graduations
Barbeques
Business Luncheons
Dinner Parties
Birthdays
Holiday Parties
Cocktail Parties
Showers
Memorials
and much more!

The Susquehanna Chef
(570) 784 - 8802

Where Atmosphere is Affordable
Mulberry's



Relax in ^{THE} Lounge



THE
Backroom

*Danville Area's First Non-Smoking
Full Service Bar*

SERVING LUNCH &
DINNER DAILY

Children's Menu Available

~ Reservations Recommended ~

DINING HOURS

Mon. ~ Thurs. 11 a.m. ~ 8 p.m.

Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m. ~ 9 p.m.

Sun. 11 a.m. ~ 2 p.m.

LIVE MUSIC

7 p.m. ~ 9 p.m. some Saturdays
See our schedule on our website

Owned & Operated
by Matson Pierce

336 Mill Street, Danville ♦ (570) 275-6615

www.mulberrysrestaurant.com