Houston, we have a food court

By Thaisa Schweiger The Daily Pennsylvanian

With Houston Market finally open this week, students are checking out the new facility, comparing it to other eateries on campus - and seeing how the multiple vendors will complement each other.

Geraldo, students said they consider the prices - which range from $1.99 to $3.25 - to be fairly reasonable. And they were impressed with the stylish decor, including stone walls and elaborate windows.

But many seniors said they still missed the hot-bod chefs, like Burger King and Pizza Hut, where they could eat in lounging chairs. While some seniors, such as Associate Dean Franco Murphy, said it was in much better order than the old Houston Market, it would have been better if they had had independent vendors.

But College senator Zehra Nigui said she liked the idea of having the five vendors in the same clean common area.

But in the end, the Houston Market stood up against the old Houston Market, which had stood apart recently.

A cheeseburger costs $2.85 at Houston Hall and $2.50 at Luxembourg.

U. folds Security Services office

By Barry Henske-Shafer

The last five major administrative appointments - for provost, School of Arts and Sciences dean, Engineering School dean, Wharton dean, and provost - will all be filled soon, according to university leaders.

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Campus Events

For more happenings in a campus by campus guide, see our weekly educational calendar.

FRIDAY

COME and see the
horse market on "Creating A Market in
Europe." Location: Race Track, Chemistry Building.

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Attention

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Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral Students

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Potential justice won't name names

By Robert Steinman

The Daily Pennsylvanian

Walter Dellinger could have named "a Supreme Court justice if Vice President Al Gore wins the opening election." Just don't bother trying to get his opinion on the Bush-Gore showdown. In point of fact, for an inten- sive and purpose, he has not.

Dellinger, a Duke University Law professor who has argued nine cases before the Supreme Court, delivered a talk entitled "The Supreme Court and the Presidency," in a filled-to-capacity auditorium in the Law school yesterday afternoon. The talk was part of the Irving R. Le- gal Leadership in Trial Advocacy Program.

The lecture featured a man renowned in the legal field. In ad- dition to being on the Law faculty at Duke, Dellinger has served as the United States acting solic- itor general and assistant attor- ney general.

Although it is hardly surprising that someone so experienced in the legal and political arena would be interested in the craft of the law, Dellinger spent the vast majority of the lecture praising the legal in- telligence of Abraham Lincoln. "I'm interested in Lincoln because he worked through the process of government know- ing that racism was rampant," Dellinger said. During the lecture, he amused the audience with his clever simile about continuing the names of several Supreme Court justices while es- caping a case before them — but he left many hanging by deliber- ately not mentioning the presi-
dential ones. Indeed, when asked point-blank for his opinion — and predictions on the election — he declined to comment. "I came expecting it to be off the moment," College senior Joe Gordon said. "The speaker struck me as being more even- handed." Dellinger did allude briefly to more current issues when he mentioned his disagreement with the Supreme Court's 1997 ruling allowing Paula Jones to pursue her sexual harassment suit against President Clinton, which ultimately lead to Clinton's impe- cachment.

Dellinger went on to provide the crowd by stating that he dis- agreed with the decision, but found it beneficial nonetheless. "The majority decision of the court was under one and the same law. "His point explaining that no one is above the law was impor- tant," first-year Law student La- thondra Gruler said.

Third-year Law student Adam Coates said he thought that the lecture was very applicable to Law students and said that it was "very inspiring and the right level of the in- side" of politics. "It was inspiring," he said.

And Dellinger's historical background on the Supreme Court, despite his lack of succes- sion to the contemporary political scene, was considered an impor- tant topic for many Law students. "It was really informational at times where there was so much in attendance. "This is a "street talk,"" Dunbar said, because whereas the next president appointee to the Supreme Court will be setting a legal course "for the next 50 years."

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She laddied a cross-functional assignment in Brand Management to launch the new 2000 Taurus. Her ideas have resolved assembly issues at one of our major manufacturing facilities. And currently, she's leading a team of engineers focused on improving Powertrain Control Modules. An impressive career for anyone. What's more impressive is the fact that Ni Kal accomplished all of this and more in just two years.

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It's a remarkable journey. And for Ni Kal, it's just the beginning. For more information on exciting career opportunities at Ford Motor Company, visit us at...

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Irving's Place

Just a short walk away from the dining center is Irving's Place. Here, you'll find casual dining in a casual, comfortable setting. Irving's Place was recently awarded recognition as a "favorite" restaurant in the nation. What are you waiting for? Come and see what all the excitement is about.

Irving's Place

Just across from Irving's Place is the Office of Student Services. This is a convenient place to get help with everything from dining to housing.

Student Services

Office of Student Services

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Student Services

Office of Student Services
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Palladium, Gold Standard Room
Opportunities in Investment Banking & Research

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Prices competitive at new food court

"I appreciate the...niceness of it, but I wonder how much it cost."

Naomi Pitamber
Classical Studies graduate student

Though students seem generally satisfied with the new food court, many would like it more like the old Houston Hall food court, which consisted of fast food chains like Burger King.

"I miss the old one," said Naveed, who was a freshman when the old food court existed.

Some students also wondered whether the new state-of-the-art facility was worth the money it took to build it.

"I appreciate the windows and the niceness of it, but I'm wondering how much it cost and how much of that could be used on other stuff," said Naomi Pitamber, a graduate student in the Classical Studies department.

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Diversity of speakers
To the Editor: Enrique Landaz's recent column ("Talks north healing") is on the right track, but more on the right track is needed. He described the problem on the basis of a number of microcosms and micro-issues.

Landaz claims that only political figures and administrators can talk to Penn students. It is understandable that he feels that speakers with more diverse backgrounds are unquali-
fied to give a Welcome to the Neighborhood speech to Penn students. It is understandable that he feels that speakers with more diverse backgrounds are unquali-
fied to attend the Festival of the Arts and Sciences and the University of Pennsylvania community. In doing so, we en-
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Samantha Cohen
College '01

The writers are the co-chairmen of Compositions.

Faring well in finance
To the Editor: Last week's report that "College grad
made less money in financial fields than Penn's

george W. bush
drew a blank
last week while answering
questions about the '98-'
99 VAWA reauthorization. "It is not up to reauthorization
now," he said, "so the pressure has
caused conferences to slip.
I have seen some of the
conferees try to avoid
speaking. The evidence cited in this article refers
primarily to women who live with violence. Many
women reported experiencing physical assault,
but only 8 percent had ever reported a violent
incident to the police. The evidence cited in this article refers
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Lisa Parsley
Senior Staff Writer

To the Editor: I think it's good be-

I guess I don't feel
too good about it be-
cause I live off campus
and it was a good place
to get lost late at night.

"I think it's horrible
and that Penn is just try-
ing to close down neigh-
borhood stores to open another high-priced store. That seems to be the trend.

"It's too bad it's clos-
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ally but not the non-
shoppers. Except for the people that (beau
ese runners and others have
been reporting instances of
violence against women. Ac-

Amber James
Senior Staff Writer

Word on the Walk
How do you feel about the impending closure of Uni-Mart?

Anna Mc
College junior

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"It's a bad thing for
those of us that live on
40th Street and try to
A lifetime of work on Penn's Big Ben

By Greta Pone

Whartonites, behold: Success can come with a job that pays as cents an hour. Anne Claude Lopez, the only qualifications were knowledge of French, Latin, History, Math, and a bond for Franklin.

About 40 years ago, Lopez translated from Franklin's letters — which are located in Yale University's rare book section — from French to English to help support her children.

She has penned numerous books about Franklin and, as the sole scholar to have read each of his thousands of letters, is an authority on his life.

"I thought she was charming," said Bell Whitfield, associate editor of The Private Franklin, which is published four times an-year. "She writes and speaks with great verve and charm and knowledge," said Bell Whitfield, associate editor of The Private Franklin.

Lopez's only qualifications were extensive contact and correspondence with women. Franklin was not the philanthropist many Americans believe.

"In France, the first thing that is discussed is his genius, how he was a great inventor, a great political leader," Lopez said. "Nobody talks about women.

Publishers' naysaying — and popular notions about Franklin — have not been Lopez's only obstacles. Expensive Info Almanac, which is published in France, has not sold.

"Writing is addictive," Lopez said. "It's as hard as heroin, I think. Once you've written one book, you think: I could do another.

While touring with the book, Lopez reviewed the former president's correspondence in Franklin's personal life, money problems, and other aspects of the writer's life. The Private Franklin is a biography of how Arnold's first foreign diplomat — and Penn's founder — navigated the political territory of his own time.

Lopez emphasized that despite Penn's Big Ben


While touring with the book, Lopez also received letters from Franklin's daughter, his sister, and a few others.

Lopez wrote about Franklin's "private Franklin" — a collection of intimate knowledge of his life.

The first book — and the second book, which is published in France, has not sold.

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Year's first West Nile death reported in N.J.**

HACKENSACK, N.J. — A 75-year-old Jersey resident infected with the West Nile virus in the first in the country to die from the disease this year, Gov. Christine Whitman said yesterday.

The patient, a woman from Little Falls in Passaic County died Sept. 21. It was the second death identified by Dr. Joseph Dragna with West Potterton's Health Department, who has the first death of an individual.

**Man charged with slaying of 11-year-old**

PITTSBURGH — A man was arrested yesterday in the slaying of a 11-year-old boy who was shot to death in a vacant lot — and their 4-year-old son.

Joseph Cornelius was arrested in the strangling death of Scott Drake, whose nude, sexually mutilated body was found Monday in a crop marked by a light beacon two miles from shore. It was unclear how many people were aboard the ship, including two Americans, according to the Greek coast guard. Two people were missing.

**Royal Navy personnel tied to passengers rescued from the stricken Greek ferry the Express Samina, which sank in the Aegean Sea with 510 passengers and crew on board, killing 66 people.**

66 die in Greek ferry crash

The prosecutor is seeking indictments for the captain and crew on murder charges.

**Texas inmate executed after initial reprieve**

DNA tests proved Ricky McGinn guilty of rape and murder.

**HUNTSVILLE, Texas — A condemned man who won an unprecedented reprieve from Texas Gov. George W. Bush was found guilty of rape and murder Monday in new DNA tests that only confirmed his guilt a month earlier for killing his 12-year-old stepdaughter.**

Ricky McGinn, 41, received a lethal injection for raping Stephanie Flanery and bludgeoning her with an ax. tiles evidence was planted or tampered with, but DNA tests showed blood from the victim on his hands.

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during his tenure. With the implementation of numerous educational initiatives, Princeton has seen a record-setting capital campaign surpassing $1 billion — along with the single largest amount of money in one year at Brown. Reinventing only two years into his tenure, Gee had the school's shortest ever presidency.

Rosen said the end of his tenure is a cover story. "We hope to be the first of the three completed," Isaacson said the the Brown presidency should send a cover letter, unofficial transcript and resume to:

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Sweeten Alumni Center
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Students interested in all U.S. offices and London (must be eligible to work in the European Union) should send a cover letter, unofficial transcript and resume to:

Beth Carson, Recruiting Coordinator
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2. Fill out the form below and mail it to: 520 North Delaware Avenue, 5th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19123-4295

Make sure it is postmarked by October 6th. Remember, in order to vote in the 2000 election, you must be registered by October 7th.

Check out dailypennsylvanian.com for The DPs' extended coverage of the election.

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[Form with fields for registrant information, school id, and signature]

[Signature] Check box here if you are a Pennsylvania resident and have been registered in the past and still qualify to vote in Pennsylvania. If you have been convicted of a crime, you may still be able to vote, but not for one or more of the elections in which you are registered. If you are convicted of a crime, you may still be able to vote, but not for one or more of the elections in which you are registered. If you are convicted of a crime, you may still be able to vote, but not for one or more of the elections in which you are registered. If you are convicted of a crime, you may still be able to vote, but not for one or more of the elections in which you are registered.

[Signature] Date of birth: [Age]

[Signature] Place of birth: [City, State]

[Signature] Date of issue: [Date]

[Signature] Place of issue: [City, State]

[Signature] Date of expiration: [Date]

[Signature] Place of expiration: [City, State]

[Signature] I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Signature] Signature

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Wide searches net internal candidates

**SEARCHES** from page Al

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Communications Professor Larry Gross, chair of the Faculty Senate, said it helps to have someone without the “institutional baggage” of another school.

Gross was on the committee that helped recommend Provost Robert Barchi in the fall of 1998. Before that, Barchi chaired the Neurology and Neuroscience Department in the School of Medicine.

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**ELECTRIC** from page A1

High School and director of the electric vehicle project.

In addition to modeling the small vehicle design, students also built a mini-sized hybrid Jeep Wrangler, which runs on both gas and electricity.

The program provides a positive influence for students by exposing them to education on an college campus that they could not learn in high school," Hauger said.

The high schools, which is how 10th, 11th and 12th graders, were divided into seven groups — small vehicle design, leadhing, hybrid motor, battery, computer, electronic and film editing.

Each group was led by a Penn student, who led them through the project's milestones.

The program lasted for six weeks during the summer, from Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. An experienced teacher worked on the projects, the students met in a classroom with Hauger to discuss what they learned. The area students were paid for participating, get free e-mail and had access to many Penn facilities.

We are very grateful to the Engineering School because they really outed the red carpet for us," Hauger said.

Other Penn students who were mentors engaged the program from a personal perspective.

"I think our entire group had fun because we could joke around but get on with learning at the same time," said Engineering major Natalie Hsueh, who led the small vehicle design team, which focused on improving the aerodynamic qualities of the little vehicle.

"It was a difficult decision," she said. "They were hardworking employees and very loyal to Penn.

Penn eliminates middle man in security services

**SECURITY** from page A1

Services

The three companies already coordinate mutual Penn's security activities. SpectaGuard Inc. handles the security services, DP Systems Inc. provides technology for the University Police Department's Penn-Comm dispatch and surveillance center and SST in- tegrates central system, closed circuit TV systems and blue light and video systems.

Season stressed that the decision to implement security services had nothing to do with the mayor's idea of "the same time."

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■ SEARCHES from page Al challenge yet — finding a new leader for the beleaguered Health System. After William Kelley was forced out last February, Peter Iraber served as his replacement for less than six months. He left over the summer to work for a drug company.

After these troubled months, some people wonder whether Penn will be able to draw a leader from another institution. University President Judith Rodin said she will consider candidates from both pools.

However, a source close to the administration said that when a school is in crisis, it is often better to go external — as was done when Gary Hack arrived in 1996 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to revamp the Graduate School of Fine Arts. However, it can be difficult to move people from schools where they are established, in areas where they have settled with families.

Rodin acknowledged that it is "complex to move distinguished senior people" from other institutions.

Bioengineering Department Chairman Daniel Hammer — who sits on the committee to find a vice provost for research — added that personal issues are preventing people from changing institutions.

"When push comes to shove..." Hammer said, "Most faculty members do not consider a dean being a promotion." (candidates) think about how difficult it is to move my family." Hack said.

But even from within, administrative posts are looking less and less attractive to professors. Hack said that the life of a provost is much less appealing than the life of a dean — both at Penn and other institutions.

The best job at the University is being a faculty member," Hack said. "Most faculty members do not consider a dean being a promotion."

Richard Herring, who chaired the committee that named then-Law School Professor Michael Pitts to the school's deanship, said he knew of at least three cases where internal faculty members did not agree to become candidates until well into the process and after several external searches.

"Quite frequently, people who were initially not candidates became candidates," Herring said. "But some administrators said they were glad that insiders did step up because it helps to hire someone familiar with Penn.

"I honestly think it's a tribute to the strength of the faculty," Rodin said.

Communications Professor Larry Gross, chair of the Faculty Senate, said it helps to have someone without the "institutional baggage" of another school.

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**PENN**

Field Hockey can't buy a break

By Christine Zob

Pen fell West to Chest last night, 2-1, in yet another sudden death heartbreaker.

Dartmouth men's hockey team broke the Quakers' hearts with a last minute goal Saturday in Dartmouth's 42-24 loss game over the Big Green's first two games.

The Quakers have to contend with the nation's lead game of the season against Dartmouth.

Dartmouth wideout Damien Langel.

After last season, when he led the Quakers 1941 through 1944, captaining the team his current players, coaches, friends and families.

They will throw for five instead.

The game was incredibly, physically, and on the floor. ""He'll be spending the next few years at UCL"", the assistant Joe Stel, and forward Rob Holden had departed. Penn's head coach Jon Solomon.

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Can’t make the event? It may not have been the first time, but it was still the fiftieth.

The site-set guard appeared in all seven of the town’s games but didn’t score for a total of 36. He hit 25 percent of his shots, missed three of his chances and missed out on seven assists — one every game in the Moskowitz game.

“Suddently, that doesn’t seem like a very hard thing to do,” Glass says. “Stay positive.”

Glass now says he’s confident, but he sounds more like a worried accountant than a cutthroat dealmaker. “It’s very tough. You have to be patient.”

But he knows what it means to be a cutthroat dealmaker. “I'm disappointed,” Glass says. “I'm very tough. You have to be patient.”

Glass says he’s confident, but there are still some possibilities out. He has a message: “Pretty much [that’s it]. Just keep going.”

Glass says he’s confident, but he’s not going to be invited to training camp, and he’s been a little bit involved, but he’s not involved with the Sixers anymore. Two months later, he’s still looking for something, anything.

Mike Jordan is by no means a pity case. He’s got a supporter’s agent and a former coach trying to help him out. It’s got to be a pity case just post-hardcore and a normal full of accidents.

And he had a Pen Degree. He has been really looking for something, anything.

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Golf honors legendary coach Hays

GOLF page 81

Reuniting with his former players was more emotional for Hays.

"I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of every day that I was with the team," Hays said. "It's hard to believe that I was a head coach and that I had a player I didn't like, and it's funny to see all the players come back."

Penn Athletic Director Steve Bilsky also felt that the borough of former players who attended the reception illustrated Hays' significant legacy.

"The fact that he is nearly 80 years old and he comes back for seven years — he must have been 80 years old when he was an assistant under Carmody, the Tigers will still utilize their signature backdoor-cut laden offense. "You're going to have to give [Penn] an opportunity to see what's going to happen this year," Penn coach Jim Sweeney said, "but even if the Tigers falter, they may have the Penn Princeton edge in that type of rivalry." [Hays] is a very good guy," Penn center Gottfried Owens said. "You can't ever expect an easy game with Princeton." The Penn Princeton rivalry is always intense, no matter who is in the orange and black uniforms, "I'm telling myself that we're just as good as they are, if not better," Batakis said. "I don't think we have much better than that, but we have a few really good players. When Princeton plays Princeton, all that goes away." Still, Princeton's losses mean the Ivy League race seems a lot more clear-cut.

"As far as I'm concerned, I wouldn't say that we're still positive," Solomon said. "It's just a memory."

"I don't think anything can kill this," Solomon said. "The renting optimism that Princeton fans had just over a month ago is gone. And the once-abundant hope is drying up."

"It's over now," Solomon said. "Just because I'd like to see some spurt.

"There's no guarantee that Princeton won't be a good team this year."

Penn may not have Jordan and Ugonna anymore, but the likes of seniors squint at the star of Justin King, the two," said Solomon, who also owns and operates the Web site princetonbasket.com. "I don't think this year's Penn-Princeton rivalry is going to be as much of a wistful time for Old Nassau fans, because I haven't seen what the Princeton team was like."

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Shemini Atzeret
Yom Kippur

10/9 Monday Post-Fast
10/9 Monday Post-Fast
10/12 Thursday Dinner
10/12 Thursday Dinner
10/13 Friday Dinner
10/13 Friday Dinner
10/14 Saturday Lunch
10/14 Saturday Lunch
10/15 Sunday Lunch
10/15 Sunday Lunch
10/16 Tuesday Dinner
10/16 Tuesday Dinner
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Michael Jordan had little trouble breaking down defenses, like that of the Olympics, so hopefully later in the year, and a lot of people the other day — the IBL things, though. I talked to some Miscellaneous things, though. I talked to some

International Basketball League doesn't set up until later in the year, and a lot of things are pushed back because of the Olympics, so hopefully something will come up. We'll see what happens.

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Michael Jordan had little trouble breaking down defenses, like that of Jordan still looking for work at pro level

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Princeton fans try to deal with exodus

**Golf honors legendary coach Hays**

GOLF from page B1

Coach, and that’s never good. And then you have second player.

"So pretty not really left with much," Penn said. "Pretty wants to see a good Princeton team out on the court, one not good enough to beat the Tigers. But good enough to make victory something to brag about. "It would have been great to play Princeton this year at the top of their game because I think they would have been favored," Penn guard David Rikaly said. "But now we’ve had to be able to beat them."

But there’s no guarantee Princeton won’t be a good team. This year.

For several of the last nine years, Penn and Princeton have been the two teams to be in the Ivy League. And despite the Tigers’ success, there’s no guarantee that won’t happen again this year. So the Princeton fans were there to see in person the birthday of the man who gave them the best of the best.

"If you could only do one thing this year, you have to have to play Penn Princeton two," said assistant coach Peter Caccia, who owns and operates the Web site princetonbasketball.com.

The Tigers do have a talented freshman, guard Eddy Pitre. And they do have some returning talent. And under new coach John Thompson III, who was an assistant under Caccia, the Tigers will still utilize their signature backcourt-cut ladies offense.

"You’ve got to have to give (Princeton) an opportunity to see what’s going to happen this year," Penn coach John Thompson said. "That even if the Tigers fall, they’re still going to want to play us," Rikaly said. "I think we’ll have no problem being able to beat them."

But Princeton’s storied rivalry is always intact, no matter what. "I think no matter if they’re still going the length of the court, when they play Princeton. "Rikaly said. "It’s always been a big opportunity to have or have a game they have. When Princeton plays Princeton, it’s all gone away."

Still, Princeton’s success means that the Ivy League race seems a bit more clear cut.

"I think with them losing Young and Glazer, which definitely opens the door for us."

"But I think the four other Tigers for Penn are going to be alright when we play Princeton.

Penn may not have Jordan and Glazer, but all five players from Penn are Dogs, and Roger and Eugene Seamore return. As do sophomores Kikuly and Kirk Archibong and senior Lamar Palmer.

"They have to make (Penn) the favorite on paper," Solomon said.

"That goes without saying."

"Heck, 17-9 and three Ivy losses last year’s marks – seems like a wistful time for Old Nassau denizens."

The reigning champions Princeton fans had just over a month ago is gone. And the once-abundant hope is drying up.

"There’s no real offensive line this year for the 2000-01 season, but it still positive, I’m still positive."

"I think with them losing Young and Glazer, which definitely opens the door for us."

"It’s really anyone’s guess."

"At this point it’s really hard to tell because I’d like to see the Tigers play an exhibition game first just to see how every-thing goes," Solomon said. "But Princeton fans aren’t as optimistic as we are."

The Ivy League’s second season on the 2000-01 schedule begins on Thursday, September 28.

"It’s really anyone’s guess."

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Thursday, September 28, 2000

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Field Hockey nipped in overtime by West Chester

**FIELD HOCKEY** from page B1

Both ends of the field.

Penn freshman goalkeeper Carrie Curley scored with less than a minute left in the game, including a game-saving shot, to give Delaware a 2-1 victory over West Chester in a close game on Saturday at Franklin Field.

In both overtime periods, William Penn controlled critical saves in the Delaware goal that kept the Quakers alive.

"I thought we were in control," said Curley. "We have had the better of them so far all season, and we were in control of this game today."

Lindsay Gordon scored the game-winner for Delaware at 4:32 left to go in double overtime, leaving the Quakers to deal with their second overtime heartbreak.

"The girls lost last season and we left them out of the tournament," said the coach.

Converting overtime opportunities seems to be the Quakers focus now.

"We had a lot of opportunities and didn't convert. We're not hitting the net at all, but that's what we need," the coach said.

With their growing game experience, the Quakers are quickly learning what they must do to succeed.

"We had a consistent effort and just kept on pushing and succeeding," the coach said.

Roomets next to settle for second place in the record books behind Johnson and in front of Delaware's Steven Lutz who before last season, had held the record for 18 years.

"I had a good game where I had a lot of patients," the coach said. "I think the Quakers' strategy was to see where we needed to go, and our offense is not to be stopped."

In two games, Roomets is well on his way to exceed last season. He was last season's last but one to catch before he made his first as a starter.

Prince said that his defense has no plans to pay special attention to Roomets.

"The point of Delaware's оф is that they're lightweight in all of places," the coach said. "We're not going to change anything."

Roomets debuted as a Big Green starter against the Quakers at Franklin Field in the first game of the season. It was his first full game, Roomets and his momentum is on the rise.

He is expected to be a key player.

"It's not going to happen," the coach said. "We'll just put him in the game."
MILWAUKEE — County Stadium, always a favorite to host the New York Mets, is heading into the final game of its existence. These Mets clinch playoff berth with win over Brewers.

According to Associated Press, the Mets will clinch the National League East title tonight if they defeat the Milwaukee Brewers at County Stadium. The game starts at 8 p.m. with Barry Larkin on the mound for the Mets.

The Associated Press reporting indicates that this Series East title clinch marks the end of an era for the New York Mets and for County Stadium. The Mets have been at County Stadium since 1966, and the stadium has been the home of the New York Mets for most of its existence. The Mets have been a darling of the city and a beloved team for decades. The Associated Press notes that the team has had many ups and downs, but has always been a favorite of the fans. The Associated Press concludes that the Mets clinching the East title will be a fitting end to a storied era for the team and the stadium.
Americans top Slovakia to reach States to a 58-43 victory yes-
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The Company: MBI, Inc. is a medium-sized ($400+ million in sales) privately-owned company. It is a leader in the highly competitive direct marketing field. MBI’s track record is one of growth and success: profits have increased every single year since the company was started in 1969.

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The Products: Through its operating divisions, MBI markets an ever-expanding line of high quality products designed to enhance the quality of life. Major categories in the current product line include sports collectibles, collector dolls, leather-bound books, die-cast automobile replicas, philatelic and coin items, porcelain collector plates, and sculptures.

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That syncing feelin'

The only thing worse than a boy band concert is the line for tickets that precedes it

ALEX SLATER

Saturday, 9 a.m. Nobody on Locust Walk except a walker of shame, and I wish I were him: still drunk, breath like a dead hamster, still searching for the name of last night’s disaster. This morning, however, my fate is worse. Last night, just after the 10th pitcher of Red Bull and Vodka — but right before the midget jokes — I volunteered to help buy *N Sync tickets.

Let me stress this straight away: I look on boy bands as a pubescent rash on the face of music. I can’t even begin to understand the religious fervor of so many fans toward them. (By the way, “boy band” should be the correct terminology — just because Joey once took keyboard lessons does not give these guys a claim to musical legitimacy.) Going to the concert is purely an exercise in the name of journalistic investigation: I need to witness this sociological phenomenon firsthand. The extravaganza is in November, but tickets go on sale at noon today.

Confidence is high. Repeat. High. The ticket distribution system is designed to test even the most ardent of devotees. First, you get into single file (the large bouncer is a big fan of single file). Then, you are given a lottery ticket. At 11:50 a.m., a draw is made and the line is re-numbered according to the first lottery number drawn. You get into single file again. At precisely noon, the lottery winners are marched in, single file, to the ticket counter where the friendly staff at Tower Records taps in to the *N Sync concert mainframe. Then, and only then, might you get tickets. Simple, really.

11:51 a.m. Waiting in line. Bored of reading the outside of a cigarette pack, I introduce myself to the woman in front of me. Her name is Marla, and she starts to speak.

Marla is from Germantown, Pa., and this is her fifth *N Sync concert. The best one was in Camden, N.J., last summer. Her daughter, Terri, has been to 10 concerts, but tragically, she prefers the Backstreet Boys. Her husband, John, who is a hospital-catering manager, has a problem with his lower back. It wouldn’t be as bad if he’d just listened to Marla and not lifted those heavy boxes in the back yard. Marla thinks I would be better off at Yale. I think I would be better off anywhere but here.

11:51 a.m. Marla clutches my arm. The bouncer is about to announce the winners of the lottery. Flight now, as he stands on a cardboard box, he’s got something he’ll never have again — the undivided attention of hundreds of nervous pre-teens. Even I, the boy band skeptic, feel knots in my stomach.

Ten minutes later, in exchange for a couple of 400 foot squares, I’m shelling out enough money to feed a family of five for a month. And I’ll be just close enough to see Chris’ two-tone facial hair — well worth the wait. Lining up for *N Sync tickets is a tame experience compared to the mass hysteria that I expect at the concert. But to the fans outside Tower Records, the concert itself is almost a secondary consideration. In a bland, homogenized way this is just one more stop on the blind pilgrimage these girls are making (and yes, 99 percent are girls). Tickets or not, this is where these fans belong — among fellow sufferers. Ritual accompanies any musical event, but rarely does it become more important for the fans than the music. At least Deadheads and Phish followers acknowledge that concerts are as much about getting loaded as hearing the band.

These girls don’t have a clue. Take Jim Morrison’s quote, “It’s about more than good music — it’s about a way of life.” Take out the “good music” part and you’ve got the perfect boy band fan. To them, it’s not like a religious devotion — that would imply an element of choice. It’s about being an unthinking cog in a marketing machine — screaming proof that it’s easier to be dumb and happy than discerning and independent.

Well... OK. Try and imagine how fearless our children would be? They’d be able to take on anything. And I bet they wouldn’t even need make-up like those cardboard news anchors.

Trust me on this one.

from the editor

I saw it on TV so I know it’s true. I don’t remember when or what channel (technicities, technicities...). But I swear this was on TV. On the news, no less.

In Japan, they get Sumo wrestlers to hold infants and make really contorted faces at them. That way, the babies learn to cope with fear early on (and also cry a lot).

So the news anchors twisted their overly made-up faces and lamented the cruelty to the “poor children.” How ever could a culture be so unsympathetic?

But whatever, you overly made-up news anchors. Save the theatrics, OK? Those are going to be some seriously not-scared little kids.

If some big-ass Sumo wrestler made mean-ass faces at me when I was a baby, it’d been a whole other story the time I needed to take that deep water test. And when I used to think dead bodies were about to fall out of my closet? Forget it. Not scary.

Think of the possibilities: we could get Sumo wrestlers to scare our kids! Oh yeah, Sumo wrestlers are taken.
Poli Sci out, Taco Bell in

We want Taco Bell. Even those of us who can't stand bean burritos want Taco Bell, because that rat-like Chihuahua has told us so many times.

In the era of Houston Hall's Bistro and Steven Starr's Pod, voices all over campus are crying out for something cheap and cheerful to satisfy hunger and give you the shits.

Discussions have been ongoing between University real estate mogul Tom Lussenhop and various business representatives over the future of such locations as the former Eat At Joe's restaurant and Eckerd Drug Store.

But students don't want to cross the busy Walnut intersection every day for lunch and risk the wrath of Arpan the taxi driver. Therefore a solution is being set in motion that should produce happy, fulfilled Penn kids and result in three Middle Eastern policy experts serving South Texan delicacies.

And for those few Poli Sci majors who no longer have their university concentrations to complete, a rewarding career using the phrase "Thank you for choosing Taco Bell" awaits.

The choice is simple. The student body has spoken. Out with the Political Science Department — we want Taco Bell.

Guinea pigs Down Under

Why equal opportunity is making the Olympics look rather silly

There's a new powerhouse in international swimming. All of its competing swimmers managed to get themselves into the Olympic history books. The name of this country: Equatorial Guinea. Which records were set by this prodigious nation? Its two swimmers managed to finish their races with the slowest times in the history of the Games.

The achievements of Eric "The Eel" Moussambani and Paula Barila Bologna are quite incredible. While the eventual winner of the women's 50 meter freestyle, Inge de Bruijn of the Netherlands, recorded a time of 24.32 seconds, "Paula the Trawler" labored to finish the race nearly 40 seconds later, in a time of one minute and 3.97 seconds.

Bologna, who only started training in January, had never swum in a 50-meter pool before. "It's the first time I've swum 50 meters... it was further than I thought," she said through an interpreter. "I was very tired."

Bologna and compatriot Moussambani hardly had the ideal preparations for the Olympic Games. Equatorial Guinea only has two swimming pools and the longer one, all of 20 meters in length, is difficult to practice in because it's constantly occupied by tourists.

Also, Bologna had never seen starting blocks before her arrival in Sydney. "It was a long way down to the water. She wasn't used to that," her coach was quoted as saying.

Eric "The Eel" didn't fare much better than Bologna. His time of one minute, 52.72 seconds in the 100-meter race failed to threaten Pieter van den Hoogenband's winning performance of 48.30 seconds. Nor did it threaten the Dutchman's 200-meter world record, which Moussambani, in the 100-meter, was still seven seconds shy of.

The Equatorial Guineans were competing thanks to a plan by the governing body of the sports world, FINA, to promote swimming in countries not already involved in the sport. Rumors of a Cool Runnings 2: The Aquamen are believed said not to have any foundation.

"There's nothing I like more than eternal damnation and - street -. And also Malt Liquor."

- Diablo Dave, Son of Lucifer, fornicator, and avid - street - reader

Voice Contributors: Oliver Benn, Matt Rand, Tom Lombardi, J.J. Tziou
All right, we admit it: Cameron Crowe was the coolest teenager ever

But, asks 'Street,' did he really need two hours and a multi-million-dollar budget to tell us that?

Macy Gardner Raymond

Almost Famous confirms my suspicion that I was Ronnie Van Zant from Lynyrd Skynyrd in a past life. I can now explain the guttural uneasiness I feel when I fly on airplanes. I can also justify why this movie made me feel incredibly nostalgic for a period in my life when I was not alive.

This Wonder Years-meets-Spinal Tap and then-marries-Gimme Shelter-and-then-has-an-affair-with-MTV's-Making-the-Video-and-then-changes-its-last-name-for-gender-identity-reasons-to-The Wall-film reminds me of the days when I used to party with the guys from Led Zeppelin, the Eagles, the Allman Brothers, the Who and Black Sabbath. We had such good times. We had ladies, liquor and love. And music — man did we have music. And it was Sabbath. We had such good times. We had ladies, liquor and love. And music — man did we have music. And It was good. Bobbie Dylan always said they were times that we would remember, and times about which DreamWorks would one day make an expensive movie. Bob was a clairvoyant fellow. He actually invented the Ab-Roller in 1969.

Writer/director Cameron Crowe said on VH1 this week that Almost Famous reflects, with 90 percent veracity, the happenings of his life when he was a wunderkind 15-year-old, with aspirations of documenting — in words — the rock and roll panorama of the early 1970s.

The character who fuzzily represents Crowe, William Miller (played by circus-freak-talented Patrick Fugit) enters rockdom as a virgin, with starry-eyed integrity inspired by his mentor, (and my personal hero) real-life rock-journalist Lester Bangs. Bangs, portrayed with typical accuracy by Philip Seymour Hoffman, gives this bright but lost teen advice that will no doubt be quoted — in the manner of all John Hughes movies — in many a high school yearbook page to come. On Miller's alienation from his classmates, Bangs proffers, "You'll meet them all again on the long journey to the middle." Ha! Anyway, to make a long plot synthesis short, Miller writes a few brilliant rock pieces for Bangs' magazine Cream; goes on the road with Stillwater (a band that is a fictitious amalgamation of all those bands I mentioned hanging out with earlier); gets hired by Rolling Stone in absentia; and walks off with the band and the groupies to look for America — and himself. In his wake is his confused, retro Californian family, Frances McDormand and Zooey Deschanel rather beautifully convey Miller's mother and sister.

Almost Famous is Crowe's magnum opus. The viewer can tell, in the simplicity of the rendering, that this is a story that Crowe has had cooking in his oven for a while. Although it shares the same commerce-meets-idealism motif of Jerry Maguire and the metamorphosing innocence (sans the Dawson's Creek likeness) of Say Anything, this film has far more breadth. It reflects the "realness" that superstar band member Russell Hammond (Billy Crudup) looks for in a mirthful yet heartrending scene when he crashes a Topeka high school party, with Miller, to look for his roots. This movie is about roots and all the sad things that happen when people start to grow up and pull them out of the dirt. Crowe fondly relays the images of this period in his life to the very poignant rhythm of a luminous soundtrack that influences the narrative of the film as much as the screenplay itself.

But more than an homage to rock and roll and more than a coming-of-age story, Almost Famous is about love: the love of a mother for her children, the love of music, the love of fans for their heroes, the love of friends and the love of lovers.

Girl of the moment Kate Hudson plays philosophizing groupie Penny Lane, a sort of personification of love, who loves Russell and is loved by Miller. Russell, however, sells Penny to the band Humble Pie for "50 bucks and a case of beer," despite loving her in many ways. In this and other scenes, the viewer understands Crowe's intention to illustrate the instability of love stuck in the crossroads of youth, rock and roll and general egocentricity. But love is there, in various forms — if not the most archetypal — and Crowe shows this. That's why I cried so hard.

Go see this movie. If not for the remarkable acting, the luster of the story, or Crowe's directional prowess, than for the fact that it reminds the rock star in all of us of our glory days as artists — when rock-stars wrote their own music, mostly, and sang lyrics that you can now analyze in any course on American poetry. Or see the film to see me, portrayed by course by an actress, as I was in 1973 when I first conceived of how sweet a home Alabama really is.

Be a superstar.

Write for — street —.
Required viewing for those who cry when their cell phone hours are up

'Dark Days' follows a group of homeless men underground through New York City

JAVIER ALBÉA-GARCÍA

Dark Days, a documentary by first-time director Marc Singer, takes the viewer into the day-to-day lives of homeless people living underground in New York City's Amtrak tunnels. These men and women, old and young, black and white, live inside the rat-infested, damp, dark tunnels in huts built from scrap metal and pieces of plywood. They draw power from the city to heat their homes and cook their food, take showers under leaky pipes and keep pets to ward off the constant threat of vermin.

Although Singer realistically and honestly depicts the horror and darkness of life in the train tunnels, he is also able to show another side of the characters he followed and lived with for over two years while filming. He gives us glimpses of the characters' pasts and what drove them underground, whether it be broken homes, drug addiction and prison, or simply a need to escape the abuse of police and teenagers on the surface. We see their pride in their makeshift homes and the possessions that fill them. Their relationships with one another and their sense of community become apparent as we see them coping together with despair and addiction, and remembering the memories they share.

Singer's cinematography is truly remarkable. Shot in black and white, the director takes advantage of the tunnels' darkness in order to create a frightening world of seemingly endless caverns, littered with trash and overrun by rats. Howling trains rush past the camera, while shadows pushing top-heavy shopping carts creep along in silence. Also remarkable is the soundtrack provided by D.J. Shadow, whose deep, sparse beats match the ominous feel of the documentary.

Marc Singer's debut film is definitely worth seeing, if not for its realistic portrayal of homeless life and its societal commentary, then for the film's artistic and technical merit.

Further proof that God hears the prayers of men but answers in strange ways

Lesbian love story 'Aimée & Jaguar' offers German women, no orgy scenes

STEPHANIE KOTIN

Nazi Germany serves as the backdrop for an unexpected love affair between a German officer's seemingly proper wife, Lilly, and a fiery Jewish secretary, Felice. Max Färberböck's Aimee & Jaguar. Maria Schrader (Felice) and Julia Köbbler (Lilly) offer dynamite performances, and are well supported by a mostly female cast of terrific actresses.

This film tells the true story of a racy romance that is passionate but ill-fated; the two lovers engage in an intensely euphoric affair, only to be ripped violently apart at the end of the movie by the horrors of Nazi Germany.

From the particular politics of location (World War II Berlin), we are introduced to a world of ravishingly wild young homosexual women within which the affair of Lilly and Felice occurs. Berlin is depicted as a dying and dangerous city, where Jews are incessantly persecuted. Within the love scenes, the director inserts various war scenes: air bombings, burning buildings, unjustifiable street shoot-ings, the underground that hides the Jews. But it remains clear that this is merely the context for the love affair and not the thematic purpose of the film.

From the first moment Felice spies the gorgeous Lilly at a Mozart concert, she is awestruck. The sexual and emotional tension between Lilly and Felice builds until a New Year's Eve party when the experienced Felice kisses a shocked and disgusted Lilly. But Lilly soon realizes that she is falling in love with Felice, and the two unite in a burning whirlwind of spiritual and physical satisfaction. Although Felice has moved in with Lilly, the former has not told her anti-Semitic lover the truth about who she is—a Jew. Felice, bound by her consuming love for Lilly, eventually stays behind as her friends leave Germany in search of safety.

Lilly has told her husband she wants a divorce, but is plagued by Felice's constant entrance and exit from her life. "Why do I always feel like there is something you wouldn't tell me?" Lilly asks. To which Felice responds, "I'm Jewish." Even after the truth about Felice's identity is revealed, the lovers exist in a state of supreme euphoria until one dark night when they come home to find Nazi officers inside their apartment.

While many movies have been made about World War II (more recently, Saving Private Ryan, Schindler's List and Life is Beautiful), this film isn't about the war itself. The war is the unfortunate circumstance in which these star-crossed women find themselves but the film, in its intent and execution, tells a beautiful and passionate love story. At the end of the film, the audience is left to wonder whether the lovers' demise springs from the circumstances of the war around them or the follies of the characters themselves.

— *night* —

Meeting tonight. 6:30 p.m. 4015 Walnut St.
Can't those damn Frogs do anything else?

'An Affair of Love' schools American audiences in the ancient French art of the weekly tryst.

RATHA TEP

An Affair of Love isn't a conventionally romantic love story, nor does it consist of two taut bodies having each other in the night. Instead, Frederic Fonteyne's film is an exploration of the inevitable connection between love and sex. While the subject matter runs borderline trite, the daring manner in which the story is told is very disconcerting, the movie is n'est pas une histoire d'amour conventionnelle, ni consiste-t-elle de deux corps tauts qui s'aiment. Au lieu de cela, le film de Frederic Fonteyne est une exploration de l'irréfrénable connexion entre amour et sexe. Si le sujet est de nature trite, l'audace avec laquelle l'histoire est racontée est très déconcertante.

Nathalie Baye and Sergi Lopez are not young and beautiful, as Hollywood has programmed us to expect the protagonists of a love story will be. But while the initial jar is disconcerting, the movie is daring manner in which the story is told deserves praise.

Two characters who remain anonymous throughout the movie meet for weekly afternoon trysts over several months. Without knowing each other's name, past or future, they explore their sexual fantasies. But whatever Henry Miller contains undertones of Bernardo Bertolucci's Last Tango in Paris, but while Tango's characters bring their outside lives into their anonymous trysts, any aspects of the external world are missing from Fonteyne's film. The audience is left with the pure dealings between two lovers who have no baggage but their own. The reason for the failure of their relationship is classic, making the movie seem almost too simple because of its stark reality.

Bayes shines as she shows varying shades of her character's fragility, but Lopez is less believable in his performance. While their chemistry is a bit off-key, Fonteyne tries to make up for it with his masterful command of imagery and sound. With an almost constant backdrop of drizzling rain, the characters are hidden beneath layers of coats and scarves, as if to mask their true emotions. And then there's the seductive sound of quiet ripples in the bathtub.

The last seconds of the film are memorable: a mass of people hurry about, their images growing increasingly blurred. For one brief instant, they move as if in fast-forward. No one gets to really know anyone else; by shutting everyone but themselves out, the protagonists are involving themselves in the most inclusive of actions.

If you were a dog, what breed would you be?

Best in Show!

Here's the question:

If you were a dog, what breed would you be?

Email street@dailypennsylvanian.com between 5:07 and 5:41 today with your answer and you'll WIN complimentary passes to a special screening of Best in Show.

CONTEST!!

Best in Show!

EMAIL YOUR ANSWER TO:
street@dailypennsylvanian.com

SUBJECT: "BEST IN SHOW"

Include your answer and the word "BEST IN SHOW" in the subject line.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN:

Please be sure to include your name, address, and phone number along with your answer.

CONTEST ENDS AT 5:41 PM TODAY.
Red meat and white meat meet
Arroyo hosts BBQ grilling party with slop houses around Philly

FRANK MCCORMICK

Last Friday, Arroyo Grille owner Derek Davis threw an end-of-summer party featuring Pete's Oktoberfest Beer and four great barbecue chefs. Arroyo is located on Main Street in Manayunk, a suburban version of Philly's South Street and home to Davis' restaurant empire. A 20 minute Regional Rail trip will get you to Kansas City Prime, Sonoma, Fish on the Main, Main Street Catering and Main Street Baking, all owned by Davis.

Despite the older crowd represented and the chilly reception offered by Davis, Arroyo Grille's menu appeared reasonably attractive. The brisket sandwich, prepared by chef Michael Heinle, consists of lean cuts covered in a sweet sauce. The menu offers the basics from chips 'n' dip to fried oyster nachos. Unfortunately, the barbecued items, prepared in a "Little Red Smokehouse," are a bit pricey.

Manayunk is a great place to visit, but Penn students are not welcome. When asked why we should make the trip to Davis' restaurants, he replies that he really doesn't want such a young crowd. Realizing that this statement did not bode well for his entrepreneurial efforts, Davis immediately corrects himself by suggesting that the ambiance of the Arroyo Grille and its free parking speak for themselves. Too late, fool.

If you enjoy a Southwestern/Urban Outfitters/Outback Steakhouse theme, the Arroyo Grille offers a bar for socializing with friends, a casual dining area for entertaining a date and a formal dining room for more elegant affairs. The Arroyo Grille makes a claim to Southwest flavor by virtue of its orange walls, hot pepper-shaped lamps and hanging neon armadillo, but exposed pipes and vents give the place a definite gen-X feel. The menu and gift shop threaten to make Arroyo Grille one in a mere series of chain restaurants.

It's hopeless to hype the restaurant's incredible location. First, the restaurant is located just outside all the other shops and restaurants in Manayunk. Davis had the right idea in building an outdoor bar for summer parties, but instead of overlooking the river and trees, the deck offers views of the parking lot and a man-made waterfall. The strange juxtaposition of parking lots, neon armadillos and fake waterfalls makes for a visual disappointment.

Although the Arroyo Grille did not make an incredible impression, the party provided a tremendous opportunity to sample some other Philly favorites. Other restaurants making an appearance at the "Summer Blast" included Dwight's Southern Bar B Q, Delilah's Southern Cooking and the London Grill.

Main Street, Manayunk, is a bastion of elegance and style...

Dwight's is close to campus, inexpensive and open till 3 a.m. on weekends. Since its opening at 4345 Lancaster Avenue 35 years ago, Dwight's has been a favorite throughout West Philly and the tri-state area. Try the mac 'n' cheese or the greens.

Delilah's
Although not as memorable as Dwight's, Delilah's is tasty and relatively convenient to Penn. Her moist, spicy barbecued chicken sandwich can be found at 30th Street Station and Reading Terminal Market.

Bluezette
If you're looking for a more sophisticated setting for your southern barbecue, check out Delilah Winder's new creation, Bluezette. Located in the heart of the club and bar scene at 246 Market Street, Bluezette is a little pricier than its sister restaurant and requires reservations.

London Grill
The odd man out of this montage was London Grill. Chef Michael McNally prepared a delicious, whole sucking pig. With the whole pig stretched out on the table, McNally appeared a little more sophisticated than his barbecuing buddies. With $18 to $25 entrees, London Grill is a pricey meal.

While all the food was tasty, Dwight's is the winner in every respect. Owner Eleanor Nelson is extraordinarily friendly and suggests that visitors to her restaurant be regarded as part of the family. So if you like meat that falls off the bone smothered in a zesty, one-of-a-kind sauce, you're sure to be at home at Dwight's.

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If you ever thought that you might want to write for — street —, but then you doubted yourself, why was that?

What did you doubt? What is wrong with you? Just come to the meeting. OK?

6:30 p.m. Tonight. 4015 Walnut St. First 15 through the door are good enough and smart enough.
‘Year of the Woman’ is bore of the century
Lantern Theatre offers an impressive tale and then ruins it by making it a play

MELISSA LEITMAN

Year of the Woman, a one-person show at the Lantern Theatre, portrays the story of Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to serve in the U.S. Congress and a fighter for nationwide women’s suffrage. The play, ironically enough, takes place in a kitchen, and included in the monologue is a series of video and audio clips intended to add dramatic depth to a play consisting of one woman’s 80-minute rant.

While the audio clips should have added to our understanding of Rankin’s life, they proved unconnected to what was occurring on stage and simply served to break up the flow of the monologue and further confuse the audience. Many of Rankin’s own stories were disjointed and hard to follow, consisting of a random spewing of worthless information about her brother, her friends...India...monkeys....

To the play’s credit, the story of Jeannette Rankin came across as one of passion and importance. The story, a reflection on her life as a politician, is given to the audience by actress Sally Mercer who portrays the 85-year-old Rankin.

The play begins when Rankin explains how she got her name out to people in her home state of Montana. Rankin was determined to be heard. She sent letters to schools telling them that she was coming to speak and asking them if they would allow it. But without her phone number or a return address, the schools had no way of telling her not to come.

Rankin was stubborn and would not let anyone silence her. She appealed to children, urging them to get their “mommas” to vote. And Rankin travelled the state, asking citizens if she should run for Congress but intending to regard less of their answers. When election day came, voters would think they had had an influence on her decision. How clever.

After achieving a position in Congress, Rankin had two conflicting issues to contend with. Not only was she trying to gain national suffrage for women, she also was a staunch pacifist. She wanted to keep the U.S. out of the First World War. “You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake” was her motto.

Rankin knew that if she voted in opposition to the war, she risked alienating all the men in Congress whose support she would need if women were to gain suffrage. But she stood behind her pacifism to the end. The only member of Congress to vote against entering the war, Rankin cost herself her seat in the next election.

While the play portrays the passion of a woman who wanted to be heard, the story would work better in an elementary school history class than in an 80-minute on-stage monologue. A play should be an excellent medium for bringing to light the forgotten accomplishments and stories of the past. But Year of the Woman not only fails to present Rankin’s story in a coherent manner — it reduces the audience to a knuckle-cracking, chair-shifting mass.

Broadway tunes steal the show but stage is a bad note
The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

GEORGE SCHEER

Last Friday, the Mann Center for the Performing Arts opened its doors, or rather its gates, to fans of Broadway star Bernadette Peters. Peters is known for her magnificent voice and Tony-winning performances in Into the Woods, Sunday in the Park with George, and the recent Broadway smash revival Annie Get your Gun.

Peters donned a wide brimmed hat and shotgun for an Annie Get your Gun tune and later performed a slinky jazz number originating from Madonna’s detective flick Dick Tracy during the night’s revue. The performance was misty as Peter’s warm personality and stirring voice reached into the crowd. Unfortunately, the stellar performance was necessary to compensate for the venue’s failures.

Upon entering the Mann, the cavernous architecture evokes visions of pirates as your seat seems to lie in the belly of an enormous boat. Great wooden beams complete the arching ceiling, destroying any sentiment of intimacy that might be felt between performer and audience. Though the wood finish appears unique because of its natural appeal, an overwhelming fear that horrible echoing will mar the performance emerges as the lights go down.

The seats, though positioned to provide every audience member with a good view of the stage, are made of plastic—a far cry from the felt cushions typical of theatres and other cultural venues. My ass might have felt at home at a Braves game or in my crappy high school gym, but it failed to draw any connections between the night’s event and previously experienced plays and symphonies at which it was cradled in the comfy seats of Broadway theatres and symphony halls. I must admit that felt cushions wouldn’t have weathered the outdoor experience that the Mann provides, but then cultural events such as this one, which require intimacy and refinement, shouldn’t have to weather the Mann.

The shortcomings of the Mann are no different from those of any other amphitheater where one might catch the summer’s Up in Smoke Tour, but that is just the point. The Mann bills itself as a center for performing arts. It caters to Ithak Perlman and Beethoven’s symphonies. It houses performances by Harry Belafonte and Tony Bennett, not Snoop Doggy Dog and Ice Cube. Its inadequacy leaves performers with an intense predicament: how to pull in an audience dwarfed by the massiveness of the venue.

Happily, Peters solved the dilemma with the grace of an expert. She went to great lengths to talk to the crowd, playfully complaining about swallowing a bug and the chill of the night. She reminisced about past concerts and Broadway appearances, and when the lights went down and a single spotlight lit her stunning figure, her voice magnified her presence and created a personal experience for each member of the sold-out audience.

Happily, Peters solved the dilemma with the grace of an expert. She went to great lengths to talk to the crowd, playfully complaining about swallowing a bug and the chill of the night. She reminisced about past concerts and Broadway appearances, and when the lights went down and a single spotlight lit her stunning figure, her voice magnified her presence and created a personal experience for each member of the sold-out audience.

Meet Ralph. All he wanted was another hour in bed, comfy in his striped PJs and warm under the covers.

How was Barry to know that, having a baseball for a body, this was the wrong morning to disturb the slumbering Ralph?
Hole in the wall offers more culture than a night on campus

Elinor Hutton

On the dark, windowless wall of Dirty Frank's Bar hangs a sign that proclaims, "We may be dirty, but we get respect." No more realistic a description could be given of a bar whose pealing grey door on the corner of 13th and Pine streets is its only distinguishable feature for those who wander by.

The evening begins as one of the two friends I'm with attempts to put our first pitcher of Sierra Nevada on his credit card. Not only does Dirty Frank's not take credit cards, but the waitress and the five patrons surrounding us have a good laugh at our expense. This is no place to keep a tab for your Kettle Ones on the rocks, but who needs them when a pitcher of good lager — and if you're lucky, a sticky wooden booth — will cost you about $5.

My friends and I quickly acclimate ourselves to the scene at hand: lots of flannels, sarcastic comments from the pleasantly grouchy staff and a large shelf for motorcycle helmets. Neon bar signs, piñatas and oil paintings decorate this crowded hole in the wall. Old men in jogging suits sit next to 16-year-old anorexic nymphets and a slouching entourage of wannabe-New York performance artists. Tattooed youth discuss tales of battles lost and Joe, my new darts partner, discusses leather.

There is no hostility toward our tube tops and University City addresses, but for God's sake, turn your ringer off. People may be open-minded, but they're not saints.

Roll up your sleeves, tuck in your wallet and open your mind to what will, at the very least, be an interesting night. If variety is the spice of life, then Dirty Frank's is kicking with flavor. Even I felt like a regular at the end of the night — on our way out the door the bouncer said he'd see us soon. Who knows? He just might.
Help them help you

by Laura Parker

More than 50 students aren’t just sitting in an office on Locust Walk for their health — they’re doing it for yours.

Nikki Plumez is worried about you.

“I think it’s really scary,” admits the College senior and volunteer for Students Together Against Acquaintance Rape. “College is a lot different from high school. I want to just say, here are the facts, here’s what you may be facing, here’s how to protect yourself.”

Plumez says that most students are not aware of the prevalence of acquaintance rape on campus. She adds, “Students don’t think that acquaintance rape happens at Penn.”

Plumez describes the ignorance of peer health issues as a “total false sense of safety.” She says, “Students don’t think that acquaintance rape happens at Penn.”

The Office of Health Education is education, the kind you just don’t get from Biology 101 (or even from the helpful posters on the walls of the hole beneath Penn Tower that is better known as Student Health). And forget about walking all the way to 33rd and Spruce streets.

Students’ reticence in taking advantage of the OHE’s services may be due in part to the relative inaccessibility of the offices. Deep within an imposing structure next to the Palladium on Locust Walk, the OHE fills the building in a confused tangle of hallways and staircases — students can’t even enter directly through the front door. Instead, they must enter through another office on the left side of the building. Once inside, countless arrows and signs point the way, but it’s still easy to get lost.

The obstacles faced by students seeking help are ironically similar to those of peer health educators. Both students and volunteers know that services are needed, but the two groups seem unable to connect, blocked by physical labyrinths of concrete and psychological obstacles like ignorance and fear.

Just as STAAR was sculpted out of students’ desire to enact positive change on campus, each of the other peer education groups began with a passion to help others — a desire to inform and assist fellow students.

In the late 1980s, the growing public concern over HIV and AIDS caused FLASH to form. GUIDE, on the other hand, began as a women’s discussion group entitled “Food, Sex, and You.” Members were so inspired to convey an alternative, positive message to women about body image that it wasn’t long before the informal discussion group grew into a full-fledged peer education program.

And each of these groups carries a lofty goal of educating the student population. DART, celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, aims to inform the undergraduate population on responsible drinking behaviors, as well as the dangers of drug use.

The RAP-Line, also in its 10th year, provides support for students who need advice on any area of life, from roommate conflicts and homesickness to career concerns or even a question about where a particular building is located on campus. A phone call to 573-2RAP any night of the week from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. ensures callers a friendly, completely confidential conversation with a Penn student trained in counseling. And if students don’t feel comfortable placing a phone call, the RAP-Line now maintains a Web site (http://www.upenn.edu/rap-online) in which students can anonymously submit letters and then retrieve a response within five days using an access code.

Peer education is constantly changing and evolving to meet the diverse needs of students. This year, for example, GUIDE is focusing on eating issues like anorexia and bulimia while trying to expand its scope to include other image issues, such as race relations and cultural awareness.

The dedicated students who decide to devote their time to these health education groups often do so for personal reasons, just like Plumez of STAAR. Antwan Allen, a College senior and executive board member of FLASH, watched a cousin die of AIDS. Recalling the lack of sexual health education in his high school, he says, “I went to a Catholic all-boys school and saw people get in trouble because of irresponsible behavior.”

“College is a lot different from high school. I just want to say... here’s how to protect yourself.”
Allen wanted to help inform other Penn students who may have had similar high school experiences. So, once he arrived on campus, Allen decided to join FLASH.

Once students have made the decision to join a student health group, they must first go through a rigorous application and training process—one that guarantees they will become reliable and knowledgeable sources of information. All groups have formal application and interview processes, and all do spring recruiting. RAP-Line also recruits in the fall.

Peer educators aren't expected to educate in an academic sense, but are trained to organize and lead workshops to bring up issues and raise awareness. Through their workshops, students hopefully pick up some facts, but the real purpose is to create a comfortable forum in which students can talk about eating disorders, drug use, sexual violence and sexually transmitted infections. While the groups don't provide professional counseling, they do offer resources for students who need help.

Wearing a gray T-shirt and black jeans, health educator Kurt Conklin's manner is relaxed and amiable—he almost seems like a student himself. In the cluttered upstairs offices, filled with brochures, pamphlets and boxes of condoms, he seems eager to discuss the services each group has to offer. Advisor to FLASH and STAAR, Conklin trains new members and assists in organizing group events throughout the year, in addition to providing indispensable advice to members. He says that at first, the obvious way to enact a mission of prevention and awareness about pertinent issues was to create interactive workshops. "The goal is to facilitate sharing information," he explains.

But University officials aren't helping. Health-related workshops were once a mandatory component of freshman orientation: resident and graduate advisors were required to schedule meetings with OHE groups for their residents during the first few weeks of school.

"Traditionally, for the first decade it has been about workshops," Conklin explains. "The college house used to be a very important place where interactive workshops could happen, but now there is not the same expectation or mandate within the college houses to schedule these opportunities. We need the college houses more than the College Houses need us. If no one invites us into their environment, we are not going to reach people.

The advent of the college house system three years ago and the abolishment of mandatory health-related workshops left freshmen in need of guidance and information to fend for themselves. And peer education groups, accustomed to relying on workshops as their dominant method of educating students, are especially frustrated.

"I think it's really sad," Plumer says. "It's one of those things where a lot of workshops are for freshmen, and freshmen don't know about our resources."

Conklin, in part, the new emphasis on academics in the college houses, which he claims detracts concern and attention from issues like student health. But support groups are already doing what they can to promote attention to their issues. FLASH hopes to institute "Flashpoints"—displays at every college house stocked with pamphlets, information and resources for HIV testing and other pertinent sexual health issues. The group also hopes to supply each college house with a condom dispenser. Finally, RAs are now required to discuss DART's informative Alcohol 101 CD in order to "facilitate discussion" with freshmen. The CD, which was sent to freshmen over the summer, is meant to work in conjunction with the original workshop format.

One part of Penn's alcohol policy—namely, its goal of "supporting increased peer education programs"—has remained constant despite recent and still ongoing revisions. This is supposed to be accomplished through peer-run workshops just like those once conducted regularly in freshman halls. Greek workshops are still mandatory, according to regulations of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. Now, the best chance for OHE groups to reach students is to instill awareness in fraternity and sorority leaders, making them enthusiastic about endorsing peer health groups.

Formed by a desire to spur change and staffed by students who genuinely care about helping others, peer health groups already face one major hurdle: a perception that DART is changing attitudes on campus.

"That was fun!" as they leave a DART workshop. And with this publicized rapes on campus, experienced an initial surge in popularity, and DART has recently gained attention due to the new policies dealing with alcohol use on campus. MacDonald of DART is realistic, yet hopeful: "Every year, 2,500 new students enter Penn—and it's very difficult to touch them," she admits. Yet although she knows that DART can't change the culture of Penn's campus, she does feel that "our presence has diminished the number of incidences [of alcohol abuse]."

"At Penn we're such a perfectionist campus. Everyone thinks they have to be perfect in every way."

Perhaps the problem is also the result of changing trends at Penn. Allen of FLASH says, "Penn has a culture of reacting to situations as they occur." And he has evidence on his side: STAAR, which originated after a series of publicized rapes on campus, experienced an initial surge in popularity, and DART has recently gained attention due to the new policies dealing with alcohol use on campus. MacDonald of DART is realistic, yet still hopeful: "Every year, 2,500 new students enter Penn—and it's very difficult to touch them," she admits. Yet although she knows that DART can't change the culture of Penn's campus, she does feel that "our presence has diminished the number of incidences [of alcohol abuse]."

Does peer health education really need to exist at Penn? "If they didn't, you'd have 3.5 health educators [in OHE] attempting to reach 20,000 students with prevention information," Conklin says. And student peer educators don't leave the issues behind when they leave group workshops or events. Students are available around the clock, possibly the least-acknowledged benefit of peer health education. Whether it is a roommate with a question about alcohol or a friend who thinks she's been raped, peer educators are a valuable resource to those they know. But since there is no way to prove prevention works, many people don't believe it has an impact.

So will new methods reach students effectively, or will peer health be a dying resource at Penn? Dedicated students have already laid the groundwork for an effective network of peer health resources that address just about every major health-related topic a college student might face. Will Penn students finally listen? The question is left to the future.
The infinite happiness

The Smashing Pumpkins shatter precedents by releasing their epic final album to the Internet. And record companies are scared shitless.

Suzana Diamond

“It’s a psychedelic shack of love and muzak hold your breath it’s coming soon but now how you imagine,” writes Billy Corgan, lead singer of the Smashing Pumpkins. In a commendable final farewell to their fans, the Pumpkins’ last album is circulating on the Internet for free — on purpose.

The combination of a middle finger aimed at their record label, a farewell gift in honor of the band’s official breakup and a hint as to where digital music is likely to head, Machine II/The Friends & Enemies of Modern Music arrives at a fortunate time for the Pumpkins and their fans.

First, the new release’s alternate mixes and studio outtakes from the last few years will be played in the last leg of the “Sacred and Profane Tour” in Europe. Second, those who anticipated a double album will find that all 25 tracks are completely new/unheard, except for “Real Love,” which appears to be the same as the one found on the “Friends & Enemies” cassette bootleg, and “Le Deux Machina,” which is the same synth version as the one found on the acoustic demos for their previous album, Machine.III/The Machines of God. Also included are reworked versions of Machina’s “Heavy Metal Machine,” “Try Try Try” and “Blue Skies Bring Tears,” and a “current wave of prepackaged smiles and fancy votes,” a “culture candied and wasted [where] music is out of tune.” He continues, “as the plates shift and the old ways topple, the true dogs will be remembered and become immortal in death as brave warriors who stood up to their time...[bootlegged] through digital channels, the Pumpkins have set the precedent for other bands and fans: a 24-hour radio station of self-bootlegged songs to be bootlegged to the online community. While there will be no CD pressing for Machine II, the songs are available on MP3 format and are currently being distributed on several Web sites and on Napster. Visit http://www.smashingpumpkins.com for links to download the album.

Not a ‘Righteous’ babe

Joan Osborne’s latest drops her soulfulness in favor of some nice new khakis and a curling iron

Jennifer Lesko

In 1996, Joan Osborne was poised on the edge of female rocker stardom. Nominations for Grammys were flooding her mailbox. Entertainment Weekly hailed her album, Relish, as the best of the year. Hell, she even inspired John Stephens and Countercutparts to do a soulful remix of her powerful and controversial song, “One Of Us.” And then, she waited five years to release another studio album.

One look at the cover of Righteous Love, Joan Osborne’s third release, reveals just how much Osborne has changed. Gone are the nose ring and unruly, corkscrew curls. In their place are groomed eyebrows, flowing hair and a lip-glossed smirk. Unfortunately, her music has also become a victim of this alteration to the mainstream. Righteous Love fuses blues, rock, pop and qawwali, an ancient form of Indian spiritual music. Even though this musical integration of sounds seems experimental and exciting, it is not. The 11 tracks lack the spunky edge that made classics out of songs like “St. Teresa” and “Spiders Web” from her critically-acclaimed and wildly popular first album.

Without her signature attitude, Osborne’s sometimes gritty voice does not sound mature and powerful. Rather, in the songs “Safety in Numbers” and “Running Out of Time,” it’s downright annoying. Although she is an intelligent woman with strong interests in feminist and political causes, she writes insipid and banal lyrics. She pathetically bemoans unrequited love in “If I Was Your Man” and a bad break-up decision in “Poison Apples.” Righteous Love does have a few saving graces. “Hurricane” and “Love is Alive” pick up the pace of the album with an interesting twist of bluesy vocals and twangy chords. And the final track, “Make You Feel My Love,” treats the listener to a bit of a softer, acoustic sound.

But when she lost her nose ring, she lost her soul and opted for the mainstream approach. She forgets that it was not her image, but her soul, that did so well for her the first time around.
The urban symphony
Ex-Verve frontman Richard Ashcroft drops the attitude and gets happy

MARNI FOGELSON

Three years after he pushed everyone out of his path in his former band's video for "Bittersweet Symphony," Richard Ashcroft has gone his own way, working on new material which he admits is "very experimental," and recording the album "In Here We Fall," his debut for Arista Records. Ashcroft describes his sound as "lyrical, futuristic, and experimental," and says he's been working on his own musical style for a long time.

In addition to the lead vocals and guitar he played while a member of the now-defunct Verve, Ashcroft performs percussion, keyboard, organ, and mellotron, accompanied by variouspercussion and keyboards on various tracks. His sound is a mix of electronic and acoustic elements, with a focus on synthesizers and drum machines.

With smooth beats and lyrics, "The Paper Route" delivers a poetic over a futuristic beat — an evolution of the oozing, bump-your-lowrider sound that has made West Coast flavor so distinctive. The Timbaland-produced "Nobody" is bonkers; subtly echoing the likes of No Doubt, Counting Crows, and the Goo Goo Dolls, In Here We Fall assumes the middle-of-the-road route to musical stardom.

Unfortunately, this song's strength underscores the weakness of others that retread played-out gangsta themes: pimping, crack and being a thug. Mack sticks to what he knows, and his inability to escape the G-formula hides the fact that he probably knows more than he is letting on.

Benjamin Folkinsheyt

Originality and boundless innovation are not the words to use in describing In Here We Fall, the Arista Records debut from Brit band Electraspy. The release undeniably possesses a mainstream, Y100-esque sound that is impossible to ignore, highlighting influences from Oasis, Tabbing Westward and even the Beastie Boys. With the production work of pop veterans Matthew Wilder and Jack Joseph Puig, who collectively have recorded with the likes of No Doubt, Counting Crows and the Goo Goo Dolls, In Here We Fall assumes the middle-of-the-road route to musical stardom.

But despite the fact that the band lacks a new sound, different influences contribute to rather than detract from the quality of the album. In Here We Fall includes a diverse collection of tracks, such as the radio-friendly "Cosmic Castaway" from the animated movie Titan, A.E. and an interesting and uplifting cover of Led Zeppelin's "Dazed and Confused" that has been stripped of the classic Zeppelin wailing guitar style.

In Here We Fall's disparate pop sways give the album several enjoyable tracks, depleting the band of the ever-coveted one-hit-wonder status. With Electraspy being hailed as the next big phenomenon across the Atlantic in the Albion, the album proves that even Brit pop, when it arrives in the States, fits nicely into the puzzle of mainstream American music.
thenapsterdebate

I LIKE IT

Napster means getting what you want, and getting back at the music industry

BENJAMIN FOLKSHTEYN

In a study released last week by the Pew Internet and American Life Project, about 50 percent of American adults said that they are not Internet users. Thirty-two percent of the aforementioned never plan on jumping on the Internet bandwagon. It's clear that primarily, college students are the ones who are fully integrated into the Internet age. Freedom, innovation, and diversity have always been fostered on college campuses. The Recording Industry Association of America has issued a challenge to these well-preserved objectives through its legal persecution of Napster in a rightist attempt to reverse the thimdering footsteps of modernity.

In recent years, the music industry has become a sleeping dragon, content in its strong hold on the market. Napster has awakened the creature with a frontal assault on the established order. But instead of embracing this new means of distribution, the RIAA is trying to extinguish the flame of creativity. An expedient decision against Napster could cause irreversible harm to the rights of individuals to distribute information and inhibit the growth of Internet technologies. Furthermore, the "fair use" doctrine under the Audio Home Recording Act would be completely repudiated if the RIAA were to succeed. More explicit legislation must be passed to reconcile copyright policies and the Internet.

Not only has the RIAA become monopolistic, but it also produces mediocre products. Consumers have taken the law into their own hands because they are unwilling to pay for ridiculously expensive pricing schemes as well as the overall inconsistent quality of most albums. On a typical 12-song CD, one would find only one or two tracks of acceptable quality. But the average consumer is coerced into purchasing the full album.

Also, artists under contracts from recording studios obtain only a small fraction of their due and could expand their sale of merchandise and music through Napster and other forms of electronic self-promotion. In fact, Offspring's forthcoming Conspiracy of One will first be released in digital format in order to bolster sales.

Rules and boundaries are slowly dissolving in the modern age. No one individual or company can rely on the pre-established order any longer. Modernity must be incorporated into the music industry, not erased from existence in one rash decision in the courts. So, before deciding "RIAA — good, Napster — bad," remember that a constructive amalgamation of the two may be the best path to the future of digital music.

NAPSTER ON CAMPUS

What students and faculty have to say...

"This is a debate about control of commercial intellectual property in a digital world. The reason the lawyers and the dot-com types are paying so much attention is that this battle will play out again in the domain of books, newspapers, TV programs and movies. It is costless to copy and easy to share in a digital world. Audience norms and commercial practice will be highly unstable for at least another five years."

—Russell Neuman
Communications Professor

"I think it's more dishonest if you are burning a CD off of Napster, but I've used it to preview CDs. I found out I liked the CD, so I bought it."

—Kate Race, College Sophomore

"Every one of [the independent studies] has come to the same conclusion: there is no evidence that Napster use decreases music sales overall, and there's plenty of evidence that strongly suggests that there is a positive association.

"I have not seen a single independent study that reaches the opposite conclusion. The only exceptions are the highly biased reports that the plaintiffs submitted as part of their legal strategy. It's very hard to deny the weight of all this consistent evidence, although the music industry is doing its very best to do so."

—Peter Fader
Associate Professor of Marketing

"Because the function of reproduction and distribution is so fundamental to communication, which is itself the lifeblood of the economy, there is no way that an efficient process will be declared illegal. At the same time, success in the economy depends upon the ability of producers and distributors to capture their costs and make a reasonable profit.

"... Expect the courts to support punishment of those firms which seek to avoid paying a 'fair share' of the profits they earn from distributing intellectual property. To the extent that Penn and other institutions can be determined to be 'knowing participants' in an illegal scheme, they can be punished as well."

—Oscar Gandy
Communications Professor

"We're college students; [Penn] shouldn't be blocking the choices we make... We can certainly choose which Internet sites to go to."

—Adam Gordon, College Sophomore

I DISAGREE WITH THE GUY WHO LIKES IT

Knock, Knock!! Attention music lovers: This is your conscience speaking...

URIEL COHEN

The Napster debates have left one crucial question unanswered: why does the music piracy service cause a moral problem? The real issue at stake is not about freeing the long over-burdened public from the high costs of the music they buy. It's about the right of those who make a product to sell it without it being stolen from under them.

Even in the technologically advanced 21st century, a copyright is still a copyright and a patent is still a patent. Fortunately for all of us, the law protects both. Fraud and theft are crimes, and the law convicts trespassers of these offenses. There is no precedent for taking away one's ability to make a living.

In the Bible, in a case where one has loaned someone money and wants to receive collateral (to which the lender is legally entitled, mind you) he is not allowed to take away the loan receiver's means of making a living. The Bible speaks of a case where the lender is entitled to collateral. Because the general public has no such entitlement to free music, no possible rationale exists for our greediness and persistence in robbing artists of their livelihood.

I agree that electronic media may be the future of the recording industry. If it were smart, the RIAA would do something to make electronic dispersal of its material legally available. But this must be done on the artists' own terms, when they are ready. We as consumers cannot make that decision for them. It is not our prerogative to steal from musicians because we can. If producers and their artists don't make the appropriate changes for the technology of the times in which they live, they will suffer from their own lack of adaptability.

Some say that artists and recording industry honchos have been ripping off fans for years, forcing them to pay high prices for their music. Be honest. Have the powers that be really forced CDs down their fans' throats and stolen money from their wallets? Of course not.

Fans have been willing to pay exorbitant prices because they like the music artists make. This is the epitome of supply and demand. Think the prices are too high? Boycott, lobby, send letters and e-mails, or do something to voice your protests that lies within your rights. Not ready to protest? Then deal with the prices, not with rationalization of illegality and immorality. That is the way our economy and society work.

Freedom of speech, not freedom of theft, is protected by the Constitution.
Heavy hits hard
The site to see for damn funny shows

WILLIAM TUNG

So you got your new uber-fast, high-speed college connection and you want to have fun. What should you do? Lay off hotlesbiandormaction.com for a while and tune into Heavy.com, the most eccentric broadband site on the Internet.

The site itself is divided into several categories or channels of content. Its anti-pop culture attitude is refreshing in a world full of Britney Spears and the Backstreet Boys. "Behind the Music that Sucks" is an animated parody of the popular VH1 show and pokes fun at a wide range of pop music icons. The heavy games allow you to "bitch slap a rock star" and frollic with "psycho bondage bunnies."

The high-quality streaming video and music is something that puts this site a ledge above the others. Heavy.com features clips and full songs from groups such as Radiohead and the Beastie Boys, as well as from lesser-known alternative bands. Radiohead's new Kid A album is entirely online prior to its October 2 release, and the Beastie Boys section provides audio remixes and alternate videos for their more well-known tracks.

There is also a channel called "Hipnodx" dedicated to hip-hop music, news and video.

Some of the more bizarre curiosities of the site include the animated series of two stoned superheroes, "Munchyman and Fatty," the hardcore Real-World-esque series "d/life," and the absolute must-see section of "contagious" video and sound clips. There is also "Blistter," which features extreme sports put to fast-paced techno and groovy alternative, and the "Sabotage News Network" which is a news magazine show with a twisted headline.

So strap yourself in, punch in Heavy.com, and be prepared for the shock of your life.

"Dude, you said the 7-Eleven was just around the corner, but now we're up to our asses in shrubbery."
The Gospel According to a Random Jackass

by Charles Blackburn

O
K everybody, today we are going to talk about God. Now, I think he is getting his name thrown around a little too much nowadays. I'm not talking about the everyday, run-of-the-mall blasphemy — a few well placed Goddamnit and JesusChristers never hurt anyone. I'm talking about the type of holy desecration that should make any good, moral, gay-bashing, book-burning, God-fearing Christian cringe. But no one seems to notice...

At some recent music awards show, Britney Spears won a handful of awards. Each and every time she went to the stage the first words from her mouth were, "I'd like to thank God for this award." She didn't say, "Hey, I'd like to thank the Lord for putting me here on this planet, for giving me a bodacious pair of tatas and for hooking me up with this ass that can work you nine ways from Sunday," she said, "I'd like to thank God for this award." Last time I checked, the big dude in the sky isn't a part of any academy, I'm pretty sure He doesn't write for Rolling Stone and I know He hasn't produced any TLC videos (although "No Scrubs" was pretty damn good). So Britney's claim that God is up there making sure she wins reeks of more self-indulgence and narcissism than an all-you-can-eat pancake-and-wienie Republican fundraiser.

We all know that the Creator of the universe (a) has more pressing concerns and (b) wouldn't cast it for any of this pussy music if He were given a vote. Metallica is the only band He'll let inside the pearly gates.

But many of us in the United States think a person must believe in God in order to be "good" and "moral." We have Kathie Lee going on about the splendor and beauty of Jesus' love. Meanwhile, 12-year-old Malaysian children are working 18 hours a day on the Kathie Lee K-Mart evening-wear line, and Frank is being recorded in a hotel room asking a stewardess for some lovin' — of the anal variety.

Been our professional athletes — whom we can usually rely upon to bring us a healthy amount of misogyny, drug use and grotesque extravagance — preach to us about how Jesus helped win a game or knock out an opponent. "What Would Jesus Do" wristbands are as common as tattoos, 24-karat earrings and an ounce in the Mercedes glove compartment, but are we really supposed to take these guys seriously? Does Allen Iverson really pull up at the top of the key and say, "Well, shit, I was going to go right then cross over, but Jesus liked to pull up from 18 when he played full court with the Disciples — well then, I'll take the jumper." Whoopi Goldberg thinks the answer is pineapple and I will disagree with her... and circle gets the square.

No, I'm not going to disparage the principle behind the WWJD wristbands, because some people need a little guidance in life. But I do think that the bracelets need to be updated to provide a more relevant context for our lives. I wouldn't mind wearing a WWISD bracelet. And that, of course, means "What Would John Stamos Do" because hey, that guy's a stud. He was somehow able to parlay a role as Uncle Jesse into a marriage to Rebecca Romijn — he must be doing something right. Or perhaps a WWCD bracelet — I probably don't even need to tell you what that means. OK, fine... it means "What Would Charles Blackburn Do?"

OK... I know that I am pretty unenterprising and I have personal hygiene that's, well, mediocre at best. And yes, I know that I spend 95 percent of my time massturating to my Christie Turflington animated screen saver. But, hey, I've had some good ideas in my time. Just send $9.95 plus shipping and handling and your left shoe — any left shoe will do — to WW-CBD/c/o Random Jackass, PO Box 09W1, Philadelphia, PA 123456. Please, no CODs and no clogs.

Anyways... I seem to have taken the wrong exit on the Self-Righteous Diatribe Expressway, so lets meet back at the tollbooth and try to find our way to Relevantville.

My point, I suppose, is that throughout time, people have done some wacky things which they have justified in the name of religion. We have Constantine, who ate a bad mushroom sometime in the fourth century and saw a burning cross in the sky. He then told his soldiers, "fuck the pagan gods" and told them instead to go out and mutilate, pillage and plunder in the name of some new guy named Christ.

Then we have the ascetics. These were people who would do things like sit atop poles for months depriving themselves of food and water until they were so delusional they thought they were speaking to God. And today there's A.C. Green. He's 37 years old and was, until recently, the starting power forward for the Los Angeles Lakers. He's won a bunch of NBA championships and guess what — no sex. A.C. is a born-again Christian and the spokesman for the National Abstinence Council (their slogan: We're fat, smelly and dedicated to making sure no one else gets laid either). But, hey, I've had some good ideas in my time. Just send $9.95 plus shipping and handling and your left shoe — any left shoe will do — to WW-CBD/c/o Random Jackass, PO Box 09W1, Philadelphia, PA 123456. Please, no CODs and no clogs.

"No way, dude, I did her."

But I draw the line only when the religious people of this world tell me that I am a less moral person simply due to my polytheistic beliefs and predilection for sacrificing a barnyard animal every now and again. All I am saying is that we should all worship the way that we want to worship and engage in any sort of malfeasance we deem gratifying as long as we are not hurting anyone or forcing our belief systems and personal moralities onto others.

To all the fanatics out there, I have this to say: the world is a big beautiful place with endless variations on the human condition; don't ruin it by preaching to others as soon as you get a little insecure with your own take on things. And go get laid. Or try. Or just rent some porn. Or you can borrow mine. No wait, you can't — I'm using it right now. All of it. And here's an unnecessary picture of Poison.

CB: Hey, dude, you don't get any ass.
AC: Hey kid, I am worth millions of dollars, I am known all over the world and I have risen to the top of my profession.
CB: Yeah, A.C., you're a virgin.
AC: Hey kid, I am 6'10" and 240 pounds and I can break your face.
CB: Oh yeah, well you're still a virgin.
AC: Hey, kid, what are you doing in my house anyway... Is that my silverware? And put my pants back in the drawer where you found them. Folded. Please.

The ancient and mystical "dance of the invisible 14-inch cock."

J
ust like the other wack-job martyrs throughout history, it is in the name of religion that A.C. has sworn off the poon. But, in the end — and we all know that's where A.C. really likes it (without a doubt he's a staunch supporter of the Frank Gifford "Anal aint the real thing" school of the thought) — what gets my goat is his mission to tell all other normal, carnal human beings that they are immoral.

Let me say that it's not religion that I have a problem with. And I'm not maligning the personal freedom to practice any religion under the sun. It is this freedom that allows me to strip to my cowhide briefs every night and ritualistically pour libations to the lords of the Chthonian underworld. (Please note: application of class related knowledge to humor. Please also note: term human used loosely.)

But I draw the line only when the religious people of this world tell me that I am a less moral person simply due to my polytheistic beliefs and predilection for sacrificing a barnyard animal every now and again. All I am saying is that we should all worship the way that we want to worship and engage in any sort of malfeasance we deem gratifying as long as we are not hurting anyone or forcing our belief systems and personal moralities onto others.

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**Thursday**

**THE ART OF SPIN**  
**"FROM CONFLICT TO PEACE"**  
The Levy Gallery  
Ben Franklin Pkwy and 20th Street  
Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun.; Noon - 4 p.m.  
Through Oct. 1  
(215) 568-4515

Are you feeling the spirit of St. Patty's Day even though it's so far off? Is the Blarney Stone just not enough culture for your weekend vision? Well, stick up on the Guinness, stick a clover on your lapel and head over to The Levy Gallery. Bodega artists from Northern Ireland are displaying their trials and tribulations in a photograph and mural exhibition.

**RYAN ADAMS**  
North Star Bar  
27th and Poplar streets  
8 p.m./ $8  
(215) 884-0808

It’s not a typo. Ryan is playing in the self-proclaimed “coolest place in town.” Just don’t expect him to play “Summer of ’69.” His band, Whisketown, just played its final show and Ryan’s new solo album, “Heartbreaker,” is an artist from the Philadelphia area that is an original soulful, raw, and ballsy rock n roll artist. If you’re in the mood to root for some locals, head over to The Levy Gallery.

**DRAG THURSDAYS**  
Bob and Barbara’s Lounge  
1509 South Street  
9 p.m./ $5  
(215) 922-6888

The two girls sing. The two boys play some bass. There are some guitars, some drums, a bass. Mix it all up and you have a “psychedelic two-guitar assault...hard-edged and urgent.” And they urgently want you to come see them. If you stop by, Gracie promises not to say goodbye until the fat lady sings.

**ELOIT, THE WEAKERTHANS, CAMDEN, HELGESON STORY**  
4040 4040 Locust Street  
6 p.m./ $7  
(610) 527-0988

In an age where Britney Spears and ‘N Sync rule the music scene, good music seems hard to come by. 4040 transcends the lame pop scene and provides an alternative venue where punk-rock, indie-rock, trip-hop and other kinds of experimental music draw serious music-loving crowds. Playing with Eliot and Camden, The Weakertans and the Helgeson Story will rock out the house!

**MARTIAL WORKS OF THE LEONARD MUSEUM**  
The Athenaeum  
219 S. Sixth Street  
Through Oct. 13/ Free Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
(215) 925-2688

Do you ever wonder where buildings come from? The Athenaeum, Philadelphia’s shrine to architecture, holds all the secrets of the structures in this city. See the original designs of the Rodin Museum, and check out Gutzon’s radical plans to demolish City Hall. Thank goodness he didn’t! Where would Old Billy Penn be now?

**QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE WITH VAST**  
TLA  
334 South Street  
9 p.m./ $14.50, $15.50  
(215) 922-1011

Six months ago, they were virtually unheard of, but after a wildly successful stint on last summer’s Ozzfest, Queens of the Stone Age are suddenly the hottest hitters in hard rock. But QOTSA aren’t just loud, testosterone-filled beasts spewing shit about Satan and Oozy — their songwriting is actually intelligent and at times even clever, an extremely rare thing in the world of hard rock. They keep the sound intense and the pace frantic without getting lost in overused metal riffat.

**ROSEMARY PURE, POPPY, GOODNIGHT GRAINIE**  
Balcony Bar  
1003 Arch Street  
9 p.m.; $6  
(215) 922-6888

The girls sing. The two boys play some basic guitar. There are some drums, some drums, a bass. Mix it all up and you have a “psychedelic two-guitar assault...hard-edged and urgent.” And they urgently want you to come see them. If you stop by, Gracie promises not to say goodbye until the fat lady sings.

**SHARON KATZ AND THE PEACE TRAIN**  
The Point  
880 Lancaster Avenue  
8 p.m./ $12  
(610) 527-0988

All aboard Sharon Katz is the main conductor of her peace train. Seriously. She actually traveled with 150 musicians across Apartheid South Africa to spread messages of tolerance and unity. She brings her inspiring music to America to end violence, promote education and generally make people happy.

**JUDITH SCHEACHTER**  
Snyderman Gallery  
303 Cherry Street  
Through Sept 30  
Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
(215) 925-2888

Just like “Lite Brite,” with sex and death as the main focus. Judith Scheachter’s stained glass works are on exhibit until the end of the month, and these are not your everyday, gothic cathedral, saint-filled windows. Come on, you know you want to see a work entitled “Landscape with Underpants.”

**KIM THOMAS**  
**"VARIATIONS ON THE TRUTH"**  
Muse Gallery  
60 N. Second Street  
Wed.-Sun., 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
(215) 627-9310

Kim Thomas is one half of the husband-wife pop act, Say-Say. In addition to playing some ambiguously Christian music, Kim is quite a painter. Her use of soft, subtle lines highlights her subjects with blessed haloes. She seeks to capture the truth about life in her work. Check her out and decide for yourself.

**Friday**

**CANDIDA**  
Ardon Theatre  
40 N. Second Street  
Sept. 21-22/ 8 p.m.  
(215) 922-1125

Not to be confused with Voltaire’s or book or Leonard Bernstein’s musical of similar name, Candida satirizes the basic human relationship between men and women. When a woman is forced to choose between two men, she can’t choose both — obviously the best option. If you’re in the mood to root for the good guy, check it out. You might get lucky tonight!

**JOHN FLYNN**  
The Point  
880 W. Lancaster Avenue  
9 p.m./ $8  
(610) 527-0988

John Flynn will be providing an infusion of folk and country this weekend just as a short train ride away at The Point in Bryn Mawr. Flynn is an artist from the Philadelphia area who has received much local praise. Barbara Kessler, another local folk singer, will open the show.

**CORNELIA PARKER**  
ICA  
118 S. 36th Street  
Sept. 15-Nov. 2  
(215) 898-7108

The ICA continues to feed students’ appetites for innovative artwork with its most recent exhibition featuring Cornelia Parker. This British artist turns ordinary objects into her own conceptual interpretations in her installment entitled Room for Margins. She also pays homage to British artist J.M.W. Turner by re-stretching his trash canvas and hanging it as artwork in its own right. But they don’t teach you this in Art History 101.

**TAP TEAM II IN THE FEET**  
The Point  
880 Lancaster Avenue  
8 p.m./ $6  
(215) 925-9914

Tap, Tap. Who’s there? Why, it’s the Tap Team at the Painted Bride. Since none of the Penn Dance Troupes will be folding its concerts until at least the end of October, you are probably starved for some culture. Or you might just be craving chicks in scanty leotards. Either way, check out the show at the Painted Bride. It’s sure to be an original and expressive performance.

**THE OLD SETTLER**  
Freedom Repertory Theater  
John E. Allen, Jr. Theatre  
1346 N. Broad Street  
Sept. 22-Oct. 5  
Wed.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun., 7 p.m.  
$18-34  
(215) 765-2793

Once upon a time, the Freedom Theater, the oldest African-American theater group in the country, had nowhere permanent to perform. Then, this spring, it opened its new home. Since then, the group has continued to perform on fabulous cultural plays. Its most recent romantic comedy will make you want to keep coming back.
Get a Nightlife

Are you tired of that keg of Natty Light, your faded and beer-stained jeans and those oh-so-cleverly-themed frat parties? Are you trying to find a place where your Prada bag will fit in? Feel like breaking out into a night life with some sophistication and class? Well, then, Swanky Bubbles is the perfect campus escape! Head down on Front Street and experience the chic that is Philadelphia's first champagne bar. Curving through the right side of the room, the blue and glassy bar is stocked with over 30 different kinds of wines and champagne. While post techno music throbs through the bubble-shaped room, beautiful people decked out in trendy clothes mill around, chatting and checking each other out. Slanted mirrors strategically placed on the walls give a sweeping view of the entire room and make that later task a little easier. But Swanky Bubbles isn't solely a meat market. Those who are attached definitely have their choice of intimate lacquered tables and plush red chairs to share a laugh, a few drinks and some taps. And, before you leave, be a little adventurous and try one of the delicious champagne cocktails. The bar features eight exotic and colorful selections.

Jennifer Lesko

Lucky Strike Band to Band Competition

**Trocadero**
1003 Arch Street
8 p.m. - $5
(215) 922-6888

Sick of ResNet? Feeling up for something a little more creative than Toy Story? Digital Productions is perfect for you! Blake wants to challenge your perceptions of animation, photography, video projection and computer art. By dissolving drawings of ordinary objects into basic shapes and colors, he makes Genesis videos that are a lot more interesting than anything MTV has ever shown.

Jeremy Blake - Digital Productions
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Broad and Cherry streets
Open until Nov. 5
Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
(215) 927-7600

Sick of ResNet? Feeling up for something a little more creative than Toy Story? Digital Productions is perfect for you! Blake wants to challenge your perceptions of animation, photography, video projection and computer art. By dissolving drawings of ordinary objects into basic shapes and colors, he makes Genesis videos that are a lot more interesting than anything MTV has ever shown.

Jersey Blake - Digital Productions
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Broad and Cherry streets
Open until Nov. 5
Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
(215) 927-7600

If you're itching to get off campus for the night, swing by the Gorden Theater for quite a cultural experience. And no, we're not talking about Camden. This Indian Arts dance troupe will spice up your night with performances of native dances from North and South India.

**NRITHYJANULI INSTITUTE OF DANCE**
Gorden Theatre
Rutgers University, Camden Campus
6 p.m.
(732) 438-0858

***THORAZINE, UNDERGRL, SQUATWEILER, MERIDIAN***
The Balcony Bar
1003 Arch Street
8 p.m.
(215) 922-6888

Gear up for a night of funky punk and indie rock! Philly's own Thorazine is up to the task. Don't miss the chance to see them, they're not only the best, but they're not up in Camden. This Indian Arts dance troupe will spice up your night with performances of native dances from North and South India.

Lydia Artymiw and Cynthia Raim
Pennsylvania Convention Center Auditorium
Entrance at 13th and Cherry streets
7:30 p.m.; $18-$9 for students
http://www.pcmcnet.org

Lyrical music to your ears: it's Lydia Artymiw and Cynthia Raim, two internationally famous pianists brought to you by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society. The concert will feature top selections such as Mozart's Andante and Five Variations in G major for Piano duet. It's not your regular performance from Peanuts Schroeder.

**Vote Campaign Choices, Presidential Voices**
Atwater Kent Museum
15 S. Seventh Street
Through Nov. 2000
Open every day but Tuesday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
(215) 922-3031

Remember what it was like to elect a President? Yeah, four years was a long time ago. But even though you're a little out of practice with the whole election thing, the Atwater Kent has just the exhibit to get you back into the democratic spirit! With old buttons and bumper stickers and pictures of Republican conventions from years past, you too, can get sparked for the upcoming political season!

**POLYWUMPUS IMPROV COMEDY**
The Point
880 W. Lancaster Avenue
Bryn Mawr, Pa.
(610) 527-0988

Tell your friends: "I know what I want for Christmas," or "I know what I want for Christmas," and these guys will probably be able to make them amusing. When the Polywumpus Improvisation Comedy troupe performs at the Point, audience participation is inevitable. Popular in the area for live acts, the Point is a pleasant cafe oriented around a circular stage. Single yourself out, and you'll be preyed upon by the performers. Dress casual and warn your date.

**SOLUTIONS**
Moonstone Readings at Robin's Bookstore
108 S. 13th Street
3 p.m.; free
(215) 735-9600

Have an issue with the world? Interested in poverty, education, welfare, the environment and sweatshops? Who isn't? Robin's introduces a monthly series called Solutions where concerned citizens can vent, analyze and debate. Engage in intellectual conversations about issues that irk you. The first presentation is on third-party politics — you know, the Green Party, the Reform Party and the like. Be ready to think.

**Spin**
The Wilma Theater
Broad and Spruce streets
2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; $7-$38
(215) 893-9456

You spin me right round baby right round. That's what Clinton said. The next word he said would be scandal, just like the character Jerry in this bit. And candidat polywumpus improv comedy manager who has figure out whether or not his candidate's poor reputation is deserved... and what to do about it either way. And, to have to make these decisions in 24 hours before the primary election. Celebrate the Presidential theme that is taking over the U.S. and see this hilarious play.

**WINDHORSE, PART OF MILLENNIUM MADNESS FILM SERIES**
Villanova University's Connelly Center Cinema
(610) 519-4750

A serious piece made by award-winning Paul Wagner, Windhorse is the next installment in VU's Cultural Film & Lecture Series. The film is based on true events, but provides a fictionalized story of a family's life in Tibet trying to survive under Chinese oppression.
**Tuesday**

**MEG CAMPBELL & WILLIAM DUKE**

Moonstone Readings at Robin's Bookstore
108 S. 13th Street
7 p.m.; free
(215) 336-8980

It's the editors of Split Verse: Poesis to Heal Our Heart, an anthology of poems about divorces Meg Campbell and William Duke. Hear poems from relatively unknown authors who are keen on the new feeling of a ringless finger. Also on hand will be some of the authors included in the anthology. Stressing on the idea lately? It'd be a good idea to go there and vent your feelings with some good poetry.

**THE DUBSPOT**

Fluid
613 S. Fourth Street (above the Latest Dish)
10 p.m.-midnight; $5 cover
(215) 629-3686

Presented by Nyahbhinghi and Black Artists/Work, the Dubspot is a night at Fluid of the best in roots, culture and dance hall reggae. With DJ Kenny Meez in charge of the turntables, Fluid will be jammin'.

**OPEN MIC HOSTED BY ANDY KIMBEL**

The Point
880 W. Lancaster Avenue
Bryn Mawr, Pa.
8 p.m.; no cover
(610) 527-0988

Head on over to the Point for some good food and musical entertainment in a comfortable and intimate space the size of your living room. It's Open Music Circle and you know what that means — amateurs with guitars singing their original songs. Maybe like Phoebe from Friends... anyway, check it out for a relaxed night in the suburbs.

**NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS W/ PETER BRUNTELL**

North Star Bar
2639 Poplar Street
9 p.m.; $10
(215) 684-0808

It's an amazing that more musicians don't try to combine dance with the blues. Shake Hands With Shorty, the new release from the North Mississippi All-Stars, definitely will. They effortlessly combine the smoothest of DJ beats with the rootiest of blues vibes for a gritty, rocking sound that gives these new school blues a brilliant old-school flavor. It's the kind of blues you can feel between your teeth. Go to the show and experience it for yourself at North Star Bar's quaint, two-story abode.

**REPROS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY SYLVIA PLACHY**

Arthur Ross Gallery at Penn
220 S. 34th Street
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(215) 898-1479

Sylvia Plachy is displaying recent photographs from her prestigious collection. A former Village Voice photographer,Plachy knows how to juxtapose reality with imagination. Walk on over to the Fine Arts Library and take a peek at the extraordinary.

**STONE TEMPLE PILOTS W/ DISTURBED AND LIQUID GANG**

First Union Spectrum
34th & Broad Streets
7:30 p.m.; $32.50
(215) 336-3600

Scott Weiland left his drug addictions at home for good and now Stone Temple Pilots are revved up for a tour to promote their current album, No. 4. A grunge-rock band that popped up onto the Seattle scene in the early '90s, STP is still going strong despite personal woes. Hop on the orange line and check out a popular show. Opening is Disturbed and Liquid gang.

**Wednesday**

**OPEN MUSIC CIRCLE**

The Point
880 W. Lancaster Avenue
Bryn Mawr, Pa.
8 p.m.; no cover
(610) 527-0988

Head on over to the Point for some good food and musical entertainment in a comfortable and intimate space the size of your living room. It's Open Music Circle and you know what that means — amateurs with guitars singing their original songs. Maybe like Phoebe from Friends... anyway, check it out for a relaxed night in the suburbs.

**THE DANDY WARHOLS**

TLA
334 South Street
8 p.m.; $10, $12
(215) 922-1011

Pissed that rock 'n' roll is being taken over by neanderthal white-trash and bubble-gum punk rockers? Then come hear the Dandy Warhols promote their self-proclaimed "last classic rock album." Thirteen Tales from Urban Bohemia. They're witty, irreverent and they talk about sex, drugs and rock & roll while they're at it.

**THE SARAGOSSA MANUSCRIPT**

Prince Music Theatre
1412 Chestnut Street
Through Oct. 8
(215) 893-1570

Magnolia is a formulaic sitcom compared to this bizarre Polish classic. Beloved by Jerry Garcia, this movie has been retrieved from the vaults to disturb, amuse and enlighten audiences around the world. Sit through all 180 minutes of adventure, sexual intrigue, skullduggery and appearances by a demonic cyclops named Pacheco. It's trippier than the Wall and safer than E.

BRIAN PETERSON

Kelly Writers House
3805 Locust Walk
7 p.m.
(215) 573-WRIT

Ever look at that Engineering kid having caffeine seizures in Dining and think, "Wow, the Engineering Department breeds fidgety robots?" Think again. Brian Peterson emerged from the Engineering School as a leader in the African-American community at Penn. Catch him at the Writers House, talking about his work with Ase, an African-centered Saturday school for West Philly-area junior high students.

**WEDNIGHTS @ THE PMA**

Ben Franklin Pkwy at 26th Street
5:45-8 p.m.; $5 w/ college ID (take the Morrie)
http://www.philamuseum.org

Every Wednesday, the Philadelphia Museum of Art opens its galleries and invites special guests. This week's theme is "Neo-Liberals Musical Dialogue." A Special Concert will be performed by cellist Ohad Bar-David and violinist Simon Shahem in celebration of Middle Eastern musical heritage. Make it a class night of the week.

**NIXON'S NIXON**

Adrienne Theatre
2030 Sansom Street
7:30 p.m.; Preview - $12

Shhh! It's a preview of Nixon's Nixon presented by InterAct Theatre Company. A stinging and dark comedy about power in the lives of Henry Kissinger and Richard Nixon, Nixon's Nixon has been praised nationwide as a wonderful political satire. Catch it before it comes out on its official opening night, Oct 4.
**1. Kiss This**

Welcome to the Cruel World.

Ben Harper chose as the title of his first album back in 1994. Then, five years later, he wanted to Burn to Shine on his fourth album and is still doing so for two nights here in Philly. California-born Ben Harper, a spiritual musician who has been compared to the likes of Jimi Hendrix, Bob Marley and Marvin Gaye, is breaking out onto the alternative music scene with hits like "Steal My Kisses" to a jazzy "Suzie Blue." A keen and talented musician with a lap slide guitar and a solid voice, Ben Harper and his band of Innocent Criminals will satiate your appetite for a good live performance.

**2. Full-Court Advantage**

After last year's Connaissance choices of speakers Benjamin Netanyahu and George Stephanopoulos, two guys who royally suck at sports, Irvine Auditorium will host a non-political speaker this fall. He was a great professional athlete in the 80s, portrayed Arnold's teacher Mr. Wilkes in a few Diff'rent Strokes episodes and really made his mark in the decade following his career. And he didn't have his reputation destroyed by murder accusations. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar will speak about his post-NBA career as a social activist working to achieve equality and social justice for African Americans. Just don't tell him that he didn't work hard enough on defense. Or that sometimes he didn't even run down the court. Or that he didn't really try, except during the playoffs. He's been hearing that crap ever since was at UCLA.

**3. Soul Sizzle**

Sick of rap with no substance? In need of hip-hop that's still about the music? Your savior is here.

Since 1991, the Lyricists Lounge has been bringing people out of their seats with underground hip-hop artists who, despite their general anonymity, pound out more beats and rhymes than most of your household names. Over the last nine years the Lounge has grown from a small venue in Manhattan to a national tour, attracting the likes of the Notorious B.I.G., De La Soul and the Beatnuts, while still catering to the underground artists and providing them with a means to be heard. Mos Def heads the Lounge in Philly this week, fresh off his first solo album, **Black on Both Sides.** Worth the price of a ticket alone, Mos Def will share the stage with Mature, Figgas, cent and Punch & Words at the Electric Factory. 

**4. It's Not Just A G-Thing**

Look for your G-string? You can find an abundance at the Academy of Music tonight as the Philadelphia Orchestra presents the Works of Schubert, Mendelssohn and Mozart. Grace the Academy's stage with the Orchestra is Greek violinist Leonidas Kavakovos, who has been known to dazzle crowds with his mastery of the violin. This time around, Kavakovos performs in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor. Other works to be performed are Schubert's Symphony No. 3 in D Major and Mozart's Symphony No. 40 in G minor.

**5. Monologues That Hit The Spot**

Is your vagina lacking the publicity it deserves? Are you without a vagina but still wanting to fully grasp the experience? Then slide on over to Zellerbach for the eloquent, daring and penetrating Vagina Monologues. Eve Ensler's play about that most unmentionable of unmentionables is a thoughtful journey between the legs of hundreds of fascinating women from all walks of life. This show's got it all: sex, violence, wisdom and pubic hair. And if you're suffering from vagina anxiety, fear not. The Vagina Monologues will ease you into slowly at first, and then will pick up the pace when you get comfortable. It'll keep pounding away until you have a revelation, or — if you're lucky — multiple revelations. Why all the fuss? Ensler explains, "I was worried about vaginas." We are, too. Eve. We are, too.