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Live Wire

HACC Lancaster's Student Newspaper



December 2011 Volume V Issue IV

Day of the Dead is Celebrated at HACC

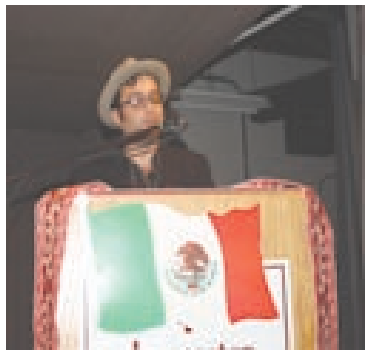


Photo by Shawn Shaknitz
S.G.A. President Joe Blaubeurg welcomes students and faculty.

Written by Tammy Wilson,
Managing Editor

On Tuesday, November 1, the Mexican tradition of Dia De Los Muertos was celebrated at the HACC Lancaster campus. The tradition for honoring the dead was a program co-sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Student Government Association (S.G.A). Room 223 in the East building was set up in a colorful style reminiscent of Hispanic cultures, which celebrate the Day of the Dead, and included an altar commemorating Alma J. Aguilara, who passed away August 16, 2004.

The altar is the centerpiece of the Dia De Los Muertos celebration. Set up on October 31 for children and November 1 for adults, the altar typically includes candles, flowers, and food the departed person favored, and other items commemorating the person's life. "Each item and color has meaning, including the candy skulls with the name of the dead person on them, which are used to symbolize death and rebirth," explained Esmeralda Hetrick, co-founder of "La Voz Latina Central," a Spanish newspaper, and emcee of the event. Candles are burned to light the way for the dead to return to witness the celebration of their life.

The altar set up for the celebration was provided by Marguerita Silva in honor of her sister, Alma J. Aguilara. As in most Dia De Los Muertos celebrations, Ms. Silva shared her

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Staff Unprepared for Premium Increase

by Abraham Arehart,
Assistant Editor

Plans are under way for a monumental increase in health-care premiums for Harrisburg Area Community College faculty and staff. The premium increase, slated to be implemented in January of next year, will affect faculty on all campuses, regardless of their current pay or tenure. The proposal plans for a healthcare premium cap of 10% and an increase of four to six percent from staff's current plan.

The premium increase has not settled well with many working for the college, in part because of the lack of discussion between administration and staff prior to the decision being reached, and because of the increase itself, which for some amounts to more than double what they were originally paying. The Community College Advisory Committee held their first meeting to discuss the issue at the end of August, and votes were in by the fifth of the October. This led to a dramatic decrease of time for the faculty to plan for, or even discuss, the issue with administration officials.

In a hurried Faculty Organization meeting held on October 31st, college staff found quite a bit to disagree with concerning the premium increase. In a near unanimous recommendation made by the Faculty Organiza-

tion, they stated, "The Faculty Organization has no confidence in the process by which the employee portion of the health-care premiums was determined. We do not accept the decision because the process was flawed, the data were presented late, the benefits director was not present, and the decision was made on philosophical rather than financial grounds." According to the minutes of the same meeting, a question of misdirected funding came up. "How is it they can spend \$400,000 on furniture at Penn Center ... knowing the healthcare premiums were going to increase for everyone? ... I think it's our administration holding back as usual."

The Board of Trustees has long been working for a premium percentage to be paid by the faculty and staff of HACC. The original plan called for 20% of the premium to be paid by the staff, but was later reduced to 10%. Much of the backing for the plan rests on the recent budget cuts introduced by Governor Tom Corbett, which amounted to more than 1.5 billion in cuts to the education sector, according to Fox News. Yet minutes from the Faculty Organization show that popular opinion is that the Board of Trustees wants the faculty to pay "out of principle."

These concerns were stated



Photo courtesy of MCT Campus

again during a town hall meeting held between HACC's President Dr. John "Ski" Sygielski and faculty on November 3rd. Dr. Sygielski worked to give the meeting a constructive framework as he outlined the events leading up to the decision and had members of the administration attempt to answer questions presented by staff. Despite the open forum, there appeared to be little room to change the actual situation for staffers. Instead, they were asked to wait until January to work on a new benefits plan – once the premium increase comes into full effect.

All of this has stimulated an outcry among staff, although most students would not know it. Some employees have been hesitant to discuss matters publicly, fearing lack of tenure would make them targets for repercussions down the line. Others, however, have been more vocal.

Jeff Ihlenfeldt, an English professor for the Lancaster campus, mentioned two points. "First, we need all information to be presented clearly to us before decisions are being made. Also, we need the ability as an organization to negotiate with administration on financial matters. As it stands right now, we have figures that are given to us." He mentioned that communica-

tion continues to be an issue for the school administration.

Attempts to sit down with Dr. "Ski" about the premium increase were met with initial openness. Yet this proved ultimately fruitless as a sit-down interview was denied due to schedule concerns, and this writer was informed that an emailed list of questions was preferred. Once this was sent, the questions were then redirected to Meredith Tulli, vice president of Human Resources and Organizational Development. At the time of this writing, no response has been forthcoming.

When Mr. Ihlenfeldt was asked about the possibility of unionization, he stated, "In 2000, there was an effort by the faculty to unionize, but it failed. But a union is something to look at. Any system to gain strength in collective bargaining would be good. One of the greater issues here deals with the corporatization of colleges. The focus has shifted from education to efficiency."

In response to the continued dismay of staff, Blue Cross announced on November 9 it was willing to make a concession of 1% in an effort to appease staff member concerns. It remains to be seen whether or not this will be sufficient.



Photo courtesy of MCT Campus

Live Wire

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Live Wire" welcomes letters from readers. Letters should include the writers affiliation with the college, address, and phone number. Submissions are subject to editing for style, length, and libel, and they should not exceed 350 words. All submissions then become the property of "Live Wire."

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THE TIRADE

by Tammy Wilson,
Managing Editor

I will be the first to admit that I am not a fashion maven. However, I do think certain styles are out of the question. I can deal with "emo," goth, and punk fashions with all the black and the piercings and the make-up that makes one look more like a raccoon around the eyes than a human. I can even deal with the current trend of wearing belts just under the chest area to make one's physique seem more curvaceous. What I can't handle are those who wear pajama pants out in public, and guys who can't tell that their waist is above their hips and perhaps they need a belt.

As for those in pajama pants, I don't mean those who are running to the local convenience store for milk for breakfast. I'm talking about those you see out at the mall or Walmart in the middle of the day. I know you know what I'm talking about; and if you don't, just go to peopleofwalmart.com and check out the pictures of people and

what they are wearing. Seriously, were you just too lazy to change into daytime clothing? The pants you are wearing are called sleep pants for a reason. In case you can't tell by the name, that means you sleep in them.

And guys, if I wanted to see your boxers, I'd put on x-ray glasses. I've seen guys whose pants are so loose they MUST hold them up just to walk down the street without having the pants pool around their ankles. If your pants are that big, put on a belt; I don't want to see the skid marks on your fruit of the looms. You can borrow one from your girlfriend. I'm sure she has plenty just to be "in style". Or better yet, help the economy and buy a few pair of pants that fit.

I don't mean to offend those who find these particular fashion statements as okay, but when did it become alright to go out in public dressed like you just rolled out of bed (literally) and showing more of your personal attire than anyone needs to see? And please don't get me started on leggings that some seem to think can be worn as regular pants; that tirade isn't pretty.

WHAT SHOULD THE PRIORITIES OF THE LANCASTER CAMPUS BE?

HACC has recently announced a new strategic plan for 2011-14 that sets priorities for the college. This plan focuses on three major themes: teaching and learning excellence, organizational excellence, and operational excellence. Lancaster Campus Vice President Dr. L. Marshall Washington is taking the college strategic plan one step further by seeking to create a Lancaster Campus specific strategic plan. As part of this effort, all students are invited to provide input into the Lancaster Campus plan. How can the campus help you as students be successful at HACC and complete your programs? How can the campus better deliver services to and communicate with you? Are there big things you think the campus should be doing, but is not?

If you have ideas about the direction the campus should be going, please take advantage of this opportunity for providing your feedback. You can drop off your ideas in the offices in Main 327 and East 316, email them to Michael Corradino at mccorrad@hacc.edu, or post them on the HACC Lancaster Facebook page.

Interested in writing for Lancaster Live Wire?

NEWS

Dec 29, 2004 - The Inkscape developers have set a goal for the release of Inkscape 0.41 for mid-late January. There are some noteworthy new features that would be worth getting out taking stock soon, a good stable version to start with.

Email livewire@hacc.edu or stop by 105F Main for information!

Tell Me About It...

by Laura May,
Faculty Contributor



TELL ME ABOUT IT.....is a new Livewire column where students can read and receive advice from one of our very own. Laura May, a professional counselor, offers advice on all of life's issues: relationships, stress, dating and more! Have a question? Send it to tellmeaboutit@hacc.edu. Letters may be edited for length, content, and clarity.

Dear Laura,
I'm trying to convince my boyfriend to get into shape. But, he's not as receptive to my hints as I would like him to be. Should I be more direct? Fit

Dear Fit,
Guys are not as conscious about weight as most girls are. Five or 10 pounds to a guy can go unnoticed. Girls are much more perceptive to the scale, how clothes fit, etc. But if you are still concerned about his physical fitness, I would suggest you invite him to join a sport. There are recreation-

al sports leagues that anyone can join. He will be having so much fun, he won't even notice that he's exercising. One last suggestion is to stock his fridge with healthy snacks so when he's hungry, junk food is not an option. The best to you!
Laura

Dear Laura: I'm in college and my boyfriend of almost one year has a lot of close female friends. It didn't bother me at first, but lately I can't stop thinking about it. He goes out to parties with them, sleeps on their couches, and post pictures of him and them on his Facebook page. I don't want to tell him what he can't do, but I do know it will put a strain on our relationship if he continues to do this. Am I overacting? Worried

Dear Worried: It seems that you and your boyfriend have incompatible ideas of what couple-hood entails. Decent, loving people respect each other's values. You didn't say it, but is it possible that you don't entirely trust him with his female friends? You're right, you can't make him change, but you don't have to stick around, either, if he's doing things that you're not comfortable with. He may be clueless to the fact that his behavior bothers you. Have a firm conversation about your feelings, or simply walk away if this behavior is a deal-breaker. The best to you!
Laura

Letters to the Editor: Dr. Ski's Inauguration

by Lynnea Quintana,
HACC Student

After attending Dr. Ski's inauguration at the Harrisburg Campus on October 21, 2011, it was a new experience. After walking through his inauguration procession with the several other members of other SGA's from the five other campuses, and sitting through the various speeches, it left me in nothing but pure amazement. Bryell St.Clair, SGA President and SGAEC chair from the York campus had a speech that left an imprint on me with the way that she spoke about the overall process of finding our

newest president for school. Being able to be a part of an event as large as this was an experience that could only be imagined. I was left speechless after having the opportunity to be involved in something as large as this. As I had the opportunity to sit in the audience with the several other students that were in the procession, I had the opportunity to be able to realize that having the opportunity to be able to experience something such as Ski getting inaugurated was something that I still even at this point can truly reflect on as something that is something that will be able to stick with me for a long time.

NEW! HACC offers priority enrollment for continuing students this spring.

Continuing students: Enrollment opens 8 a.m. Monday, October 31

*New students: Enrollment opens 8 a.m. Monday, November 14

*Call to reserve an advising and registration session early to get the best classes.

Maintaining your current weight during the holidays

by Leslie Weller,
Contributing Writer

Maintaining a healthy weight and getting fit is a hot topic and big concern for most Americans in today's society. However, it is not as easy as it may seem, especially during the holiday season with the decadent aroma of a turkey roasting in the oven and a freshly baked pumpkin pie placed on the dining room table. Americans tend to dramatically overeat and put exercise on the back burner during the winter months, resulting in gaining pounds. Reporter from The Diet Channel, Michele Turcotte, agrees, "The average American typically gains between one and five pounds between Thanksgiving and New Years." Rather than Americans adding to the statistics, they can defy those assumptions by making personal goals and simple changes to their diets and daily activities resulting in a healthier, happier lifestyle and future.

The typical holiday meal in the American household on average contains a main meat dish plus about four or five side dishes, varying from family to family, plus a dessert. However, the calories within the foods add up

quickly to staggering numbers most Americans tend to overlook. According to "Diet Bites," "The average holiday dinner contains about 4000 calories," which is double the daily recommended calorie intake. Although human metabolisms vary from person to person, making a few adjustments to a diet will result in a healthier lifestyle.

Noted cardiologist and talk show host, Dr. Oz, recommends people take time in their daily activities to weigh themselves at least twice a week, especially during the holidays, in order to detect weight gain early before it gets out of control. By catching weight gain early, Dr. Oz suggests, it is easier to fit in an extra workout or pass up an extra helping of food during the next meal.

Keeping a record of the exact foods consumed and how much of it, dramatically aids in maintaining a current healthy weight during the holidays. By doing that, people are able to detect the direct source of weight gaining problems that arise, especially when consuming food during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Dr. Oz concludes, "It was especially important at this time of year when people may be surrounded



Holiday treats like these make it difficult to stay in shape during the holiday.

Courtesy of MCTCampus

by temptations. A bite here and a taste there will add up, so document everything -- even if it's a spoonful of pudding or a single chocolate chip." However, this small change is remarkably useful in maintaining a desired weight and can be used by Americans throughout the year, not just during the holidays.

Knowing the amount of cal-

ories present in the foods consumed also helps immensely in keeping a healthy weight. Researching the nutritional values of the food that is prepared will help keep a hold on binging during big holiday dinners. If people know an estimated calorie value on a piece of pie, they might think twice about how much of it they consume.

Burning the extra calories that are consumed during the holidays and keeping active is of great importance in being healthy. Exercising, however, is a difficult task throughout the winter months, but making small substitutions can help in maintaining a healthy weight. For instance, instead of using a snow blower to clear a snowy driveway, bring out the shovel and shovel it by hand; according to the website "livestrong," about 200 calories are burned from shoveling snow for 30 minutes.

Making simple changes will resist in weight gain during the holiday months; reporter from "Report.com," Jennifer R. Scott, demonstrates, "If you burn off some of the extra calories you'll inevitably be taking in during the season, it will help keep those few holiday pounds from creeping on."

In addition to those small chang-

es to aid in more physical activity around the household, there are also other small tweaks that are beneficial in sustaining healthy weight. The website "Meals Matter" suggests that picking up your walking pace while shopping at the mall, parking at one end of the mall and walking to the other end and back, and using the stairs instead of the escalator are all excellent small steps made in maintaining a healthy holiday weight and perhaps even add up to big steps in living a long, healthy life.

Making personal goals is perhaps one of the most important steps involved in maintaining a healthy weight or even in losing unwanted weight during the holidays. However, sticking with the goals made is a key aspect in a healthy lifestyle because ultimately the human mind is in control of the motivation and desires needed to be responsible in an especially hard time of year to maintain a healthy weight.

Change can be good or bad, but in this case the small changes made in ones' daily eating habits result in remarkable success. Keeping track of the food consumed, stepping onto the scale, good exercise habits, and most importantly, making realistic goals, all contribute to a healthier and happy lifestyle and future.



Keeping track of body fat percentage is as helpful as keeping track of weight.

Courtesy of MCTCampus

Continued from page 1.

memories of her sister, including her sister's joy for life. "She always said: 'Do what you want now because you won't be here forever and, when you are gone, you are gone and won't be able to do it,'" reminisced Silva. All the items on the altar and the food are usually transferred to the cemetery on November 2, where friends and family members gather to share memories and celebrate the life of the departed person through talk and song. Ms. Hetrick shared her memory of Alma and Alma's love of song and dance. Hetrick sang "La Bamba" for the audience because the song is a large part of her memory from when she first met Alma. Hetrick recalled Alma had come into a restaurant and wanted to dance, but

no one else was dancing and "La Bamba" was the song playing when Alma got up and danced on her own, inviting others to join her as the song continued.

Attendees to HACC Lancaster's Dia De Los Muertos celebration were able to enjoy food provided by Christina's Catering, including samples of Bread of the Dead, sweet bread shaped like a bun and usually decorated with a tear for sorrow and bone-like pieces commemorating the lost person. Other foods guests could sample included rice and beans, beef and chicken tacos or fajitas and shrimp ceviche (a dish in which the citrus juices cook the meat). "I came to learn some more about a celebration that is part of my culture," said student Alexandra Rosas. "I enjoyed it a lot."



Esmeralda Hetrick recalled memories of her sister Anna at the event.

Photo taken by Shawn Shaknitz

Skyrim Soars as Potential Best Game of the Year

Bethesda frenzies gamers with its next installment of the “Elder Scrolls.”

Written by Luke Brahl,
Contributing Writer

Friday, November 11, 2011, was a date that had been marked on the calendars of many gamers for over a year. It will be remembered by many as the day millions of people across the United States committed social suicide with the release of “The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim.” The sequel to “The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion,” which was awarded not one, but two consecutive Game of the Year titles, “Skyrim” is a game that has been five years in the making. And “Skyrim” is well worth the wait. For any hardcore role-playing game (RPG) fan, “Skyrim” is the epitome of RPG’s for this generation. With well over 300 hours of content, this is an RPG that is not for the faint of heart. And for a company that is known for its extensive stories and immersive gameplay, Bethesda Softworks has outdone itself in almost every way imaginable.

Most people who have played a Bethesda produced game will know that its games are notoriously buggy. And with any large scale game such as those produced by Bethesda, a few bugs are to be expected. “Skyrim” is hands down the studio’s most ambitious project yet, having been in the works since the release of Oblivion in 2006. If smaller games were having trouble with bugs, why wouldn’t “Skyrim?” Having logged about 30 plus hours into the game’s more than 300 hours of content, I was pleasantly surprised that, with the exception of a day one patch, I have not had a single problem with the game thus far. Bethesda has adapted to its reputation for bugs by integrating a new patching system. From here on out, any time a patch is required to fix something in the game, the studio can make the patch and have it ready for download within a few hours of release instead of waiting the week or so it used to take to make a patch available.

The game itself is the fantasy many of us had as kids. And that is part of what makes this game awesome. Who hasn’t imagined climbing up a mountain and reaching the top only to face off against a dragon? With a landscape that seems to draw heavy inspiration from old Viking tales and the Lord of the Rings, the game itself is absolutely gorgeous to look at. Bethesda Softworks created a brand new game engine from scratch. Dubbed the Creation Engine, it creates an environment that is as breathtaking as it is dangerous. From snowy mountain peaks to grassy plains, the land of Skyrim is as much an integral character as the dragons and people who inhabit it. My first view of Whiterun, once the proud capital of Skyrim, as well as one of the first major cities the

player will go to, was from the side of a mountain. Being able to look down upon the city at night, with a full moon and what seemed like millions of stars in the sky, and seeing the flickering of torches along the city streets and the houses of its inhabitants, was absolutely mind blowing. And that was only about an hour into the game.

As mentioned above, this game is huge. Come to think of it, huge is an understatement. Skyrim is gigantic and packed with stuff to do. In fact, the game has so much to do that Bethesda did not release a demo as they had originally planned. Executive producer Todd Howard addressed this when the game was finally revealed at PAX (Penny Arcade Expo), stating, “We felt a demo wouldn’t capture the feel of Skyrim. So we basically said here’s the game, now go do whatever the hell you want.” And that last statement of “go do whatever the hell you want” is what Skyrim really is about. Sure, there’s a main quest line to do, but that only accounts for probably 50 hours of gameplay at most. And once that’s done, there is still so much stuff left to do. More often than not I’ve found myself deviating from an objective to explore caves, ruins, and of course, hunt dragons. That being said, “Skyrim” is a game that can really be truly appreciated for its sheer size and scope during those long gaming sessions. For someone who is unable to have those 8 hour marathon sessions, the ability to save whenever the player chooses, although there are certain circumstances where this is unavailable, is a way to work around a packed schedule without the cost of lost progress due to having a fixed save point.

Besides being a visually stunning game, “Skyrim” also sounds incredible. The soundtrack serves as more than just noise in the background. It actually helps to draw the player deeper into the experience. It also makes doing anything else to the sound of “Skyrim” feel about 10 times more epic. If I could, I would wake up to the game’s theme song, “Sons of Skyrim,” every morning, and not hate having to wake up. Full of driving chants in the dragon language and haunting melodies, the four and a half hour soundtrack of this game is worthy of accolades all on its own. You can currently listen to the entire soundtrack on Youtube.

“Skyrim” is a game that is all about choices, but these aren’t choices of whether you want to be a mage, warrior, or other class. The players decide who they want their characters to be and what they do. I won’t go into the story of “Skyrim” here because the whole point of Skyrim is not saving the world. It’s about you, the player, and the story that you create from your character’s actions in the world. On the



Photos courtesy of MCT Campus

Skyrim immerses the player in a fantasy world that has over 300 hours of game play.



Photos courtesy of MCT Campus

The player will battle foes from the undead to dragons that fly around the land.

night of “Skyrim’s” release, I found myself in an Xbox Live party with 6 friends, all playing “Skyrim.” After having finished the game’s opening sequence/tutorial, we all figuratively went our separate ways. After slaying my first dragon in the defense of

Whiterun, I journeyed northwest to the city of Solitude and joined the Imperial Legion, while one other person headed southeast to join the shadowy Thief’s Guild, and still another gained access to the fearsome Dark Brotherhood. All of this freedom may seem



overwhelming to someone new to RPG’s, especially one of this magnitude. But once you’ve gotten your first glimpse of “Skyrim,” you may not ever want to leave. If “Skyrim” doesn’t win Game of the Year this December, I don’t know what will.

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HACC Holds Kwanzaa Celebration

Song, Dance, and Tradition



The Imani Edu-Tainers performed a celebratory dance with students.

Photo by Kyle Paradise

Written by Kyle Paradise,
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, November 30, HACC's Multicultural Affairs Program sponsored the Seventh Annual Kwanzaa Celebration. The event was led by HACC student Emmanuel Jean-Philippe and started off with a Drum Call, or a customary way of starting ceremonial celebrations, performed by the Imani Edu-Tainers. Jean-Philippe then gave a brief dialogue on the history and libation of the holiday. Several students then gave an introduction and explanation, including proper pronunciations in their original dialect of the Seven Symbols and Principles of Kwanzaa, accompanied by

the Lighting of the Candles, a traditional ceremony where each candle corresponds to a different Principle.

Emma Carr-Gardner, HACC student and student worker, then directed a fashion show that showcased both formal and casual attire from different regions of Africa modeled by HACC's own students. Afterwards, the Imani Edu-Tainers performed a traditional African dance that represented the changing phases of the moon and even managed to get audience participation.

After closing remarks were given all who attended were treated to some delicious soul food provided by Catering by Christina's. Overall, it was both an entertaining and educational experience. It served as a great introduction to the holiday, its meaning and celebratory practices.



A traditional Kwanzaa setting was on display in the center of the stage.

Photo by Shawn Shaknitz



Ebenezer Wolde, Angel Pacheco, and Fatima Wilson participated in the Kwanzaa celebration held at HACC.

Photo by Kyle Paradise



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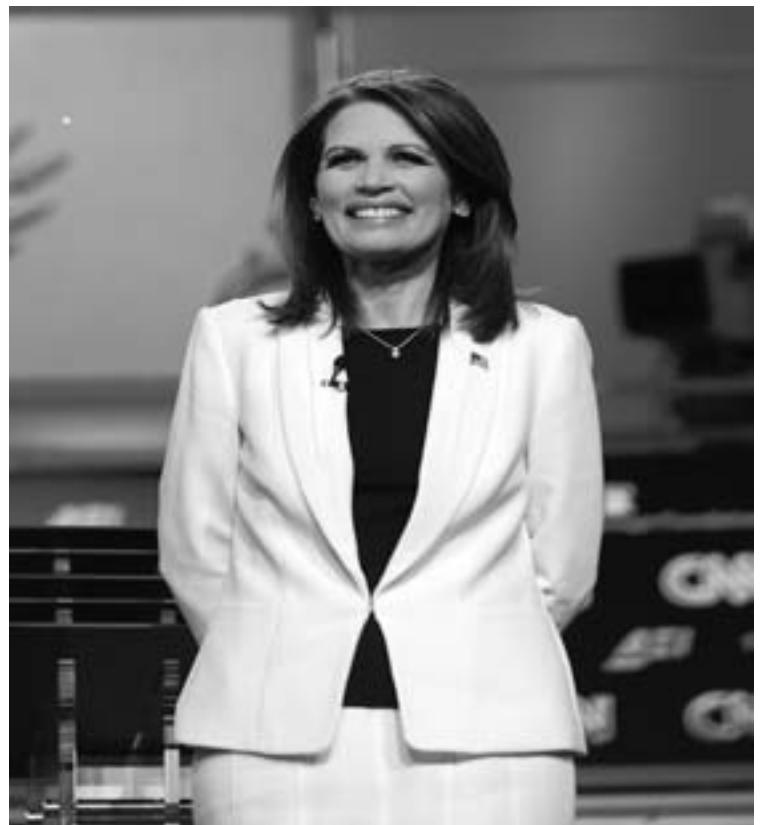
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A Slip of the Tongue, A Slip in the Polls

Written by Kyle Paradise,
Staff Writer

As the presidential election draws nearer, and more debates for the GOP nomination are staged and aired, the candidates fighting for polls are put under ever increasing scrutiny; but nothing seems to make for better entertainment than watching them eat their own words. It's called a 'gaffe'. They happen all the time- a simple flub, a stutter, a mispronunciation, misplacing one's notes or forgetting entirely what they were going to say, sometimes just laughable, sometimes painfully embarrassing. They are sometimes entertaining, and they happen all the time. Every politician has made them at one time or another, but how much do they really hurt their standings in the polls?

There have been some major gaffes that made their way onto nationally broadcast, live television. Rick Perry's now infamous 53-second brain freeze to Herman Cain's claim of total ignorance of the military actions in Libya and Michelle Bachmann's belief that a vaccine used to prevent the spread of the human papillomavirus, or HPV, may



Photos courtesy of MCT Campus

A candidate's career can be decided by a single gaffe, as has happened to Rick Perry and Michelle Bachman.

cause retardation in children, have come into the spotlight recently. How much bearing do these utterances, or lack-there-of really sway the voters?

Senator Marco Rubio said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," "They're being analyzed on a daily basis. They're being asked questions, and people can judge based on the answers they give, or fail to give, whether they're qualified." In other words, it's all just part of the process.

When asked about her opinion of these follies, Deborah Young, who works in the financial aid office at HACC, said it should sway the voters. "It gives you an insight into their

abilities, their understanding and even their awareness, their intelligence and how they handle things. We all have lapses, that's understandable... however, you're [Rick Perry] running for President and you want to cut three departments but can't even remember the third department you want to cut? Not good."

David Saunders, a student at HACC, expressed similar sentiments. When asked for his opinion, he said, "I think somebody just forgetting what they were going to say, everybody does that, especially on live television, where people have to think about their answers. It really does depend on whatever the

gaffe would be. A momentary lapse in their train of thought doesn't really sway me one way or the other, but somebody showing immense ignorance does."

The Republican Party itself is worried that some of these gaffes could not only weaken the individuals running but also the party itself. Senator Lindsey Graham expressed some concern, but told the "Star Tribune" that he believed the eventual victor would strengthen the party. Graham said, "No one expects a person who hasn't been commander-in-chief before to know everything about every topic. But Libya? Iran? I think it's fair to ask our candidates to

articulate a position that makes us safe."

So, it seems that although we may be forgiving of these politicians for being 'all-too-human,' they have at least helped the voters to start thinking about the kind of person they would vote for. Perhaps these gaffes won't destroy an individual's campaign, but it will definitely help to mold them into better politicians. Senator Rubio told MSNBC about this effect: "That folks, as part of this process, will grow. They'll be forced to think about and learn about issues that perhaps they hadn't thought about before they got in the race. That's part of the process of electing a president..."

Ripples of panic spread throughout European Union

Written By Keith Love,
Contributing Writer

Most Americans in the US have felt the harsh reality of a recession. Now it's not just Americans who are experiencing this awful reality. Europe has been experiencing a stressful economic downfall, especially Italy and Greece. According to CNN news, Italy's debt has reached an astounding 1.9 trillion, which is six times more than Greece. In May of 2010, Greece's economy was struggling so much that the Greek government accepted a 110 billion dollar package from its neighboring countries, reported the "New York Times."

Even though Greece had help to restore its economy, it still fell short of achieving its goal. According to the "New



Silvio Berlusconi steps down in Italy; Papademos stepped up in Greece.

York Times," on November 4, 2011, Greece's former Prime Minister, George A. Papandreou, resigned from office. Just a few short days later on November 10, Lucas Papademos, a respected economist, was named as Greece's Prime Minister. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi also stepped down from office on November 12, 2011. With the resigning of Silvio Berlusconi, much of Italy and other world counterparts are still in wait to see who will oversee Italy's financial sector.

The next step for Italy is to weigh in on measures that can jumpstart its economy. According to CNN news, the Italian

Parliament should pay very close attention to raising taxes and retirement age, in the upcoming weeks. There are differences in Italy on electing a new official to run for office. According to CNN news, Berlusconi and other Northern League parties want elections to happen soon, but other lawmakers and European leaders would like to see an interim, non-partisan technocrat government implemented to quickly input financial plans and measures to reassure global markets and restore the confidence that has been lost over these past weeks. One thing is for sure, regarding Italy's financial ailment, they will need to borrow more

money to get the country back on track.

According to CNN news, Italy will need to borrow at least an additional 300 billion to try and get the Italian economy up and running again. The size of this economic loan will further raise the interest rates on Italian bonds, which in due time will make it harder for Italy to borrow money in the future. Although there are other options for the Italian Parliament, defaulting on its debt seems to be the only way Italy will be able to get on track. Doing this will still hurt the economy of Italy, but it will have a greater economic global impact.

According to CNN news, banks in France and Germany would be hit the hardest if Italy is to default on its debt. Christine Lagarde, said, "If we do not act, and act together, we could enter a downward spiral of uncertainty, financial instability and a collapse in global demand." With the current recession in the US, Italy's decision can have heavier consequences than expected. Many will continue to debate over the current financial crisis in Europe, but it is known that this decision on Italy's debt will have a widespread effect on surrounding nations and to those who are thousands of miles away.



Photos courtesy of MCT Campus.

The Mummy Returns

Dr. Elias brings new life to the deceased

Written by Shawn Shaknitz,
Editor-In-Chief

On Friday, November 11, the Radiologic Technology club hosted "CT of a Mummy." The event was held in room 203 East and consisted of a lecture from 1-3 p.m. by Dr. Jonathan Elias, the director of the Akhmim Mummy Studies Consortium, who presented the work he has been doing on Egyptian mummies from Akhmim, a city located 300 miles south of Cairo.

Karen Botts, the administrative director for Pinnacle Health Imaging, introduced Dr. Elias at the beginning of the program. In 2001 Dr. Elias was the director of the Science Museum at the Whitaker Center when he contacted the Vice President of Ambulatory Services at Pinnacle to ask if he could bring in a mummy to have a CT scan done. Consequently, Dr. Elias and Botts developed a working relationship that allowed Dr. Elias to continue with his research.

A computed tomography (CT) scan creates images of the insides of a body with X-rays. From the CT scan, the images are then taken to a 3D printer from which a life-sized model of the mummy can be constructed. During the lecture, Dr. Elias pointed out that it is better to take the 3D print-outs around for study instead of the actual mummy because, Dr. Elias stated, "a lot of stuff can fall off or be destroyed in transporting mummies."

The 3D printer was bought by Pinnacle for surgeons to practice surgery on the models. "The printer was not bought with Dr. Elias in mind, but it ties into what he does and worked out well for everyone," said Botts.

Dr. Elias has been doing CT scan work on the mum-

mies since 2001, starting with a mummy Pesed. Pesed was scanned at Harrisburg Hospital back in August 2001, starting Elias's relationship with Pinnacle Health. Pesed, a native Egyptian woman, dates from 275-250 B.C. That puts her in the Ptolemaic era when Egypt was ruled by a Greek dynasty.

The lecture consisted of Dr. Elias's experiences with being an Egyptologist and his interaction with the imaging world. While many were expecting just a case study of a specific mummy, Dr. Elias stated, "It's not. We will be covering much more." The start of the lecture gave a summary of how people perceive mummies. After that, Dr. Elias went into detail of the process of mummification and the significance to the ancient Egyptian people. Towards the end of the lecture Dr. Elias gave a history of the X-ray and its use in studying mummies as it has progressed through history up to today.

At the end of the lecture, a question and answer session was held where the audience was allowed to make further inquiries

into his work with the mummies.

When asked what he thought of giving presentations at HACC, Elias responded, "I love coming here. The student body is really receptive and asks great questions."

Josiah Gensler, a computer information security major, attended. "I'm a science buff, so I really enjoyed the lecture," said Gensler, "I was more interested in the process behind mummification, not so much the history."

The audience was not the only ones that were very pleased with the lecture. Rebecca Shonoer teaches the radiologic program at HACC "We do this every year. I think this is the fifth time we invited Dr. Elias," said Shonoer, "Every time it is brand new. I learn new stuff every time and it is never boring."

At the end of the event, attendees were allowed to get an up-close look of the artifacts, including a child mummy with all of its adornments and busts that were reconstructed through the CT scan, while enjoying refreshments being served, including juice and cookies.

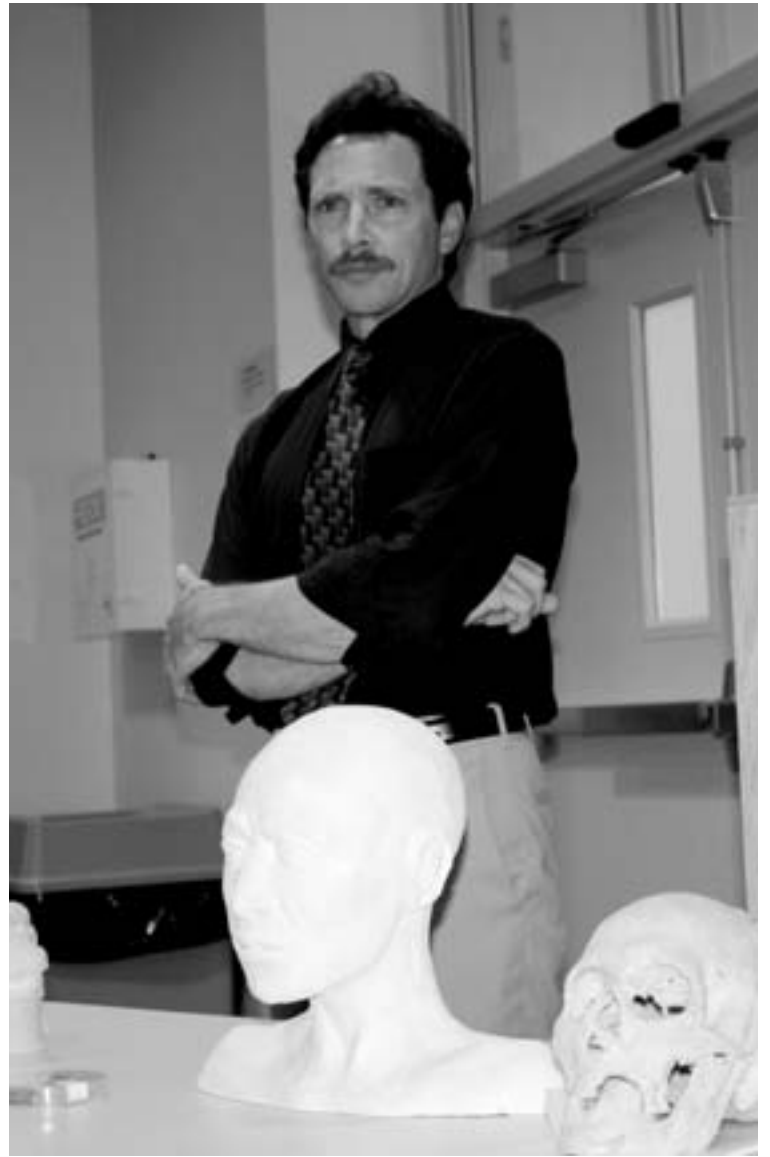


Photo by Shawn Shaknitz

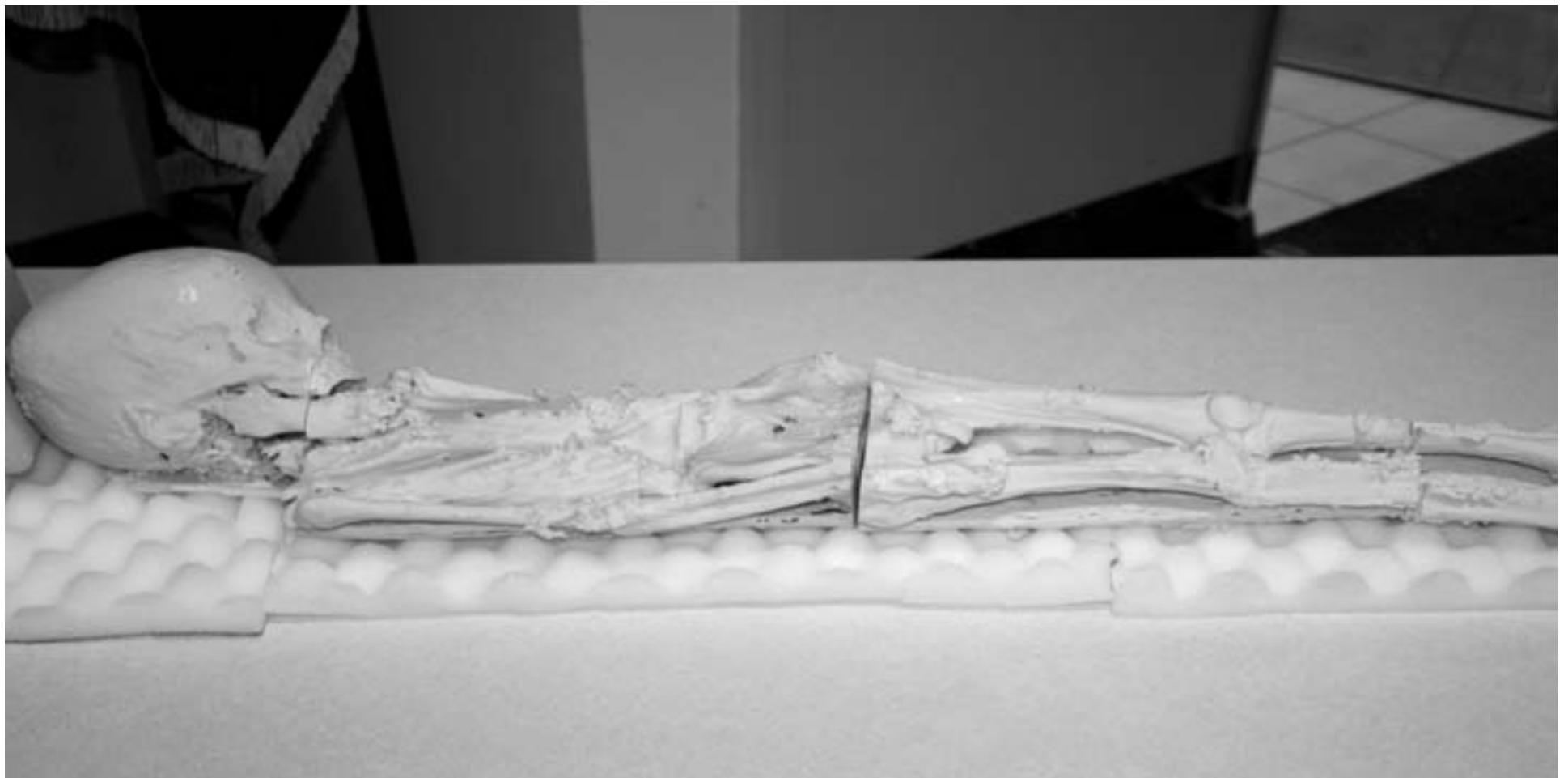
Dr. Elias presented the lecture to HACC students and faculty.



Photos by Shawn Shaknitz



Samples of various adornments, discovered from the CT scans, were available for examination by attendees.



A three dimensional cast of a mummified child was on display for viewing throughout the presentation.

Photo by Shawn Shaknitz

Penn Scandal Rocks University

by Tammy Wilson,
Managing Editor

Scandal! Cover-up? Possible criminal charges? Sounds like a day in politics, but it wasn't. These were the headlines screaming about recent events at one of the biggest universities in the state. Jerry Sandusky, former Penn State assistant football coach, is being accused of allegedly molesting young boys in the locker room on campus. Penn State's head coach, Joe Paterno, and college president, Graham Spanier, were fired for their roles in the possible cover-up of the alleged incidents.

According to a grand jury report, an eye-witness reported seeing Sandusky in the shower sexually abusing a ten-year-old boy. It was later revealed that the eye witness was Mike McQueary, Penn State's wide receiver coach who was a graduate assistant at the time of the incident. McQueary testified that he reported the March 1, 2002 incident to Paterno the next day. Paterno, in turn, reported the incident to then athletic director Tim Curley. The twenty-three page report also states that a week and a half after telling Paterno, McQueary related the incident to Curley and then-senior vice president, Gary Schultz. Curley and Schultz relayed the information to college president, Graham Spanier. Spanier's testimony says that Shultz and Curley only told him that an incident that made a staff member "uncomfortable" had happened, so the report went no further. Shultz and Curley have been charged with lying to the grand jury and also with failing to report the incident to authorities. According to NPR, both men have also stepped down from their positions at the school.

As more and more details were revealed, events began happening at break-neck speed. Authorities reported that Paterno was not part of the investigation, but many people, including Governor Tom Corbett, wanted all those related to the incident and the purported cover up to be



Photos courtesy of MCT Campus.

Sandusky has been the center of attention during the scandle at Penn State.

held accountable. The Board of Trustees held emergency meetings while stating the reports would be discussed at their meeting the Friday following the breaking of the story on November 5th. Before Friday could arrive, both Spanier and Paterno received word that the trustees were releasing them from employment.

The report of Paterno's firing caused students to riot, and some people even overturned a news van parked on the campus. There were no reports of injuries caused by the rioting, but public opinion of the college was further tainted. A few opponents even stated in online blogs that the rest of the football season should be forfeited and the team should be banned from playing next year, as well. The candle light vigil for the victims of Sandusky's alleged abuse, held by students on Friday night instead of the normal pep rally prior to a home game, also failed to

improve public opinion. Emergency responders had to sweep the stadium before the last home game on Saturday because of bomb threats received by the university.

Prior to the last home game against Nebraska on November 12, McQueary was placed on administrative leave. The school released a statement saying that it would "be in the best interest of all" if McQueary did not attend the game because he had received threats as well.

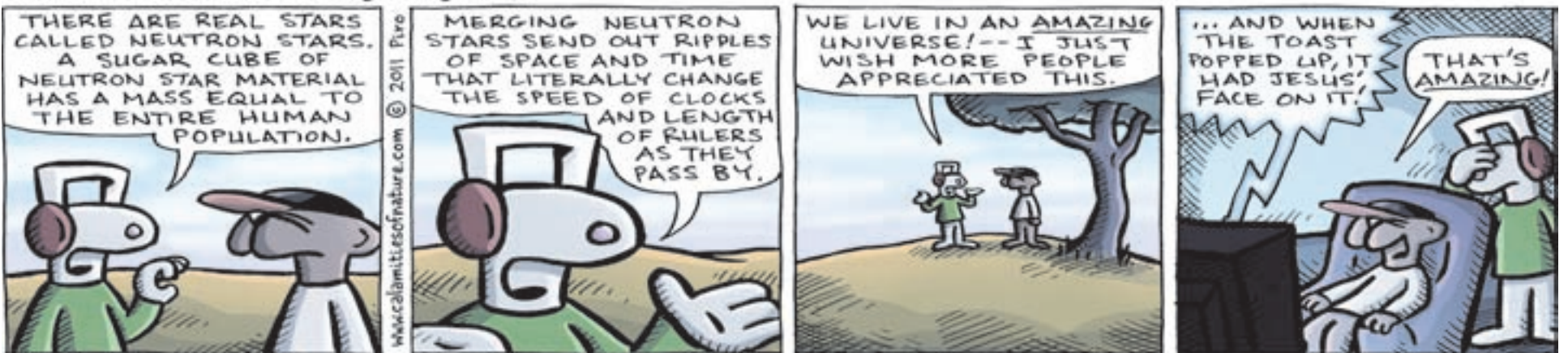
Sandusky's Second Mile Foundation has also faltered because of the accusations because Sandusky allegedly met the boys through the foundation. On November 14, the president of the Second Mile, Jack Raykovitz, resigned his post. Second Mile has asked its donors to continue to support them by giving to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape instead.

Many Penn State students, alumni and fans are frustrated by the media blitz sur-

rounding the story because the university is so much more than Sandusky's abuse scandal and big ten football. The university is the first on the list for employment recruiters to call to fill job openings. Much research is done in many fields, including those such as agriculture and medical. "People forget that we have also raised millions of dollars for children's cancer research with our Thon Foundation," stated Penn State student Mandy Wilson.

By November 14, ten more victims of Sandusky's alleged abuse had been found by the investigation, and McQueary's story of going to the police has been refuted by both the school and local law enforcement. No record of his supposed report is found by either group. As of November 30, civil suits have been filed against Sandusky, Second Mile and Penn State by a victim who is not one of the eight victims listed in the grand jury report.

Calamities of Nature by Tony Piro



Calamities of Nature by Tony Piro

