A proposal is on the table to have Cedar Crest security officers armed with 40-caliber guns in light of an increasingly urban environment surrounding the college community.

According to Elaine Deutch, Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration, “There has been an increase in the incidents of armed crime and other incidents of potential violence in the immediate area.” She explained that arming officers will help them respond more effectively to situations that may arise on campus as a result of this increasing community crime.

Cedar Crest is not the only college that has been affected by the rising violence in urban areas. “Crime is unpredictable and our officers need to be able to handle any situation,” said Kathy Cunningham, Director of Information Technology. “Inner-city problems seem to be spreading further west,” said Ken Lupole, Director of Campus Safety at Muhlenberg College, as he reflected on a conversation he had had with the college’s president shortly before arming their officers in 1998.

Cedar Crest is the only member of the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges (LVIAIC) that does not currently arm its officers. The LVIAIC consists of Lehigh and DeSales Universities, as well as Muhlenberg, Moravian, Lafayette and Cedar Crest Colleges.

Currently, 12 of Muhlenberg College’s officers are armed. Aside from the training that occurs three times each year, the officers have not used their guns in the 10 years that they have been equipped with them.

Under the Pennsylvania Act 235, college security officers are trained and have the right to carry a firearm. However, some institutions require additional training of their officers, prior to giving them control of guns. Like Muhlenberg, Cedar Crest college officers will have to attend regular training sessions to properly operate their gun. Under the new proposal, Cedar Crest officers will be required to complete a bi-annual training, in which they must show proficiency with the firearm, attend classroom training, and get an FBI criminal background check.

Lifestyles Editor

Lori Gallagher

A proposal in the city to have Cedar Crest security officers armed with 40-caliber guns in light of an increasingly urban environment surrounding the college community.
Touring, learning in Egypt

Lauren Panepinto
STAFF WRITER

Over Winter break, while the rest of us were still digesting our dinners, a class of 29 lucky students were given the opportunity to spend ten days in Egypt. They left January 5 and did not return until classes began January 14. The trip was led by Dr. Allen Richardson, and will be followed up with a seminar during the class.

Richardson has been to Egypt before, and said having a group with him made the experience better because “I had more people to share the experience with,” he watched them grow as they looked at some of the same things that he had already seen. It also gave me a chance to hear different perspectives related to what I was seeing.”

While in Egypt, each of the students have their own detailed notes on their experiences. They will be writing several papers during the semester on what they’ve seen.

During the class, students will continue to develop their understanding on the different approaches to the study of ancient Egypt. One way to do this is through religious Egyptology, which would require a Ph.D., or four to five years more of study focusing on ancient Egypt.

Another way to study ancient Egypt is through religious studies. Richardson explains religious studies of ancient Egypt as “helping people understand what went on inside some of those temples, my feeling is that we are kind of handicapped in the western world for understanding that, because we don’t see the world in the same way, and what I mean by that is that the Ancient Egyptians had no single word for religion, so if you asked them ‘what religion are you?’ they wouldn’t know what you were talking about.”

The class will also be focusing on Egypt Mania, a phrase coined by Richardson. He defines it as, “The collective interest in the western world in ancient religious studies. It was conditioned by 19th century treasure hunters and orientalists, new age religious traditions, interest in art through styles of Egyptian revival, and by the growing interest in mysticism in the west.”

Though an Egyptologist would never admit Egypt Mania as a legitimate way to study ancient Egypt, it is something that must be acknowledged in religious studies. One can even take a guided spiritual tour of Egypt, where they would be meditating on pyramids and other similar activities.

An Egyptologist would never do this, but for religious studies it has to be acknowledged that this is something people do, and that it is a form of religion.

The trip to Egypt was one of the firstest that a group of Cedar Crest students have attended, and the students that attended were appreciative for the experience.

Senior Melinda Yoder said, “What an amazing experience! I am grateful for the opportunity of taking this trip! I have always had a passion for ancient Egypt, in culture, religion, and history. It was breath-taking to walk among so much history! I am a firm believer in hands-on learning and think any student who is given the opportunity to do so should take it!”

“This course not only allows a student to learn about ancient, and today’s, Egypt but travel there as well.”

The trip as a whole went very smoothly, and the students are looking forward to taking the class this semester.

Students become alumnae during winter graduation

Chrisa Hagan
MANAGING EDITOR

“I am sure you will have great success as all of you, even the male graduates, are proud Cedar Crest women,” was one of the graduate wishes made at the 2008 winter commencement by Alumnae Association representatives Kim Racon ’03. Alongside Racon’s induction to the Alumnae Association speech, were other speeches and wishes made to the graduates during the January 25 commencement ceremony.

Last Friday night, marked the awarding of Bachelor of Arts to seventeen graduates, the Bachelor of Science to fifty-eight and the Master of Education to six graduates. Dr. E. Allen Richardson, Chaplain and Associate Professor of Religion, opened the ceremony with the Invocation.

Acting President, Dr. Blenda Deutsch, thanks the students for all they have done during their time at Cedar Crest. She encouraged the graduates to not to completely leave the college behind but to “return to campus often… we want to follow your success… let us know how you are doing in the next stage of your journey.” Of her concluding thoughts promised the graduates that they have left an impression on the College. “Not only have you learned from the College… but we have learned from you.”

Board of the Trustees Chair, Cynthia Blaschak ’84 greeted the graduates as well and spoke on behalf of the Trustees. She explained to the community that the Trustees are “a group of 27 volunteers who are dedicated to the continued … success of the College.”

Sandra Sutowski ’08 was the Lifelong Learning Speaker at the ceremony. She brought up the idea of persistence in her speech when she congratulated her classmates and said that they have pushed on even though there have been times where they have all thought, “I just want to be done, and now we are.”

Provost Dr. Carol A. Pulham ’76 presented the Greetings from the Faculty. She encouraged the graduates not to completely leave the college behind but to “return to campus often… we want to follow your success… let us know how you are doing in the next stage of your journey.” One of her concluding thoughts promised the graduates that they have left an impression on the College. “Not only have you learned from the College… but we have learned from you.”

Safety and Facilities department splits

Leann Pettit
NEWS EDITOR

In November, the Department of Safety and Facilities became two separate departments, Safety and Security and Facilities.

The two departments were originally merged about five years ago because they were located in the same building and Security was able to help out facilities during the night on their rounds, checking things that maintenance would normally check during the day.

However, with the recent departure of Jim Marstellar, it no longer made sense to the administration to keep the two departments together.

Now, Mark Vitalos, director of Safety and Security, and Joe Hattner, Director of Facilities, report directly to Eileen Deutch, Executive Vice President. This saves time and promotes better communication between the two departments and the administration.

Deutch explains that since the separation, she has been able to talk directly with Vitalos and it elevates the two departments to a better level; where they need to be on a college campus.

Safety continues to help facilities monitor campus during maintenance off hours; however, it is no longer a crucial part of their job. The safety of the campus takes precedence.

“I don’t think it changes anything for the students,” said Deutsch. Vitalos still meets with Dean Joan Laffey each week to discuss security’s involvement in student affairs and there is still a very close connection of both departments to the students and the campus community.
Cameron's work published in Journal of Heritage Tourism

Kistler elected to Board of the League of Women Voters

Brancato analyzes role of mothers and wives in reality TV

Leann Pettit
NEWS EDITOR

Dr. Catherine Cameron, Professor of Anthropology, has published an article entitled “Beyond Sun, Sand and Sea: The Emergent Tourism Programme in the Turks and Caicos Islands” in the winter 2008 issue of The Journal of Heritage Tourism.

Cameron, along with husband John Gatewood, is also a Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Lehgh University, have been doing fieldwork in Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) for four years, their research on heritage tourism has been a sidebar to their main research. “Our interest in heritage is a sidebar to the main thrust of our work on how the local people see the tourism industry,” said Cameron.

However, Cameron mentioned that the “topic of conservation and heritage is now a very ‘hot’ topic among Caribbean islands.” They were originally introduced to TCI in 2004, when they went with Dr. John Ciglano, Associate Professor of Biology to South Caicos for his marine field course. “The islands seemed like a good place to do some tourism research that we had thought about, so we returned to meet with government officials and other to get permission to do a study of residents’ understandings of tourism and its impacts,” said Cameron.

The TCI government was supportive of their research plans and Cameron and Gatewood wrote a successful grant to the National Science Foundation to get funding for two years. They did their research during the summers of 2006 and 2007.

“Places like TCI are integrating history and heritage into their tourism programs to try to make them distinctive from other places. We are now part of a consortium in TCI that talks about how to retrieve and interpret heritage for tourism,” said Cameron.

Currently, Cameron and Gatewood have published the article on TCI’s heritage tourism in the Journal of Heritage Tourism and have given a paper on their findings at the national anthropological meetings. They are also planning to write the main findings for publication over the next several years.

Other than the extensive research done in TCI, Cameron has no other research plans, currently. She has been asked by some officials to help discover their folk culture and traditions through fieldwork before the islands become too Americanized. “There has been some discussion of us training local students in field methods and folklore retrieval,” said Cameron.

Christa Hagan
MANAGING EDITOR

“I’ve been interested in reality television for awhile,” said Professor of Communication Dr. James Brancato. Brancato is most likely not alone. In the recent years, reality television has become a favorite for many. Only a few years ago as far as planning your day around a show, scheduling appointments and engagements so they will not miss the latest episode of America’s Next Top Model. Brancato did more than plan an evening around reality television shows, he planned an entire study around it. Yet, he did not include any reality show, he focused on shows that looked at women, specifically the roles of wives and mothers. His research was recently published in the Fall 2007 journal Film and History (Volume 37:2), which came out in January of 2008.

Brancato’s work, “Domesticating Politics: representation of Wives and Mothers in American Reality TV,” looked at the way several television shows portrayed women in the household. Brancato looked at shows such as “Supermanny,” “Wife Swap” and “Nanny 911.”“Domesticating Politics: representation of Wives and Mothers in American Reality TV.” looked at the way several television shows portrayed women in the household. Brancato looked at shows such as “Supermanny,” “Wife Swap” and “Nanny 911.” Through his studies, Brancato also found that the role of the mother is changing and that she is taking on more responsibility than her male counterpart.

“The patriarchal model has been so challenged by feminism, there are shows are about...mem still being involved but not to the extent of mothers.” Brancato has more ideas for research including staying in the realms of reality television to branching towards the military analyzing military recruitment literature.
Senior wins Miss White Rose City Pageant

Hauna Colista
STAFF WRITER

The Miss America competition began eighty-six years ago in Atlantic City as a gimmick to extend the vacation season. Over the decades it become way more than that.

“These pages offer wonderful scholarships to young women? The MAO [Miss America Organization] acknowledges young women for poise, scholastics, and community service,” says Amanda Sellers, a senior here at Cedar Crest College and a 2008 Miss Pennsylvania contestant.

November 3, 2007 Amanda Sellers competed in the Miss White Rose City pageant. Sellers only registered on a whim hoping to receive scholarships to ease the financial burden college has caused her.

She did not even fathom winning the competition. “When I decided to compete in the regional pageant, it was solely for scholarship. I did not even think that far ahead to Miss PA. A few days after the pageant, it was solely for scholarship.”

In addition to being crowned Miss White Rose City, Seller received the Jacqui A. Yanoshik Award for Outstanding Community Service. With the Miss White Rose City pageant being so spontaneous, she had very little time to prepare. However, this was not her first pageant. Sellers participated in pageants in high school and had been crowned Miss Teen Lehighton Valley.

She has twelve years of piano experience and works out every day. Sellers’ involvement in The College Women’s Alliance for Health and Wellness and her internship at the Institute for Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstr uctive Surgery presents her platform, Chronic Pelvic Pain, CPP. Her only worry was finding a dress.

Sellers wants women to respect and love their bodies. “I want women to take care of their bodies and not be ashamed or embarrassed to address GYN/bladder/bowel problems to their physicians.”

Sellers’ own personal experience with this disorder has made CPP more of a personal fight. To get ready for the Miss Pennsylvania Pageant in June, she will continue to work out daily, practice her interviews and fine-tune her platform.

Along with this she has begun to prepare her talent. Most may expect a classical piece on the piano but she has taken a different approach. She has a deep love and passion for classic rock and roll so; she plans on playing a Bob Dylan song as her talent.

“I can’t play really fast rock and roll and just be myself and have a good time with my talent”. Sellers is looking forward to competing in June. She hopes that winning Miss Pennsylvania will fulfill her dream of volunteering for the United Services Organizations (USO).

Community Service along with alumnae, community and roll and just be myself and have a good time with my talent”. Sellers is looking forward to competing in June. She hopes that winning Miss Pennsylvania will fulfill her dream of volunteering for the United Services Organizations (USO).

Acting President strives to form relationships on and off campus

Brea Barski
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Cedar Crest does not currently have a sitting president, but the acting president is staying busy, creating new institutions and striving to maintain a working relationship between all parts of the college community.

Dr. Blanda Wilson, who was appointed to the position of Acting President in November upon the sudden departure of Jill Sherman, plans to stay at the school through the end of the current semester. Prior to serving as Acting President, Wilson served on the Board of Trustees to the college, but had only joined that during the summer. To make up for this, Wilson sought information from staff and faculty.

“I spent a lot of time the first few weeks here visiting Academic and Administrative Departments to learn about the strengths and concerns among faculty and staff quickly,” said Wilson. “I asked them to tell me the things they are proud of and their reports have formed the basis of my conversations with alumnae, community people and donors.”

This knowledge about the college’s current state is helping Wilson with one of her main goals while serving as Interim President: to keep donors attached to the school.

“One of my major goals,” Wilson said, “is to maintain relationships with donors to Cedar Crest, to thank them for their past and continuing support and to assure them that the campus is strong and exciting, sufficient to attract an outstanding leader as the next President.”

Wilson’s other goal has taken a large part in her time at Cedar Crest. “The other [objective] is to initiate conversations and briefings across the campus to enable faculty, staff and students to understand the challenges and opportunities the College faces.”

A part of this plan is the new initiative—the Peer Determination Process—that Wilson has created. “I’ve launched a project that will involve the entire campus in identifying peer institutions,” Wilson described. The project is expected to aid in a Strategic Planning Process in the future.

As Wilson will only be staying until the end of the semester, there are limits to what she is able to accomplish in this time.

“The hardest part of this interim position is to select those areas of leadership that can be fulfilled in a single semester and to leave alone issues and processes that require the long-term leadership of the next President.”

Despite the difficulties, Wilson is enjoying her time here.

“I’ve been very impressed with the devotion faculty and staff have to Cedar Crest and I’m grateful for the generosity shown to me,” said Wilson, who is not only a former trustee, but also an alumna.

“There is something different about coming back to Cedar Crest, compared to other Presidencies I’ve had, though the difference is hard to express,” she said. “The responsibilities in the role of Acting President, are similar to other institutions I’ve work in. But the experience of serving at a woman’s college and the honor of serving my alma mater are profoundly rewarding and very special.”

in the news

Brea Barski
A “wasted” confession

Many people venture into bars in order to forget their problems, but now in the Pennsylvania town of Carlisle, patrons can confess their sins too. Senior pastor and program organizer Chuck Kish created the plan to put pastors in local bars in order to provide a place where people who may need to talk. Kish says the ministers will not preach against anything, just listen. “We need to go where the people are,” said Kish.

Babycal has five legs

If cats always land on their feet, does the same go for a cat with five legs? What about in a few weeks when it turns three or only has three? An animal shelter in Eighty-Four, Pa., currently has a kitten named Babycal who, while in good health, currently has five legs. A surgery is being scheduled to remove one of the cat’s good legs and a crippled leg.

Woman charged with microwaving daughter

The court case for a woman charged with aggravated murder for the death of her daughter, who was thought to have been killed in a microwave oven, began this week. China Arnold, 27, is being charged for the murder of her one-month-old daughter, Paris Talley.

Ho ho homeless for Christmas theft

A 28-year-old Salvation Army volunteer was forced to spend a night on the streets as punishment for stealing from the organization. Nathon Smith, of Painesville, Ohio, stole a donation bucket from the Salvation Army. Army was he was volunteering as a bell-ringer outside of an Ohio K-mart. The bucket contained approximately $250. Smith was order a punishment of three days in jail, eight hours of community service and one night spent anywhere but in his house. Smith reportedly stayed in government buildings and in a park.

Heart break at Cedar Crest

The first two classes was chaotic in most classrooms and dorms, but this semester there was also commotion at Rodale Aquatic Center. Laffey, Dean of Student Affairs, had a heart attack. Laffey received a small procedure and is expected to return to campus in a few weeks. Cards can be sent to him at 1110, Weavertown Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017.
FIREARMS continued | page 3

“The officers will be required to pass a mandatory firearms course with the issued firearm that we will adapt primarily from the [National Rifle Association]. Police Firearms Instruction guidelines and from MPOETC, the Municipal Police Officers’ Education & Training Commission. If an officer cannot meet the training requirements, they would not be permitted to carry the weapon,” said Mark Vitals, Chief of Campus Safety and Security. Officers have already begun training to use and maintain the firearms.

Even with additional training for officers, some people do not believe that arming officers is the answer to a safer campus. If this proposal is passed, “it will affect my feelings about my campus as a community, because now we will have members of the community carrying guns,” said Henry Marchand, Assistant Professor of English. “Guns don’t create security any more than war creates peace.”

Some faculty and staff members believe that Cedar Crest needs to arm officers, in order to ensure a safe environment. “Believing that Cedar Crest is different or safe—as compared to other institutions’ campuses—might be a comforting illusion, but it is an illusion,” said Dr. James Ward, Professor of History, Law and Politics. “I feel it is about time we arm our officers, they are here to protect us. How can they protect us with words and a can of pepper spray,” said Dave Huber, Coordinator of Printing Services and an ambulance and fire volunteer.

“Coming from the emergency services field, you need to be proactive and not reactive to potential problems,” said a student’s parent that their daughter has been killed by an irrational person who was on campus, and our security force could do nothing to try and prevent it from happening will not sit well with the parent.”

Although the officers are not armed, their interaction with violent situations has not been absent. During Student Government and faculty meetings, Vitalos presented several incidents. Several years ago, an officer, upon approaching a suspicious person, was threatened with a gun. The officer retreated from the site and notified Vitalos, who was the incident was not handled immediately, the suspect left campus and was identified.

Another incident occurred when a Cedar Crest student placed a Protection From Abuse order against a person. Officer members were notified that this person of interest may be on campus, and Vitalos alerted that this person was in fact on campus, security and the Al lentown Police responded. Later, they found two weapons, a switchblade and a hunting knife, in the male’s vehicle.

The third incident presented by Vitalos was a suicide by firearm that occurred in Cedar Park. Even though the incident did not take place on campus, its proximity to Moore Hall could have turned this suicide into a dangerous situation for Cedar Crest students.

To help in these instances, according to Vitalos, security officers and student security officers—equipped with batons and bulletproof vests. However, this proposal will increase the number available to them in the case of an emergency.

At the current moment, the Allentown Police help campus situations requiring the defense against firearms. However, due to a recent retirement package, the force has been understaffed. Therefore, according to Vitalos, they may take longer to arrive on the scene than it would a campus officer.

“When the Allentown police are still undermanned as they continue to hire and train replacements,” said Deutsch. With this proposal, it is the hope of O’Neill, Associate Dean of Student Affairs that, “We will enhance the safety and the personal security of students by calling time for new measures. Crime has increased at the local and national level. Policies need to be adapted, so that we can provide a safe environment for students and other members of the campus community.”

Even though this is the thought of O’Neill and some faculty members, others believe that there are ways to manage safety on campus without the use of guns. “I don’t think anyone should have guns. I think that the presence of guns on campus has the potential to increase, rather than decrease, violence. That being said, I believe we need to arm officers that are concerned about a person,” said Dr. Elizabeth Meade, Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Humanities Department. “The campus is safe. I don’t think officers carrying guns will make us any safer.”

Editors’ Note: On Tuesday, January 29, the campus community was officially informed via e-mail about an all-campus meeting. The matter that would take place at the January 30 Student Government. The meeting will be held in accordance with Student Senate rules and procedures and updates on this pro-

Rachael Murray STAFF WRITER

The first Student Government Association (SGA) meeting of this semester was held on Wednesday, January 23. Central to discussion was the proposal from Chief Mark Vitalos and Elaine Deutsch, which is to arm our campus’s security officers with handguns.

Chief Vitalos and the SGA are seeking student input concerning the issue and are encouraging every one to e-mail Chief Vitalos with their questions and opinions.

For those interested in running for class officer or senate positions, election packets, which are available at the Allen House, are due by February 29. Candidate speeches are scheduled for noon and 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11.

Elections will be conducted on campus via e-mail following the Wednesday and Thursday. Potential can-
didates are encouraged and welcomed to attend SGA meetings.

Casino Night, which is sponsored by DECA, is scheduled for February 15. Raffles and card games will be held throughout the evening.

Further details concerning Casino Night, as well as other campus events, are to be revealed at future meetings.

All club budgets were due Friday, January 25 at 4 p.m. The finance committee met this past Sunday morning to discuss these proposals.

Treasurer Kristin Allard also announced the use of event evaluation forms for campus events that will be used to determine allotments for club activities.

Students are encouraged to use goodcause.com for their Internet searches, as each search will grant dona-
tions to the Alumnae Board. Be sure to enter Cedar Crest Alumnae Board in the “Who do you search for?” line. Cedar Crest license plates are coming! Details are to follow in future meet-
gings, but keep your eye open for the chance to further show your support of Cedar Crest.

A reminder from Vice President Cheryl Toth, wash and keep your license plates on your car like a shiny new bug is making its way around the campus community, and Illinanion is a rather easy way to put a damper on a new semester.

The next SGA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, at 6 p.m. in the Senate Room. All meetings held in campus events is invit-
ed to attend this meeting, as well as any other campus events.
Dear microbiology penpal,

I found to be very interesting. Since we share a common interest in fungi, I thought you might enjoy this fascinating microbe!

Alexandrium tamarense is an algae found in cold water coastal regions. This algae is the famous red algae associated with paralytic shellfish poisoning (or PSP) blooms. This toxin blooms excessively when nitrogen levels in the water are increased. Subsequently, A. tamarense thrives in high nitrogen levels, and the red algae grow tremendously. Increases in nitrogen in water are primarily attributed to excessive run-off of fertilizers from agriculture and aquaculture activities entering the aquatic environments where A. tamarense live.

This eukaryotic microbe is an armed, unicellular, planktonic dinoflagellate. A dinoflagellate in a unicellular form has two dissimilar flagella. The first is located in the posterior of the cell and the second forms a central circle. The second circular flagellum conducts a whip-like motion and is responsible for propelling the cell. The first flagellum acts more like a steering wheel, directing the motion of the cell. A. tamarense is armed with thread-like plating, which provides both protection and structure. Cells can primarily be found individually or in pairs and vary in size (approximately 22-51 μm). It primarily reproduces asexually through binary fission but has also been known to reproduce sexually.

Alexandrium tamarense differs from eukaryotic microbes. A. tamarense is an algae found in cold water coastal regions. This algae is the famous red algae associated with paralytic shellfish poisoning (or PSP) blooms. This toxin blooms excessively when nitrogen levels in the water are increased. Subsequently, A. tamarense thrives in high nitrogen levels, and the red algae grow tremendously. Increases in nitrogen in water are primarily attributed to excessive run-off of fertilizers from agriculture and aquaculture activities entering the aquatic environments where A. tamarense live.

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**Resident Advisors**

Megan Ammons

**STAFF WRITER**

If you are interested in becoming a Resident Advisor, curiosity about what their job entails, missed the RA information session, or how the process to become one works, then you will want to read this article. According to the Director of Residence Life, Kelly Mycek, “RAs are students who live in the residence halls and whose key functions include acting in the roles of peer helper, educator, administrator, policy enforcer, team member, and role model. Furthermore, it is an opportunity to connect with a great group of students, staff members, and the College community.”

These roles have a great deal of descriptions and lists. A full list of the roles and responsibilities can be picked up at the Allen House. Here are some examples.

A peer helper involves: initiating conversations, introducing, and stimulating conversations among resident students in assigned floor and within the building, and the participating and organizing floor activities.

An educator the RAs: encourage and support an atmosphere conducive to studying and well-being, as well as being aware of and promoting the many activities, facilities, resources and persons on campus and in the community that are available to students.

The policy administrator includes: completing room inspections at the beginning of each year, each time a room change is made, and at the end of the year. Being on-call on a rotational basis when residents are permitted in the residence halls, including breaks and before and after the academic year, and being the first to arrive and last to leave during breaks and vacation.

The policy administrator also includes: helping to adhere, to communicate, and enforce College and Residence Life rules and regulations; report violations of residence hall policies to the appropriate people in a timely manner and provide additional follow-up as needed.

The team member serves as part of a team of staff members responsible for one residence area, and attends weekly staff meetings. Finally, as a role model the RAs act in accordance with all College policies, and exhibit behavior that is professional and appropriate.

The Residence Life Coordinators play a role in the RA responsibilities, as Angela Kramer, Residence Life Coordinator for Steinbright Hall/Coordinator of International and Diversity Programs, said “I see the RAs and RC’s as important partners: I think we count on each other for information we can use to better help the Cedar Crest students and to create healthy hall and building environments. You definitely couldn’t have one role without the other.”

There are some qualifications that have to be met, in order to be a possible candidate for the RA position. They are you must have completed two academic terms at Cedar Crest College at the time of appointment, have a minimum GPA of 2.5, be a full-time student at Cedar Crest College, and have the ability to perform the roles and responsibilities of the RA position. Now for one of the most exciting part-the benefits these include: a free single room, free air conditioner (in applicable halls), and payment for five hours per week for fifteen weeks per semester at minimum wage of 17.55. You also get food allowances during breaks when the dining hall is not open.

The first part of the RA application process, is the written application; these are due by 4:30 pm on Thursday, February 28, 2008. If you do not make the RA position, because you could be chosen as an Alternate RA. That means there were not enough positions available to place you, but you get to go through RA training, in case they need you at the last minute.

Lindsay Carbone, a Senior Biology major and Buz first floor Head RA, describes what she likes about being an RA. “I like programming and having free time, but you get to go through RA training, in case they need you at the last minute.”

Kelly Mycek in the Allen House by February 15, 2008. The final part of the application process is the decision letter. These will be mailed to all RA applicants by 4:30 pm on Thursday, February 28, 2008. Do not lose hope, if you do not make the RA position, because you could be chosen as an Alternate RA. That means there were not enough positions available to place you, but you get to go through RA training, in case they need you at the last minute.

In that sense, the RA job is truly an honor.

**Columbia, the people who became ill as a result of the Fusarium oxysporum had a 76% mortality rate.**

Through these ways, Fusarium oxysporum can be considered a harmful and helpful fungi, depending on the circumstances.

Fusarium oxysporum cause a lot of damage to beneficial crops but can also be used to destroy dangerous crops.

There have been considerations to use this fungus to destroy some of the drug crops in South American countries. Furthermore, this fungus releases toxins that are a health concern, causing people to question whether it should be used as an herbicide. In South American countries, Fusarium oxysporum can infect a plant with a disease that causes stalked growth, wilting and eventual death in several different plant species.
It seems that almost everyone can remember coming into contact with an animal that they found adorable and sweet, at one time or another. It may have been a pet, a friend’s pet or even a stray. Now, imagine that very animal being taken away because it was a spe- cific breed – taken away in a man- ner that was not gentle and com- passionate, and in a manner that did not offer any consolation for the loss. This victimization is known as BSL, or Breed Specific Legislation.

Across the world, measures are being taken in various cities to enact laws that either ban or place an insurance mandate on dogs of specific breeds. When the ban laws are finalized, officials lit- erally go into people’s homes and take their pets away, simply because that particular breed of dog has been deemed “dangerous” by people that have never met or played with the animal. They take the animals and euthanize them – not adopt them out. Euthanize.

Thirty-three states in the US have some sort of breed restrict- ions (Pennsylvania has no con- firmation cases of BSL at the moment, but they are trying to pass legislation in Reading). Outside of the US, Canada, Puerto Rico, Bermuda, South America, Europe and Ireland have breed restrictions (www.sidewaysfox.com). The name of the breed is all it takes. What breeds are in danger of los- ing their livelihood?

American Staffordshire Terriers, American Pit Bull Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Boxers, Saint Bernards, Great Pyrenees, Dogs Argentininos, German Shepherds, Akitas, Huskies, Wolf Hybrids, Bull Mastiffs, Chow Chows, Dalmatians, Dobein Pinschers, Dogue de Bordeaux, Rhodesian Ridgebacks and Rottweilers are all at risk (www.blessthedogs.com).

The breeds that are deemed “dangerous” receive the title because of incidents that include biting, fighting and the destruction of other animals. Some people push harder than others for the legis- lation to pass because they have been a victim of one dog of a breed, and feel that the breed was the problem, not just one single animal. Others push for the legisla- tion because they believe the hype and rumors surrounding a breed. So, if the breed is the prob- lem, then why were there Pit Bulls in the holiday commercials for Old Navy? Why was the first dog of war a Pit Bull? Why are Shepherds trained Police Dogs? Why are Rottweilers known for their bad hips and temperamental temperment? The truth of the matter is, these dogs are not the problem or the reason people find BSL neces- sary.

The reason people think BSL is necessary is to keep the problem breeds out of their cities because of a lack of responsible owners. A dog will become what its owner forces it to become. By nature, dogs are loyal and loving animals. If people would start taking care of their dogs, rather than injecting them with steroids and training them to fight other dogs, BSL would not even be an issue.

Why aren’t people coming together to ban irresponsible, des-picable owners who think it’s okay to subject an animal to a life filled with pain and terror? Why don’t we as a society have animal abusers under the same scrutiny as child abusers? After all, many of us have dogs consider them our children.

If you would like to sign one of the many petitions to stop BSL in Pennsylvania, go to www.thepetix- tionsite.com.

The 411 on underage drinking

Stacey Stangl   STAFF WRITER

To some college and high school students, partying is a way of life. Vomiting, acting like a complete idiot, passing out, and eventual alcoholism can become just part of a typical day.

Why are some countries - England, Germany, Spain, and France, for example - able to have a lower drinking age (16 or 18 years of age), yet still have fewer DUIs and drunk-driving related accidents and deaths? It is because American teens are irresponsible. We’re preceeded to from a young age through programs like D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) that ‘educate’ children on the benefits of staying away from a drug and alcohol influenced lifestyle.

Sociology Professor David J. Hanson, Ph.D., of the University of New York, reports, “Virtually everyone supports the Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or DARE, program although it is completely ineffective; not a single published report has ever found D.A.R.E. to be counterproductive. That is, students who took the program later consumed more alcohol and did more drugs than did those who didn’t take the pro- gram. There are many effective alternatives to DARE. It’s too bad that schools haven’t realized yet what people in our age group know - we’re the ones that should be making the choice, and that try- ing to make a teenage act one way will likely cause them to act the other. We still rebel, even when the terrifying statistics are shoved in our faces, and now those effects are showing.

Plastered (no pun intended) all over MySpace and Facebook profiles are invites to go parties and get drunk. There was “Go to Class Drunk Day,” the application to send e-drinks to your friends, the “What Alcoholic Beverage Are You?” test, pictures of teens doing idiotic things while drunk, among countless other alcoholic sugges- tions. What makes high school and college students so enthralled with the many bandwagon pet projects to stop BSL, or Breed Specific Legislation?
Hauna Colista  

STAFF WRITER

With an election looming over us this fall, Americans are beginning to weigh out the possible presidential candidates. I, like most people, favor one party more often than others and I am not afraid to admit that. I favor Democrats more often than Republicans. There, I said it. You heard me. I picked a side and I was not afraid to admit it.

However, if you look back you will notice that I did not say “I favor Democrats over Republicans.” That is because I do not. I never pick one over the other ALL THE TIME. I consider myself nonpartisan. Being nonpartisan something that is very important to me.

I grew up in an area that was heavily Republican but my parents were Democrats. Something that I learned early on is that many people, not all, vote for their party more than they do the issues. Although my parents and the majority of those living in my area had very different points of view, they voted the same: for their party.

Even when I was 13 years old and the 2000 presidential election was in all the headlines, most people I spoke to did not have a reason for voting for a candidate other than they were representing their political party. In my opinion, this is a huge problem!

Voting for someone to lead our country should have nothing to do with political parties. A politician should be elected based on the issues and the logic behind their solutions. Therefore, whether a candidate is Republican, Democrat, or Independent, Americans should vote for the person they feel has the best plan for our country.

Political parties have become a driving force in American politics. Parties are constantly fighting for control of the House and Senate instead of making progress. Our country’s political parties are often more concerned with competition than moving our nation forward. I cannot seem to grasp the logic behind putting rivalry ahead of a country’s well being.

This new program gives students a chance to try new foods with Cinnamon Sugar, something new foods

Lauren Panepinto  

STAFF WRITER

As many of you may have noticed, there have been some new additions to the menu in the cafeteria. This is because of a wonderful new idea called Hemisflavors.

Each week, Hemisflavors serves regional food from a different country, and marks the foods with the country’s flag so that students know what foods are being highlighted.

Considering how often students have complained about Parkhurst’s food selections, it is nice to see them trying out something new with the menu.

Hemisflavors not only adds more options to the cafeteria’s menu, but also works to broaden students’ horizons about food.

This new program gives students a chance to try new food without the expense of a high-end restaurant.

The cardboards displays found on the tables in the cafeteria assures that all the food is made fresh with the best possible ingredients. “This focus on fresh, quality ingredients not only ensures authenticity, but also makes Hemisflavors dishes more healthful, wholesome, and of course, delicious.”

The first country highlighted by the new program was Brazil, there was even a convenient hand-out about the cuisine from that particular country.

The pamphlet contained information about the cooking techniques, history and culinary influences, and the typical ingredients associated with the country. Hemisflavors also includes a recipe, this week for Banana Fritas con Canela e Acucar, or Fried Bananas with Cinnamon Sugar, something simple and delicious that can easily be made in a dormitory kitchen.

Hemisflavors is a great idea, and shows that Parkhurst is doing the best they can to bring good, healthy food to our schools.

This will give students a chance to try new dishes they have never been able to try before, and also allow for a wider variety of foods in the cafeteria.

She was (the one thing that day that went according to plan), but her arrival didn’t make my day any better. After a few generic questions, she determined that I “slept on it” and that it would be fine if I just took some Motrin.

While I was pretty sure that this would not solve my problem, I humored her suggestion and took some Motrin. Nothing. Two days later my arm still hurt, and my opinion of Health Services had gone downhill, a lot.

Maybe you’ve had a similar experience? I know many who have.

In one case, a student got a second opinion by calling her doctor back home because she had a rather serious problem and she thought the advice she was given seemed a bit backward; her doctor told her to completely disregard Health Services’ advice.

I also know of a student who went to the emergency room to get a second opinion. The hospital treated her and told her that she had something completely different from what Health Services had said.

Even if this hasn’t happened to you, it’s still concerning. To most people who live here on campus, it’s Health Services or the hospital, and we are already paying for Health Services. I don’t think we should have to pay twice for a second opinion because the one given to us is obviously wrong.

I have heard many people singing praises for the e-mail that was sent out about the stomach bug that has been going around, but that is just information. If they can’t treat actual people, they’re not doing what we need them to do.

Amanda Patterson  

STAFF WRITER

Health Services is one factor that never crossed my mind when I was deciding where to go to college. As it turns out, that was a mistake.

I have been to Health Services twice since I started at the Crest in September. Before I even knew where Health Services was located, I had heard horror stories; people told me to avoid it like the plague.

I am not one to listen to rumors, though. I thought I would give them a chance and decide for myself just how terrible they were.

As it turns out, I was given that opportunity not far into my first semester. I went in with low expectations, but I left pleasured. I was seen quickly, given a (correct) diagnosis, a prescription, and sent on my merry way.

The entire process took less than an hour.

The most recent time I was in was just last week. My arm had been hurting me rather severely for over a day, and I was alarmed that something might be wrong.

My expectations this time were higher; not unreasonable, but higher. I went to Health Services between classes, with the assumption that I would not be too late to the next class, which was 45 minutes later.

When I got there, I was greeted hastily and sent to the waiting room, where I spent an hour and a half of my afternoon. While I was supposed to be back within 30 minutes.

When I was finally taken into the exam room, I was asked several generic questions and told that the doctor would be in shortly.

Along with everything I mentioned above is the fact that it is nearly impossible to see eye-to-eye with everyone. Not every candidate has exactly what I want in any party. When it comes to the future of our country, and my future as well, I would rather know exactly who I am voting for and not the label that came with it.

This new program gives students a chance to try new foods that are simple and delicious that can easily be made in a dormitory kitchen.

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Lizz Nagle
SPORTS EDITOR

I’m moving to France! Maybe to Canada. Well, not really. But after watching Michael Moore’s latest documentary, Sicko, over the weekend, I’ve been thinking about it.

Last winter, my mother was hospitalized for five days because she got a MRSA Staph infection. 35% of people who get this infection don’t live through it. The MRSA strain of Staph infections is especially dangerous because it is resistant to methicillin, a type of penicillin used to combat the infection. However, MRSA patients don’t live through it. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 54.5 million people were uninsured for part of the year. This number rises each year. If my mother would have been included in that statistic, I don’t think we would still be living in our house in the West end of Allentown after that hospital stay. Or we would be in the house, but without my mother.

When I was in middle school, I had my last baby tooth removed by an oral surgeon. After a couple more surgeries, the adult tooth that was supposed to fill the space was finally cut out of my jaw. I was advised to get a tooth implant after a year, when my jaw was completely healed. With insurance, the tooth implant would have cost a couple thousand dollars. I didn’t get it.

Over it. I had a Maryland Bridge put in the space where that baby tooth was removed almost ten years ago. According to my dentist, the tooth next to the space were beginning to tip and would fall out in a matter of time, cause the next tooth to tip and so on and so on. He pretty much implied I would eventually lose all of my top teeth if the space was not filled. The bridge is considered a “cosmetic procedure,” and not a “medical procedure” to our insurance company. Insurance covered around $1800 for the bridge. I was left paying about $680. I was also left wondering why it was medical necessary to remove the tooth, and not medically necessary to replace it. In Sicko, Michael Moore explores the free healthcare systems in other countries such as Canada and France. He puts to rest rumors that Government funded healthcare is shabby and patients need to wait months for an appointment. He points out that Canadians and the French live longer and have a higher productivity rate per hour than Americans.

He also exposes the fact that prescription drugs in other countries cost next to nothing. My mother could get her $80 per month BYETTA prescription to control her diabetic blood sugar levels for about $10 anywhere else in the world.

And one of the most shocking things uncovered in this documentary is the $100 million the United States government spent in efforts which successfully led to the defeat of Hilary Rodham Clinton’s free healthcare plan in 1996. And I haven’t even mentioned the role the insurance companies play in all of this.

I guess the point I’m trying to make is there is a health care epidemic in America. Insurance is harder to come by and the government expenses than ever. Insurance companies rob families and medical costs put people in debt. There is a health care conspiracy in America. I think of families without any insurance, who could get a Staph infection just like my mom, who could need dental work just like me. It makes me sad. It makes me want to pack my bags and get on the next plane to France and never look back.

For more facts and information, visit www.michaelmoore.com/sicko.
VOTE NOW!
From the comfort of your own dorm

The acceptability of completing an absentee ballot vary from illness to military work to unable to appear due to the distance of a college. After this form is mailed in, the absentee ballot itself will be sent to the election. After selecting your candidate and completely filling out the form, there will be directed as to where to mail the ballot. If filling out an absentee ballot is not your ideal way of voting, students going to college in Pennsylvania are permitted by law to register in this state. The law, passed in 1971, says that “college students are permitted under State law to register in the locality at which they are attending a college or university.”

Brea Barski
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

There are over twenty-five states represented by the students at Cedar Crest, so it is not surprising that many students will not be able to make it home for their state’s upcoming primary election. Primary elections are similar to November elections in many ways. Not only are they frequently held midweek, at a time that can pose to be most inconvenient for students, but, more importantly, registered voters are able to submit absentee ballots from virtually anywhere.

In order to vote through an absentee ballot, a two-step process must be completed prior to the election. (The deadlines for when ballots can be requested and received vary by state. This information can be found on the individual state’s website.)

The first step in the absentee ballot process is to request the ballot. The forms to do this can be found at a local court house or on the state’s website. This form will ask for your name and address, your voting information (party, district, etc.) and the reason for the absentee ballot.

In some states the reason for the request consists of checking a box, in others you need to fill in a blank with the cause. The acceptable reasons for completing an absentee ballot vary from state to state.

- The acceptable reasons for completing an absentee ballot vary from state to state.
- In some states, the reason for the request consists of checking a box, in others you need to fill in a blank with the cause.

Christa Hagan
MANAGING EDITOR

For the past couple of months, the air of city streets, newsrooms and office coffee rooms have been swamped with a handful of vocabulary words. Talk of “caucuses” and “conventions” has been sliding in between typical conversations.

“Primary” is another word that has been tossed around as well, including its varieties: open and closed, binding and non-binding. Yet, what do these words mean and furthermore, what purpose do they serve? Talk of the ongoing elections really begins to build in the later fall months of 2007, gearing up for the beginning of the election season of 2008. The election process began this year on Jan. 3 with the Iowa caucus and will end on Nov. 4, 2008.

What happened and what will happen in the ten months that lie between? From Jan. 3 to Sept. 4, there are the caucuses, primaries and conventions. All help to select the candidates that appear on the final Nov. 4 ballot.

According to the website of the 2008 Iowa Caucus, the term “is a process of political party members gathering to make policy decisions and to select candidates.”

It is thought that the pioneers of the Iowa constitution chose the caucus over a primary to nominate candidates in favor of the “grass-roots democracy-in-action approach,” states the caucus website.

Every two years, Iowa holds its caucuses. The caucus tends to be smaller in off election years. During the caucus, only those who are registered Republican or Democratic Iowans can vote. Despite the original idea, there is no single gathering. Instead, there are 99 county conventions throughout the state. At every convention, each party elects its delegate.

“Presidential preference on the Republican side is done with a straw vote of those attending the caucus. This vote is sometimes done by a show of hands or by dividing themselves into groups according to candidate,” as stated by the 2008 Iowa Caucus website.

With the Democratic Conventions, a delegate must have 15% of the votes to move on in the election. Supporters of candidates with less than 15% have the option of joining a candidate with more than 15%, or to join another nonviable candidate to make 15% of the votes.

This would mean that if one candidate only had 7% of the votes, and another had 13%, the supporters of one could move over to the other candidate to make one of the two a viable candidate.

After the caucus comes state conventions and primaries. “Primaries” refer to a state wide election. The two most common forms are open and closed primaries. A closed primary is an election where only registered Republicans and Democrats are able to vote. An open primary allows any registered voter may vote in any party of her choosing regardless of the party to whom she may belong.

Open primaries are not available in all states, and can get even more complicated in others such as West Virginia.

In West Virginia, the Republican primaries are open while the Democrat primaries are closed, according to the Voting and Democracy Research Center, Fair Vote.

New Hampshire, the first primary in the election and one that is given a lot of attention by candidates, is closed.

Late into the primaries, there are conventions held. This year, the Democratic National Convention will be held August 25-28 in Denver, Co.

The Republican national convention will take place in St. Paul, Minn. from Sept. 1 through Sept. 4. Conventions not only help to select the party’s candidate but also, they allow party members a chance to gather and discuss the platform.

Not all states practice the same methods of selection for both parties during the pre-election months. Some states have a primary for one party and a caucus for the other. This is depending on the desires of the party and, sometimes, requirements and traditions of the state.

So now there is reason and explanation behind the terms thrown around by the water cooler and the conversations held between the car and the bookstore. While election jargon and goings on might seem hard to reach, or even part of a secret society, it is evident that there is indeed a method to the madness.
Republican or Democrat?

You decide.

Lizz Nagle
NEWS EDITOR

When someone thinks of a Republican, they probably think: conservative, pro-life, high gas prices, lower taxes, no same-sex marriage. When someone thinks of a Democrat, they most likely think: liberal, pro-choice, lower gas prices, higher taxes, same-sex marriage. Although a presidential candidate from either party may stand for some of these issues, it is time to put these stereotypes to rest.

Choosing a political party is about more than agreeing with platforms, issues and causes. It is more than registering for your parents’ party. When choosing which party to register as or vote for, the best place to start is to gain an understanding that Republicans and Democrats are very diverse and can cross lines between issues.

The fundamental difference between each party is the way they think about society. “In general, today’s Republican party places a much greater emphasis on individual liberty than the Democratic party does. Today’s Democratic party places a much greater emphasis on equality,” said Kim Spiezio, Associate Professor of Political Science.

Spiezio went a little further with this by stating that Republicans view society as “A collection of individuals.” Republicans ask what they can do to help the individual become more free than they currently are. The answer to that question, for Republicans, comes through the argument that the power of the federal government must be limited. This is achieved by cutting federal funding, cutting taxes and pushing to return power to states and localities.

Conversely, when Democrats look at society, “they see a community,” said Spiezio. “Democrats ask themselves what they can do to help diminish the inequalities that disadvantage some groups relative to others.”

Generally, Democrats argue that this can be accomplished by an increase in the role of the federal government in society. Therefore, Democrats tend to push for more federal programs, more spending through the raising of taxes, and increased power of the government in relation to states and localities.

“That’s the essential difference in the way these parties face, in general, the challenges we face as a country,” added Spiezio. When choosing an affiliation, individuals need to decide whether they lean towards liberty (Republican) or equality (Democrat).

Spiezio also pointed out that “More and more younger folks are registering as Independents. One third of age-eligible voters are Independent… There’s a price to be paid for the rise of the Independent voter. They tend to be more moderate in voice, leading the parties to lean towards extremes.” Consequently, parties will nominate conservative, or more liberal candidates, which distorts the swing of views.

Jennifer Wentworth, a senior Secondary Education and History major, said that she doesn’t completely agree with the party the she registered with stands for. “The truth is, I don’t completely agree with everything the party she registered with stands for. The truth is, I don’t completely agree with the other party either. I am really a moderate who agrees a little with both parties. When I registered, I stuck to a major party, so I could always vote in the primaries… I think the worst thing a person could do is register as an Independent,” said Wentworth.

Another senior History major, Kimberly Martin, said, “I once learned in one of my political science classes that the vast majority of Americans are moderate and that the differences between moderate Republicans and moderate Democrats fall along the lines of a few issues… This is why we get such extremes in the Democratic and Republican parties. I am not affiliated with a political party because there are things about each party that I identify with. Being an Independent has set back as well because neither party feels an obligation towards Independents.”

Ultimately, the choice is up to the voter. If a voter feels strongly about an issue, they might register for the party which supports that issue. If someone supports the individual as opposed to a community, it will reflect in their political party. The most important thing is to do the research and make an informed decision.

Guitar Hero Competition!!!

When: Friday, Feb. 1, 2008
Where: Little Theater
Time: 7:00 pm
Trophies to theWINNERS!!!
$2.00 TO ENTER... SKILLS TO WIN!!!

Sign-up at the ASB’s book sale table or at the Little Theater, 7:00 pm, the night of the competition.

Sponsored by the Alternative Spring Break Team
The following information is on the top three candidates in the polls for each party based on the available information from the LA Times, CNN, and the Associated Press. The information comes from the candidates listed homepage, www.ontheissues.org, or www.vote-smart.org. The pictures are also from the candidates’ webpages.

**Republican Candidates**

**Mitt Romney**
- **Age:** 71
- **Family:** Wife, 7 children
- **Religion:** Episcopalian
- **Job:** Senior Senator, former Beer Distributor
- **Home:** Phoenix, AZ
- **Website:** www.mittromney.com
- **Party:** Republican

**John McCain**
- **Age:** 60
- **Family:** Wife, 5 children
- **Religion:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- **Job:** CEO Management Consultant
- **Home:** Belmont, MA
- **Website:** www.mittromney.com
- **Party:** Republican

**Mike Huckabee**
- **Age:** 52
- **Family:** Wife, 3 children
- **Religion:** Baptist
- **Job:** Former pastor, Communications Executive
- **Home:** North Little Rock, AR
- **Website:** www.mikehuckabee.com
- **Party:** Republican

**Democratic Candidates**

**Barack Obama**
- **Age:** 46
- **Family:** Wife, 2 children
- **Religion:** United Church of Christ
- **Job:** Attorney, Lecturer
- **Home:** Chicago, IL
- **Website:** www.barackobama.com
- **Party:** Democrat

**Hillary Clinton**
- **Age:** 60
- **Family:** Husband, 1 child
- **Religion:** Methodist
- **Job:** Junior Senator
- **Home:** Chappaqua, NY
- **Website:** www.hillaryclinton.com
- **Party:** Democrat

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**Republican War**: Intends to remain in Iraq until a victory has been obtained. **Democrat War**: Promises a complete pull-out of all but 3,500-5,000 American troops within ten months in office, reasoning that if we leave Iraq, the Iraqis will be forced to fix the problems themselves.

**Republican Social Security**: Wants to put first-time, non-violent offenders to rehabilitation programs, as they have a better history of success. **Democrat Social Security**: Is against raising the retirement age, but plans to get Social Security.

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**Republican Abortion**: Favors a complete pull-out of all but 3,500-5,000 American troops within ten months in office, reasoning that if we leave Iraq, the Iraqis will be forced to fix the problems themselves. **Democrat Abortion**: Supports adoption and plans to “reverse the damage that has been done by President Bush’s anti-choice agenda.”

**Republican Immigration**: Punishing sanctuary cities and ceasing protection of illegal immigrants. **Democrat Immigration**: Supports legal rights for gay couples, but letting states decide about marriage.

**Republican Health Care**: Is against this country’s “irrevocably broken” health care system and wants to change it from employer-based to consumer-based. **Democrat Health Care**: Plans to “transform” the health care system and provide affordable health care for every American by changing insurance laws.

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**Republican Same-Sex Marriage**: Supports marriage between one man and one woman. **Democrat Same-Sex Marriage**: Supports marriage; “don’t ask, don’t tell” was “an important first step.”

**Republican Social Security**: Wants to keep Social Security and get rid of early retirement incentives in order to prevent older Americans from being pushed out of their jobs. **Democrat Social Security**: Is against raising the retirement age, but plans to get Social Security.

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**Republican Social Security**: Wants to increase the military size by 100,000 and use a minimum of four per-month in office, reasoning that if we leave Iraq, the Iraqis will be forced to fix the problems themselves. **Democrat Social Security**: Promises a complete pull-out of all but 3,500-5,000 American troops within ten months in office, reasoning that if we leave Iraq, the Iraqis will be forced to fix the problems themselves.

**Republican Health Care**: Plans to get Social Security. **Democrat Health Care**: Plans to lower insurance costs by getting rid of hidden taxes and to make health insurance mandatory for everyone, but also more readily available by strengthening programs like CHIP and Medicaid.
**Reel Review**

**Cloverfield** stomps through the box office with $41 million in first weekend

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**Gillian Maffeo**

**A&E EDITOR**

The best movie in America? Not quite. *Cloverfield* is definitely what you call a “thriller” and has an interesting surreal effect to it, but the cheesy romance plot line kills the movie. *Cloverfield* has been previewed since last summer and from what I saw, I was very excited to watch the movie. It came out each month, an extra clue would come out to give a hint on what exactly this “Cloverfield monster” was. All in all, you can conclude JJ Abrams (creator of Lost) paid big bucks for the marketing.

The day came: Friday, January 18th. During that weekend, *Cloverfield* brought in $41 million dollars. Being the ridiculous and thruster consumer I am, I dragged my boyfriend to see the movie. But, first things first — before watching the actual movie, I did investigative work online to make sure I knew exactly what I was getting myself into.

Directed by Matt Reeves and written by Drew Goddard, *Cloverfield* had an original plot; however, some outcomes were not very realistic. The movie was taken in a different perspective; it was filmed in first person by the actors using amateur camera equipment and documentation.

The movie was based in Manhattan, where a group of friends were throwing a going-away party for their friend Rob (Michael Stahl-David), who planned on moving to Japan for a job. The first half of the movie is Rob and Beth (Odette Yustman), while they were dating, on camera laughing and flirting. Then the film changed to the surprise party. The night began and the party started to unfold. Eventually, Hud (T.J. Miller) took over filming for the duration of the entire movie. Hud is a plump, comical man who, even at frantic times in the film, makes light of the situation, with quotes like, “I was just thinking about how scary it would be if a flaming homeless guy came out of the dark right now!”

During the party Beth shows up with her new man. This makes Rob distraught and angry, and they eventually end up getting into a huge dispute, until chaos erupted. Everyone at the party was stunned and shootings buildings in Manhattan plummeted to the ground. A couple partners turned on the television and found on the news that an oil tanker capsized right next to the Statue of Liberty. This resulted in Manhattan to blackout. This is when good ol’ Cloverfield stoms through the city.

The rest of the movie is completely chaotic. The city is destroyed and millions of civilians die. However, the whole movie is based around Rob finding Beth. This brought the audience through a journey of the dangerous streets of Manhattan and encountering Cloverfield.

However, I do not understand why Rob had to sacrifice not only his life, but his friend’s lives because he needed to find Beth. Sure I believe in true love, but if I ever came in contact with the Cloverfield monster, you better believe I would be on the next helicopter out.

There were also parts in the movie that disappointed me. Some incidents that happened just did not seem like the outcome was realistic. Toward the end of the movie, the audience does get to finally see Cloverfield close up, and he is really interesting looking.

There has been speculation on what exactly the Cloverfield monster is. The plot line does not actually tell the audience what the monster is, or where it came from. This all goes back to the marketing of the movie. *Cloverfield* originally had a variety of names and Shusko was one of them. Slashfilm.com states that, “The Shusko.ip website was registered a week before the worldwide release of the *Cloverfield* movie trailer.”

They began to explain how Rob is on the Shusko website and then again on the first website for *Cloverfield*, which was 1-18-08.com (the release date of the film). There have been many rumors about the Cloverfield monster. One rumor that I heard was that during the movie one of the actors was wearing a t-shirt bearing the name of a major oil company. When the oil tanker capsized in New York, it triggered the Cloverfield monster to form. The reason the Cloverfield monster was eating every human being in sight was because it needed minerals from the ocean, which humans have.

There are so many rumors and so much controversy over the film, that I advise you to go see it. People have said that they have gotten motion sickness while watching it, and that it resembles *The Blair Witch Project* and even 9/11.

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**Boost up your workout with Nike+**

**Gillian Maffeo**

**A&E EDITOR**

Need to shed some of Grandma’s Christmas pudding? Still have those extra pounds from a New Year’s extravaganza? The perfect innovation has just hit Nike stores.

Nike+ was recently introduced as a collaboration between Nike and iPod Nano. The two gadgets work together to boost your energy while you work out. Nike+ gives you feedback on your running, while you are running.

The catch is, you must have the iPod Nano. You have the chance to hear your pace, time, distance and calories that are burned during your grueling workout. Nike+ is a small device that is implanted in your Nike shoe. It is a small sensor that keeps track of every step you take so you can be more focused on your workout, rather than having to keep track of everything on your own.

Nike+ allows you to not only hear everything your workout consists of, but also to visually see your workout or training session. This allows you to get motivated by running data, setting goals, challenging friends and learning to gain speed.

The other neat feature it has is that you can compete or train with friends and rivals. You can also issue challenges against them. It may all sound complex, but listen up. All you need to do is insert the small white transmitter into your iPod dock connector. Soon enough, a Nike+ iPod menu will appear on the main screen. Then you can choose your “power song” to get you pumped when you are running out of gas. The “power song” is automatically invoked when you press and hold the Select button. The system actually talks to you in a male or female voice (your choice) while you are running.

When you press the Select button briefly, the music fades into the background and the voice tells you the distance you have gone, your current pace, and how long you have been running. This is a great little gadget that boosts your cardio workout and sheds Grandma’s pudding right off. Even if you do not run vigorously or hate the thought of running, Nike+ can still be used for any type of workout; walking, power walking, whatever you choose. However, this gadget can get a bit pricey. The three essentials you need with this are the Nike+ ready shoes (around $135), Nike+ Sport Kit ($29) and your iPod Nano ($149). If you already have a Nano, you do not need to purchase another.

So if you feel like you need a little “umph” in your life, spice it up with the Nike+ and get your body moving to the music.
Cali Burrito: True to hipster kids and college cash

Courtney Clements  
STAFF WRITER

I have been feeling a little blue lately because of the dreary winter months. So, I decided to check out the new restaurant that opened across 222, Cali Burrito. When I walked into the little restaurant I felt better already. I was not sure if it was the band Sublime playing in the background, the yellow and red hues splattered on the walls or the fake tiki grass hanging from the windows, but Cali Burrito brightened my spirit faster than that cute school teacher I have been hanging around with. The casual atmosphere reminded me of the North West beaches in California and the employees themselves took the restaurant’s mission to heart with their genuinely homemade guacamole. This beast was also cheap for only $6.99. I took a bite of this bad boy and thought it was good but it was lacking in some sort of spice. What spice? I am not sure, maybe just a little salt and pepper for taste or spice? I am not sure, maybe just a little salt and pepper for taste or something else?

I ordered the first thing that made me smile, and it was the Humboldt Burrito that stayed true to Cali Burrito. It was wrapped in a warm flour tortilla loaded with black beans, rice, cheese, shredded chicken and their deliciously homemade guacamole. This beast was not sure if it was the band Sublime playing in the background, the yellow and red hues splattered on the walls or the fake tiki grass hanging from the window, but Cali Burrito brightened my spirit faster than that cute school teacher I have been hanging around with. The casual atmosphere reminded me of the North West beaches in California and the employees themselves took the restaurant’s mission to heart with their genuinely homemade guacamole. This beast was also cheap for only $6.99. I took a bite of this bad boy and thought it was good but it was lacking in some sort of spice. What spice? I am not sure, maybe just a little salt and pepper for taste or spice? I am not sure, maybe just a little salt and pepper for taste or something else?

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“It feels like the first time. It feels like the very first time,” freshman Keri Lasky sang about being named the first athlete of the week for 2008! Lasky was previously named Cedar Crest’s athlete of the week for basketball and for volleyball making this her third award.

“Keri works hard and puts all her effort into what she does. She deserves to be named athlete of the week for a third time,” said sophomore Amanda Dombroski.

Lasky always brings a feeling of exhilaration to the game. “It is always an exciting game to watch when Keri is playing. She gels so well with the rest of her team. It’s fierce,” said Dombroski.

Lasky has scored a total of 192 points this season, averaging 14.8 points per game. She is also 81 percent on point from the free throw line.

Lasky’s transition into college ball was not as hard as she thought it would be. “It’s a lot like high school; it is fun and not too stressful.”

Lasky says that the drills and the offense are pretty much the same so there was not much of a difference to get used to. Lasky also said that the team dynamic has “better chemistry on and off the court.” She said that it is much better than high school because they didn’t “mesh” well “personality wise.”

Handling the difference in the work load was a little difficult to get used to, but Lasky caught on quickly. “I have decent time management skills, and awesome friends who are always there for me, know what I’m saying!” said Lasky.

Lasky, a nutrition major, puts a lot of effort into her studies. She spends a lot of her time reading and doing homework. But don’t be fooled by her involvement in sports and her dedication to her school work, Lasky does have a social life.

“I try and balance it out. Too much of one thing can make you go crazy! I like to be well rounded.”

Unfortunately, Lasky is out for the rest of the season due to a torn ACL. She went down at the Marywood game two weeks ago. Upsetting as it is, Lasky is ready to move on:

“It was depressing when I realized I wasn’t going to be able to finish this season out. But I’m over that now, and am focusing on my recovery and coming back strong in the fall for the volleyball season.”

“Injury or no injury…Keri is a BAMF, period,” said Dombroski.

The Pennsylvania Stoners is a minor league soccer team and a franchise of the National Premier Soccer League (NPSL). The team was founded only in 2007 and its season and team opener will be on March 18, 2008. The 2008 team is in the process of being created. Public tryouts were recently held and seventy-seven players had three days to show off their skills. From the bunch, the coaching staff has chosen who will move on to the next round of try-outs.

There was an earlier Stoners team that played from 1979-1983, making it to the play-offs for their division each year. Two of the years they went to the championship, taking home first place in 1980.

Head soccer coach, Todd Ervin finished his first season with Cedar Crest this past fall, finishing up with an overall record of four wins and thirteen losses. The team has room for improvement and Ervin plans on taking full advantage of his new coaching position.

“This opportunity will help Cedar Crest get even more exposure and will help with recruiting athletes in the Lehigh Valley area,” said Ervin.

Before Ervin joined Cedar Crest’s team, he had a lot of experience with soccer. Ervin graduated from Muhlenberg College, where he was All-Centennial Conference Champion for three seasons, and was named a National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Regional All-American, twice. He played professionally for the South Jersey Barons, and recently coached the Moravian Men’s soccer team for three years. He is also a professional soccer trainer for the Lower Macungie Youth Association (LMYA.)

Ervin does it all: he coaches for the Pennsylvania Stoners in the spring and the Cedar Crest Falcons in the fall!