

STUDENT LIFE

New improvements in the works for Dobbins

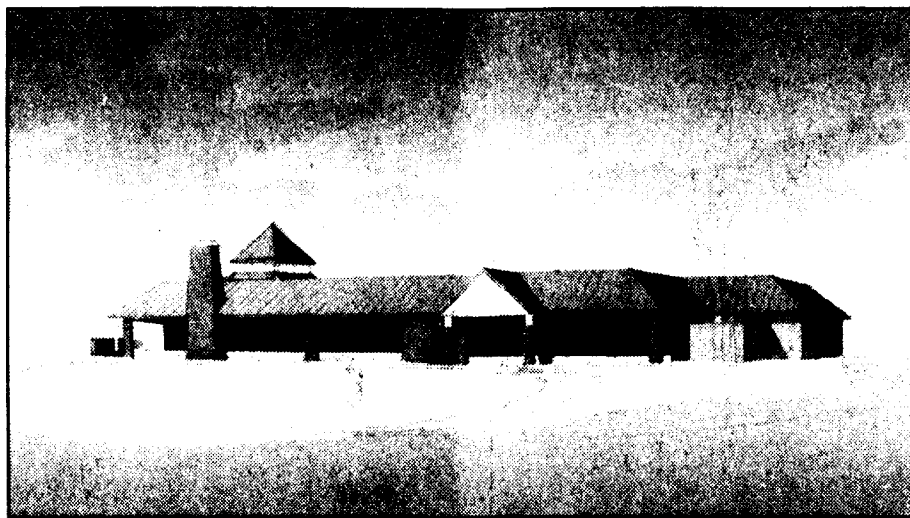
By Gabrielle Siatto
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At some point, most Penn State Behrend students will eat at The Gazebo at Dobbins. For those who have not, Dobbins is an all-you-care-to-eat food court that offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Dobbins offers a large menu, including items such as soups, salads, stir-fry, pizza, desserts, cereals, a sandwich bar, and daily specials.

For those students interested in making some extra money while at school, Dobbins also offers jobs for students. Applications are available both online, and at the Housing and Food Services Office. In order to be considered for employment, students must be full-time, with a 12 credit minimum. Also, it is required that new employees complete orientation and training. Dobbins offers flexible hours to employees, including weekend shifts.

Although Dobbins already offers a lot for students, in 2004 a plan was developed to modify Dobbins, in order to help students, faculty, and staff members get the most out of the facility. A plan for the rendering of Dobbins was created, and ready to be sent to contractors to bid on. Due to a lack of funding, the project had to be stopped. This remodeling is now ready to be restarted.

With the new modifications, Dobbins will have an elevator from Perry Hall and a staircase leading to the outside of the building. With the new elevator, Dobbins will comply with the guidelines outlined in



Computer generated image of Dobbins.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the Americans with Disabilities Act, and will be more user-friendly to students in wheelchairs. The elevator will lead from Perry Hall, up through the middle level of Dobbins, and from there, it will provide access to the dining hall. Also, the stairs from the apartments on campus will lead directly to the new entrance.

The upper level of Dobbins will hold additional serving space, as well as additional seating and a fireplace. There will hopefully be about a 32-foot addition to the current upper level. Additionally, there will be a stage upstairs for live entertainment to perform. The middle level of

Dobbins will hold a special events dining room, which clubs and activity groups will be able to use. There will also be a terrace, a conference room, and rest rooms. The catering managers' office will be located on the middle floor, in addition to the permanent home of the RESCOM Office.

Outside of the new, modified Dobbins, the parking lot will be taken away, and more space will be added. This will help to better balance vehicle and student traffic, in addition to making deliveries easier.

The modifications to the inside of Dobbins, such as work in the service area, must be done during the summers, however new construction can be completed throughout the course of the school year. Once the modifications are completed, Dobbins will offer its usual all-you-care-to-eat menu, in addition to a new side, featuring a-la-carte selections, similar to Bruno's. Also, there will hopefully be a coffee shop located inside.

The first meeting to go over, and modify this new plan for Dobbins will be November first, and after that, the plan will be presented to contractors to bid on. The best case scenario for the renovations to be completed is the summer of 2009, and overall, will cost roughly eight million dollars. The hope, however, is that these improvements will not only help the students, but also allow Dobbins to hold longer hours than usual. If any students, faculty, or staff have questions about the modifications, hours, or applying for jobs, staff members at Dobbins can be reached at (814)-898-6356.



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A Quick Look:

inside new films..

By
Ryan P. Gallagher

Control

Director: Anton Corbijn

Anton Corbijn has come a long way from his photojournalism origins to direct this unique biography of Ian Curtis, lead singer of the respected post-punk group Joy Division of the late 70s. While the band didn't receive much fame initially, they would go on to be recognized as one of the few groups to pioneer the post-punk sound and become an inspiration to bands all over.

The film, shot strictly in black and white, focuses on Curtis' childhood days, and all the way up to his suicide in 1980. This is the first project by Corbijn that has received mass attention and so far, it's nothing but positive. If you're a fan of the true music scene, see this asap.

Release date: Oct. 10, 2007

Gone Baby Gone

Director: Ben Affleck

While some may chuckle at the idea of Ben Affleck directing legendary actors Morgan Freeman and Ed Harris, this dramatic mystery based off of the novel by Dennis Lehane, will be his directorial debut in which he has chosen, what some say is a wise decision, not to act. Instead, brother Casey Affleck (*Good Will Hunting*, *Ocean's 11-13*) will be the Affleck of choice for this film.

The film focuses on two detectives attempting to solve the kidnapping of a little girl in a rough part of Boston. The only flaw that stands out is the fact that this film sounds a bit too similar to Clint Eastwood's *Mystic River*, which was also based off the novel by the same author.

Release Date: Oct. 19, 2007

Dashboard strikes a chord of the past



Carabba brings back the acoustic act.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Ryan P. Gallagher
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I was standing outside a small venue located in the heart of the strip district of Pittsburgh, PA. It was six years ago, and I cannot recall any of the insignificant opening bands preceding the artist we were there to see, but this particular headliner already had two albums out and had just unveiled its first EP entitled "So Impossible". A limited number of people knew of their existence, but that would soon change. After a couple hours of novice bands trying to make a name for themselves, the lights dimmed and Chris Carabba, accompanied by his fresh backing band, entered the stage and were greeted with a Pittsburgh welcome.

For the next hour and a half, Dashboard Confessional acoustically lit up the stage like no band had ever done before. But this was one of the last small venue tour dates for DC.

With the commercial success of the single "Vindicated" featured in *Spiderman 2*, people began to wake up to Chris Carabba's earlier sounds and started packing amphitheaters and bigger venues nationwide. This success led DC to turn electric, as many bands do at this point, and avid fans began to lose interest quickly. For several years, they remained electric.

But as we know, times change.

The band released their 6th full-length album on Tuesday, but it sounds like it was released five years ago. It's as if the band picked up right where they left off on the acoustic scene. Of course this is what many listeners were hoping for after "So Impossible", but some could say it was worth the wait.

The lineup is the same, which is a good sign considering they've been playing as one for more than five years. Carabba originally developed DC as a side project in addition to his band *Further Seems Forever* (which he left to dedicate more time to DC), and actually didn't add friends John Lefler

(guitar), Scott Schoenbeck (bass), and Mike Marsch (drums) onto the band until 2002.

The new album entitled *The Shade of Poison Trees*, is taking everyone back in time several years, dropping their electric act for the time being, and winning their old crowd back along with an entire new generation of music listeners.

Numerous tracks on the album have the warm, acoustic feel that could only be found on their early albums. If you're a fan that was pushed away from the group when the electricity increased, pick this LP up now.

While song after song strikes more than a chord in our memories towards their early work, some of the tracks reveal a new sound Carabba and crew are working at, and it's not a bad one. Halfway through the album, a song hums in, sounding similar to the early work of U2. While strange and unexplainable, the sound is definitely comparable, however, that's just one song. In a few the songs the piano prevails and leads us into a calm ballad, enhanced by Carabba's gentle vocals, and in others, the band experiments with electronic beats which also compliment his singing style perfectly.

As with most DC songs, lyrics play a key role to the band's sound. When music is played with less distortion and more distinction, profound and meaningful lyrics are crucial so the listener does not become uninterested. Luckily, Carabba has become a veteran at telling his stories, and he makes the songs complete.

It seems the band has made a brilliant decision to drift back to their old ways, seeing as fans are already commenting on how much they like this CD over the last two. The band is on tour promoting their new album, with some of the dates consisting of Carabba and crew, and other shows featuring Carabba solely.

If you were never a fan to begin with, then chances are you'll have the same attitude towards the band you always had. However, if they're an old favorite, give them another chance and at least steal the CD off of someone you don't like.