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MY VOICE

A need for real health care reform

MLADEN GRGIC
contributing writer

Land of the free, home of the brave; the American dream is what we all strive for. Wealth, happiness, and stability, all of which are easily accessible while living in the United States, as long as you are dedicated to hard work and perseverance. So with all that said, how is it that today over 37 million Americans live in poverty? Are they not working hard enough? Although finding a job without a car or significant address is pretty much impossible. Or do they not want the "American Dream"?

In today's society the American dream is just that, a dream, a succession of images, thoughts or emotions passing through the mind during sleep. Because the American dream seems so intangible it is becoming obsolete

to those 37 million Americans living in poverty. The 37 million people who are already living in poverty and the millions more that will join them because of the recession basically have no way out, so my question is what is the government going to do about this problem?

Living in a country where you can do anything you put your mind to, how do we have poverty? Maybe it's because the government's focus is elsewhere. Helping foreign countries with their poverty while ignoring our own backyard. For example, New Jersey, one of the richest states in the country is home to the poorest city in the country, Camden. How is that possible? New Orleans is another example of the government's lack of concern for the countries well-being and its in-

habitants.

While our nation is plummeting and becoming poorer every day, other places are flourishing and benefiting from the American dream. Who's to blame? Do we blame the past presidents for making economic decisions that have made today's economic recession? Or do we blame the people who are living in poverty and the people around them who choose to not help them in their time of need? But how can those people do better or help when the government isn't showing any significant concern for these people?

"Since the government's focus is outside of the united states, these 37 million people will live in poverty until the government wakes up and realizes that this is a major problem"

Most of the people who are living in poverty are either African American or Latino and live in the worst of towns none as ghettos. How are these people supposed to bring themselves out of the slums when there is no help? Realistically they can't; since the government's focus is outside of the United States, these 37 million people will live in poverty until the government wakes up and realizes that this is a major problem.

How can there be a war on drugs and a war on terrorism, but no war on poverty? The government should realize that a war on poverty within the United States is just as significant as a war on drugs and terrorism. In order for our country to get out of this slump that we are in, our leaders need to realize that the focus is needed at home in order to attain that American dream and fix surrounding countries like that of Haiti.

This article was not edited for grammar or punctuation, per Beacon editorial policy.

MY VOICE

Lady Mellon, I bid you adieu

NICK BLAKE
sports editor

Constructed from 2,950 tons of stainless Pittsburgh steel, the Mellon Arena opened in September of 1961 as the Civic Auditorium.

It featured the world's first retractable roof on a major athletic stadium, and it has been the home of the Pittsburgh Penguins since day one of the franchise.

Mellon Arena, named for Mellon Financial which purchased the arena in 1999, has hosted the likes of Elvis Presley and the Beatles.

She has welcomed Muhammad Ali, the Harlem Globetrotters and the WWE.

Even though Lady Mellon has seen her fair share of talent over her 49-year career, the hockey games that have taken place under her silver dome may have produced her greatest memories.

I could go on a rant listing numbers and stats all relating to Lady Mellon, but Penguins fans already know that stuff.

She has been the home to some of the greatest players to ever play in the NHL.

Jean Pronovost, Andy Bathgate, Tom Barasso, Ron Francis, Paul Coffey, Mario Lemieux, Jaromir Jagr, Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin, Marc Andre-Fleury, the list goes on and on. All of these players, and countless others, have donned the Penguins uniform.

Each and every one of them has had their fair share of accomplishments, and calls Mellon Arena "home".

For you Penguins fans, who have been as lucky as I have to attend at least one game at The Igloo, you know what I am talking about.

I went to my first Penguins

game when I was 12-years-old. The Penguins beat the San Jose Sharks 4-2 that night.

My seats were in the Igloo Club section, right behind the benches. I was sitting five rows behind Lemieux, Martin Straka and Alexei Kovalev.

I got to see Lemieux score a goal that night. It wasn't a milestone goal or anything like that, but I got to see Mario Lemieux score a goal at Mellon Arena. That was special.

Last season, I was lucky enough to get a ticket for game two of the Penguins' first round match up against the Philadelphia Flyers.

My seat was in section E. The section F balcony hung over me and I couldn't see the Jumbotron.

None of that mattered, though. I was in The Igloo for a playoff game against the Flyers, who are arguably the Penguins' biggest rival.

Bill Guerin scored with less than two minutes to play in overtime to give Pittsburgh a 2-0 lead in the series.

To be in Mellon Arena when that puck hit the back of the net was a surreal feeling. The building was rocking, and I was hugging complete strangers who felt like friends.

I'll never forget that moment. The Penguins would go on to win the Stanley Cup, and I could say that I got to go to a game on the road to their third Stanley Cup in franchise history.

This season, on a chilly November day, my girlfriend and I sat outside of gate eight for six and a half hours for a Student Rush game against the Anaheim Ducks.

With no blankets or chairs, we sat on the cold pavement in the shadow of the Mellon, and it was amazing.

Mike Lange, who has been the play-by-play voice of the Penguins since 1975, is a legend when it comes to Pittsburgh Penguins hockey.

On that day, Lange was entering the arena right next to the Student Rush line.

I had the opportunity to meet him and have my picture taken with him.

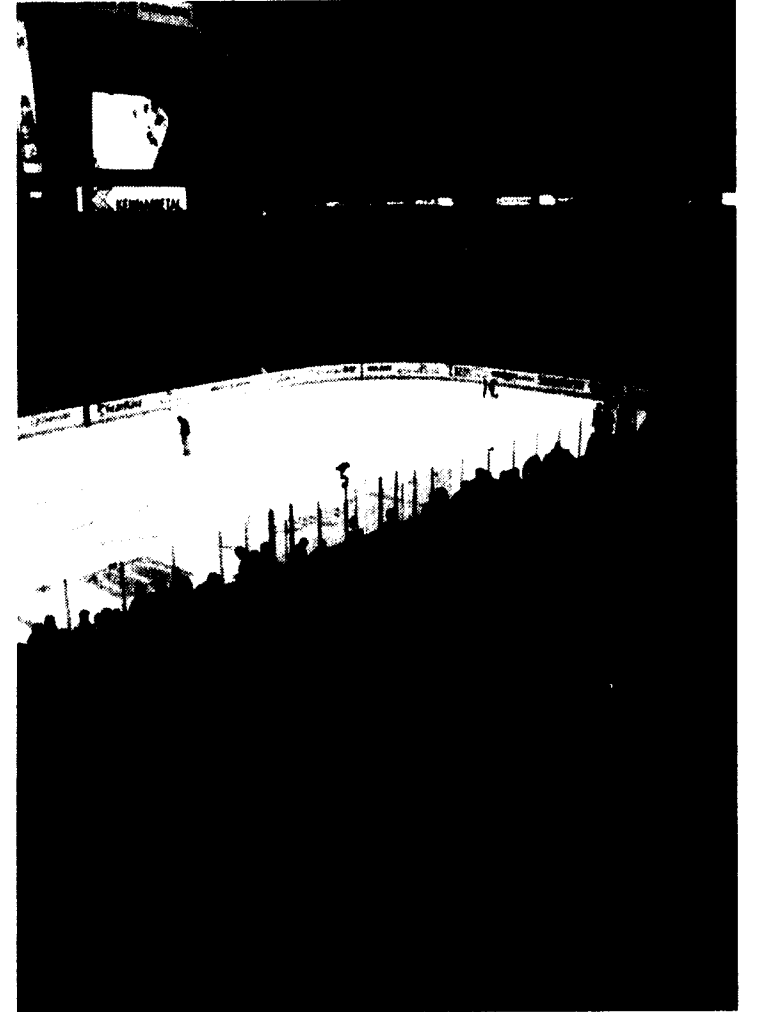
The Penguins won the game, and it was easily one of the best days of my life.

For anyone that has been to a hockey game at Mellon Arena, you have your own special memories.

Right next door to Lady Mellon, the Consol Energy Center is being built, and come next season will be the new home of the Penguins.

While Penguins fans are looking forward to a new arena with more seating, more space and a new feel, we will be sad to see The Igloo go.

Even though Mellon Arena will be demolished, her memories will live on, and Penguins fans will never forget the magical moments that were experienced under her silver dome.



Contributed photo

MY VOICE

Is this the end of Big Ben's reputation?

SHAWN ANNARELLI
managing editor

Big Ben is the NFL's Big Sleazy.

Just check out how the guy presented himself in his scripted apology to the NFL last week after it was announced no charges would be filed against him for sexual assault.

Ben's lack of professionalism had less to do with his attire and a lot to do with his hairdo.

Ben's normally golden, curly locks were greased back, almost as if a steamroller leveled his cranium.

He looked like Ted Levine playing a well-dressed Buffalo Bill in *The Silence of the Lambs*, but I digress.

Ben needs to be suspended: not by Roger Goodell, but by his own team.

In just less than four years, Roethlisberger has engraved his skull into the windshield of a Chrysler New Yorker after plowing his 2005 Suzuki Hayabusa into it, and he has been accused of sexual assault by a woman in Las Vegas, Nev. and another in Milledgeville, Ga.

How much grief can he put Dan Rooney through?

He was the man that endorsed Roethlisberger as the Steelers number one pick in the 2003 NFL Draft.

The answer should be that the Rooneys are fed up with being disrespected.

The Rooneys, one of the NFL's most storied and influential families, should be fuming after their \$100 million plus quarterback walked his way into a bathroom stall of trouble, again.

It is not that Ben is a bad guy, but you cannot help but feel that he needs to be held accountable for his lack of off the field professional judgement.

Just look at what has happened over the years to three of Ben's top receivers after they failed to uphold themselves as character teammates.

Plaxico Burress was not released due to a lack of talent or any off the field issues, but he was widely regarded as a

locker room cancer. In 2004, former head coach Bill Cowher temporarily suspended Burress for missing an unexcused practice.

Where has that accountability in the Steelers' organization gone?

Despite being Ben's favorite target as a rookie play caller, the Steelers let Plaxico go north to the New York Giants in 2005.

Five years later, Burress can be found in a Rikers Island jail cell serving a two-year sentence for shooting... himself.

Fast forward to March 2008, and the Steelers are suspending Ben's then No. 3 receiver Cedric Wilson. Wilson, who is no stranger to being a distraction to teammates, allegedly assaulted his girlfriend.

Wilson was later released on \$10,000 bail, but the Steelers released him for good.

You can probably find him at your local anger management therapy group.

Our next and final stop on Big Ben's troubled receivers' past takes us to a not so distant name, Antonio Holmes. Holmes, a break-out star in 2009, just did not know when to stop "waking and baking."

The young and restless receiver was also accused of assaulting a woman, which was the last straw for the franchise.

The Steelers traded him for a fifth round pick in the upcoming NFL Draft. You can find Holmes in a Jets jersey, but he will be sidelined by an NFL four-game suspension for substance abuse.

This brings us back to Ben. He carelessly rode helmetless on a motorcycle into another vehicle, and two women have accused him of sexual assault in the last two years.

How many straws are the Rooneys giving this supposed football icon?

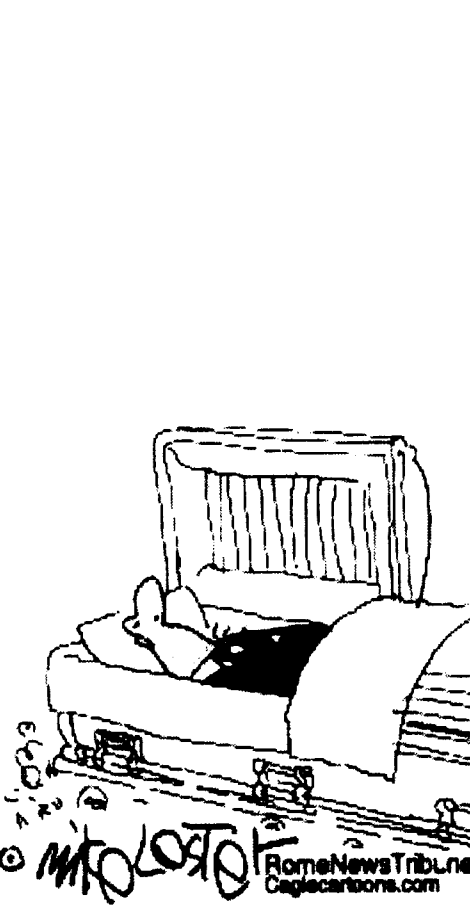
It would appear that Roethlisberger has one more straw left, which is probably one too many.

Until he pulls that one, a message should be sent to him. That message should come in the form of an unpaid multiple game suspension.

DOUBLE DOWN

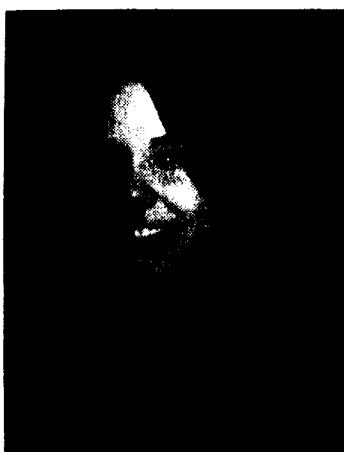
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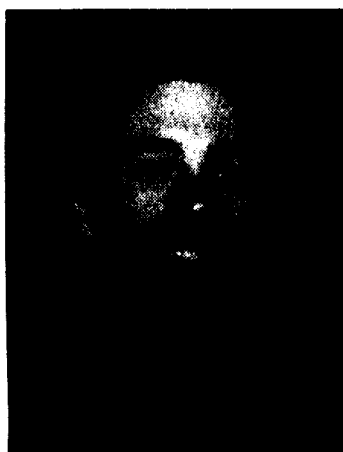
Have Your Say:

Will you be going to the Goo Goo Dolls concert this weekend?



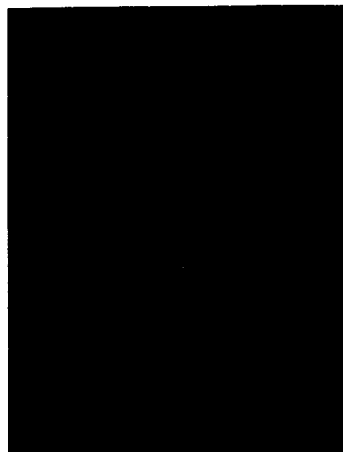
Desstia Jones
freshman
undecided

"I'm going because the Goo Goo Dolls are freaking sweet!"



Ryan Adams
sophomore
business

"No, I'm not going. I have to coach my lacrosse team"



Brian Beswick
sophomore
plastics engineering

"I'm not going. I'll be going home. I haven't been there in two months."



Lauren Liebdzinski
freshman
IBE

"Yes, I will be going. I'm on the hospitality committee."