



Students Johane Pierce and Tarik Salim receive the Cross-Cultural Award from Diversity Counselor Loretta Ramsey.

Clinton Creates Ways to Help College Students

By Aimee Stone
Assistant Editor

As the impeachment hearings continue, Americans are continually reminded of the Lewinsky scandal. While many are rooting for Chief Justice Rhenquist and a discharge of the President, people are forgetting all the legislation created during the Clinton term. College students, especially, should be reminded of what Bill Clinton has done for them.

"One of the things I most wanted to do was to open the doors of college to all Americans, who were willing to work for it," stated the President as he reminisced about his first successful run for the seat.

And so he did. Throughout the entire Clinton presidential term, more education bills and laws were created than any other administrations. Clinton set forth to make the dream of college a reality in the lives of many Americans.

When Clinton first was elected to the office seat, 1 out of 4 graduated college students were defaulting on their student loans. The default was mostly due to low paying jobs obtained by the graduates. One of the first agendas Clinton tackled was the Direct Loan Program. Through this program, Clinton and Congress created the income-contingent repayment plan. This plan means you pay only what you can afford on your loan. To accompany that, Clinton was able to reduce the interest rates of student loans by 10 percent, the lowest in 17 years.

Clinton also tackled the grants given by the federal government to students entering into college. The Pell Grant was given the largest increase in history, making the maximum grant \$3,000. During

the recent presidential term, financial aid available to students increased by 50 percent.

Many tax breaks were created for students and their families. The Hope Tax Credit provides students that attend community college at least half time while sustaining a B- average, a maximum of \$1500 tax credit for the first two years. For most students, after the tax credit college would be free.

A \$10,000 tax deduction for tuition and fees was created for the parents and students each year. The requirements for the deduction are stiff: a combined income between \$80,000-100,000 is not eligible, and an individual income between \$50,000-70,000 is not eligible either. Students and parents have the choice of the tax deduction or the tax credit for a community college. They can not be combined.

After Clinton made college possible, he also made it safe. With the help of Congress, Clinton has mandated that schools report every crime committed on the campuses. Under the same act, schools are allowed to notify parents if students under the age of 21 are involved in a drug and/or alcohol disciplinary problem.

Clinton has kept his promise to the generation of the future, allowing many students to further their education without hesitation. As the next generation begins to take its place in the baby-boomer world, they must stand behind the people that have helped them accomplish that. As President Clinton put it in the latest State of the Union address, "the promise of our future is limitless." For details on any of the above information, contact the Department of Education at <http://www.ed.gov>

Recent Delco Graduate Makes Broadway Premiere

By Rob Coyle
Editor-in-Chief

Penn State Delaware County in the past has produced teachers,

business people, and historians. You can now add playwright to that list. *Carnivale*, written by 1998 graduate Cynthia Moore, is a new play premiering "off Broadway" in New York City from Feb. 6 to March 7.

The hedonistic lifestyle of eight characters are acted out in this new drama. The message, "You do the wrong thing long enough, it starts to seem right," is explored when club owner Julia Watson, (played by Amy Turner) is reminded of her tempestuous past by a visit from her childhood friend Drew Harrington (played by Gregory Mikell). The atmosphere of Julia's present commitments to money making at the expense of people she calls friends is intensified with the accidental death of a certain foil character.

Student Life is currently exploring the possibility of a field trip to see one of the showings. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Daniel at 892-1457, or stop by the Student Life office on the top floor of the Commons Building.

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Rachel Rego: "For my boyfriend to take me to a deserted island."
Photo by Phillip Yi



Chiev Pham: "I wish that the cheating within relationships would stop, and TRUE LOVE would prevail."
Photo by Phillip Yi

♥ Valentine People Poll ♥

What would be your perfect Valentine's Day wish?



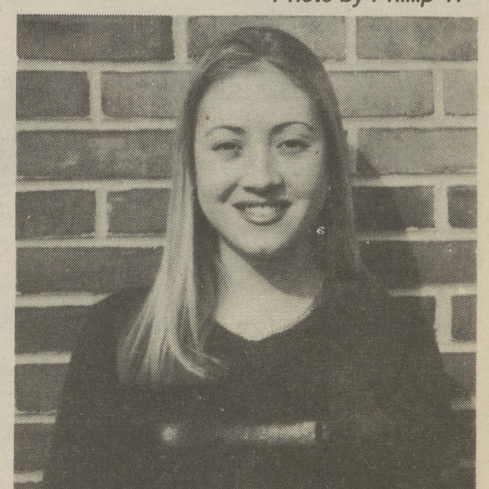
Keira Finnegan: "(Hint, hint) to go all night and then have breakfast in bed."
Photo by Phillip Yi



Sharon Jones: "To be pampered with champagne, strawberries and whipped cream."
Photo by Phillip Yi



Rachel Decenzi: "For all parents to have a deep love and respect for their children ... that the abuse would stop."
Photo by Phillip Yi



Dana Montecalvo: "That love and happiness would last for eternity."
Photo by Phillip Yi