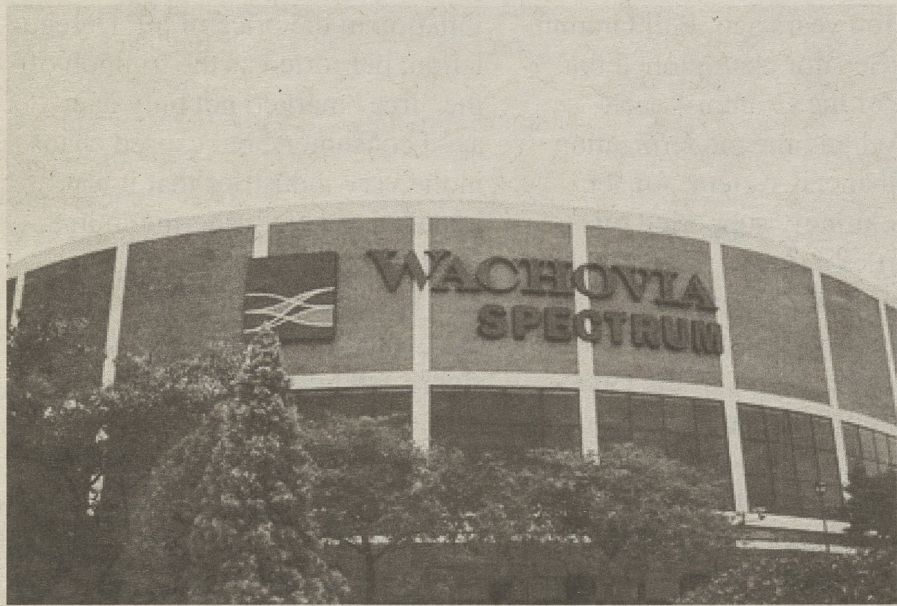


Eye on World & Local

Saying Goodbye to the Spectrum

By Kelly Guinan - Lion's Eye Staff Writer / Editor - kag5178@psu.edu



Wachovia Spectrum; Photo courtesy of blogspot.com.

It is common knowledge that Philadelphia is evolving: our sports teams are on the map, you can get a "Philly cheese steak" in any city of the country, and "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" can be heard playing from most TV sets on Thursday nights. One landmark of our city, however, now sits idle and ready to be demolished.

Over the course of 40+ years, the Spectrum has played host to sports teams, performers, entertainers, etc. The Flyers, Phantoms, Kix, and 76ers have all had countless victories within the walls. Legends such as Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Led Zeppelin, Elvis Presley, and the Grateful Dead have graced the stage. Bruce Springsteen was even booed off stage there once. Replacing the historic venue will be an area filled with shops, restaurants, and the current plans even show a hotel exactly where the Spectrum currently stands.

For the city, it is bittersweet news. Finally, there will be bars and restaurants a short walk away from the Linc, CBP, and the Wachovia Center. The convenience will be incomparable. However, for this luxury, we are asked to trade in a place that most of us hold dear. Whether it was an exciting sports game, or your first Backstreet Boys concert (or maybe just mine), the Spectrum holds memories formed by millions of patrons over the years.

The website, rememberthespectrum.com, currently has a special "memories" section posted on the site, where anyone can submit a blurb recalling a special time or a picture encapsulating timeless moments inside the venue. Also on the site, icons such as Billy Joel, Trey Anastasio, Bob Weir, Vince McMahon, and Charles Barkley have all posted a few words explaining what the Spectrum means to them. The demolition and subsequent construction of Philly Live, the new complex, will begin in 2010. It is truly an end of an era, but every end leads to a new beginning, and in this case, it is one filled with bright dazzling lights and more places for sports fans and concertgoers to spend money after each event.

For most teenagers, one of the best days of their young lives take place at the DMV, as they stand with car keys in hand; ready to receive a freshly printed license. What goes hand in hand with this freedom is the immense responsibility that goes along with joining the millions of other drivers on the road.

Defensive driving programs make a drastic change in the way teens learn to drive. The days of fooling around in a manual with friends, like Diane and Lloyd in the movie "Say Anything" does not portray ideal-driving concepts. Rather, more and more kids find themselves sitting in a classroom well past school hours, watching videos and completing workbook exercises dealing with driving situations, such as driving in the snow. All of this is occurring with good reason: car accidents are the leading cause of death in young adults.

The Abby Miller foundation, which has offices in Kennett Square, recognizes these horrendous facts and is currently working to reduce the number of young lives lost from driving. According

to the foundation's mission statement, "The Abby Miller Foundation promotes safer teen driving by providing innovative educational experiences for young drivers." In addition, the foundation honors Abby's spirit of living in the moment and loving with meaning, a.k.a. "Abbytude," through awarding scholarships to students who have demonstrated kindness and compassion towards others." This organization is calling on high schools to offer more education about driving, to protect the students as they take one of the first big steps into adulthood.

Here are some teenage driving facts, courtesy of abymillerfoundation.org:

- One out of every five licensed 16-year-olds will be in a vehicle crash.
- Nearly 31,000 people were killed in crashes involving drivers between the ages of 15 and 17 between 1995 and 2004
- The accident rate among teen drivers doubles when the number of passengers in the car increases

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Even major businesses and corporations like Pepsi, Timberland, T-Mobile and Comcast all contribute their efforts to City Year's sponsorship and aspirations, providing students with Timberland boots for their uniforms and free cell phones courtesy of T-Mobile. Not only do corps members help improve students' coursework, behavior, and attendance through team-building and mentoring, they also aid them in building strong communities, breaking down social barriers, developing leadership and encouraging participation in service and citizenship.

City Year's line of work fits the mold of Education college majors or students who want to become teachers, but surprisingly, students from various backgrounds and experiences find corps member service suitable for them. What many City Year alumni take away for their valuable experiences are skills of developed leadership, deep and meaningful bonds with fellow corps members and students, an increase in self-worth and purpose, and great resume-building opportunities.

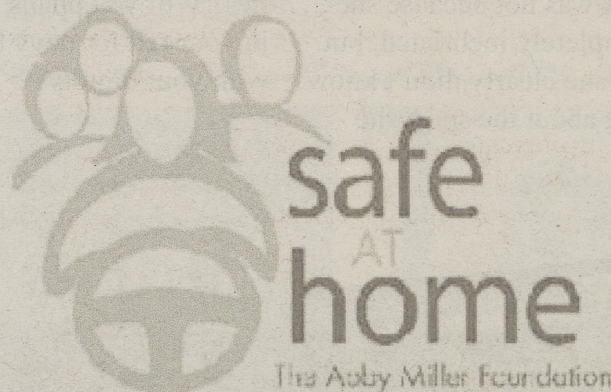
November 30, 2009 is the early application deadline for any 17 to 24 year interested in contributing their time and effort to City Year, which can be completed online at www.cityyear.org. There are also open houses that occur on the first Wednesday of every month at 2221 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia which welcome to anyone with interest or questions.



(Above): Actress/Singer Jennifer Lopez and a City Year Corps member. (Photo courtesy of the City Year Facebook page)

The Abby Miller Foundation; Teen Driving Safety

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from two to three. Photo courtesy of chescocf.org

- The risk of getting in a wreck quadruples when drivers are talking on the phone.

For more information, including events hosted by the foundation, refer to the site <http://abymillerfoundation.org/>.