

Eye on Editorials

PAIR OF PENNIES:

"Lists"

By **daniel j. taylor** - *Lion's Eye Editorial Editor* - djt5036@psu.edu

Although the celebratory period of the new year has ended, this happens to be the first 2010 issue of Penn State Brandywine's Lion's Eye Newspaper, and the impression made upon me during the first few weeks of January were so strong that they still deserve a place in this February edition. Lists People—myself included—go CRAZY for lists. Whether it be countdowns or rankings, the effect of a well-published list results in undeniably great discussion.

Some of the particularly interesting lists I saw as of late put Green Day as the number one band of the decade (about which I could neither agree nor disprove) and my high school's Prom anthem "Since U Been Gone" in the top 10 of a similar list regarding singles. I saw one shocking list Owen Gleiberman which highlighted the top ten movies of the decade and neglected to include the Scorsese masterpiece "The Departed." The biggest "guilty pleasure" list I noted was one that included R. Kelly peeing on a teenager, Janet Jackson's famous "wardrobe malfunction," and Mel Gibson's drunken anti-Semitic rant.

Lists are interesting ways to gauge one's own memories and favorites against those of others and act as catalytic agents in social settings, propelling quite interesting conversations. I, eventually, got tired of reading them though, so I made a few of my own.

The following is my list of favorite musical moments. This shouldn't be confused with a list of the "best" musical moments, but rather those spots in which I can really lose myself in the swirl of instrumental and lyrical magic.

Dan's Top 5 Musical Moments of All-Time:

1. The emotional climax of Lynyrd Skynyrd's "The Ballad of Curtis Lowe," when the singer addresses the long-gone blues player, claiming "Cause Curtis, you're the finest picker to ever play the blues..." (about 0:30 remaining).
2. The combination of deep inhale and emphatic announcement of the final "I get turned around----" in Billy Joel's "She's Got a Way About Her" (about 0:55 remaining).
3. The epic eighteen second crescendo of Keith Moon's violent drum-beating which introduces the blood-freezing scream of Roger Daltrey in The Who's "Won't Get Fooled Again" (between 7:32 and 7:50).
4. Tchaikovsky's explosive cannons at the peak of the climactic build-up in his "1812 Overture" (Time varies greatly depending on rendition, but no worries—you can't miss them).
5. The voice cracks of Merry Clayton in the raging stanza of The Rolling Stones' "Gimme Shelter," in which she wails "Rape, Murder--, it's just a shot

away, yeah----." No Auto-Tune here, boys and girls. (1:01 remaining)

Although I am confident in the ability of my list to provoke the kind of engaging conversations which result from the definite ordering of subjective issues, I'll sign off with another list (this one belongs to my father) of his top 5 favorite inventions of all time. Again, do make the naïve mistake of assuming this list to define the best inventions, but instead only his favorites.

Dan Sr's Top 5 Inventions of All Time:

1. The Refrigerator Dolly ("with the strap, not some low budget piece of junk").
2. The Remote Control (which implies the existence of a television—yeah, it's sort of cheap, like wishing for more wishes, but so it goes).
3. High Heels (he implied that he liked them best when women wore them, but I don't look in his closet—oh well, it's a liberal university).
4. The Air Conditioner (no explanation needed).
5. The E-Z Pass (needless to say he's not exactly a student of the "Patience is a virtue" school-of-thought).

Voila! An additional pair of top-fives for you debaters out there.

The Wooden Spoon: Jersery Shore

By **Nancy Perone** - *Lion's Eye World and Local Editor* - nip5014@psu.edu

"Fist pump" Two words that MTV viewers young and old are getting to know all too well. MTV's Jersey Shore has launched controversy, buzz, and all kinds of salacious gossip. The season having recently just come to an end, has probably made a few people happy, and not just about that silly dance.

Along with the show documenting these 20-somethings, mostly Italian-Americans, summer fun, it also has caused uproar from the traditional folks. The older generations and some Italian-American groups don't like how these "kids" are representing Italians. Throwing around what is considered a racial slur in the Italian community, the term "guido," is used as every day dialect for the cast.

Admittedly, I have never watched the show myself but having viewed a few clips I can see the Jersey Shore cast means no harm. To them, being "guido" is a complement. They define it as an attractive looking, usually tan individual.

This is an all too familiar scene being played out. All races in America have an ugly immigrant past, where derogatory terms were thrown at them for being different than the status quo. African-Americans, Chi-

nese-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Latin-Americans, etc. have all had their fare share of disrespectful discrimination and racism.

According to a Time online article, the Italian-American group UNICO National, which works towards the betterment of Italian-American's image and promotes the heritage, simply does not like term—however it may be used. Coincidentally, the Italian-American service organization is located in New Jersey, making this not only a matter of preserving and respecting heritage but also a homegrown thing as well. Italian-Americans from the state can now be branded with that stigma.

The "G-word" to the older generation of Italians is what the "N-Word" is to African Americans who lived during the civil rights movement. As discussed at Penn State Brandywine's N-Word Forum during the fall semester, some people consider it just slang. Whether or not we recognize these words as the once derogatory comments made towards our ancestors or as poking fun at our friends' nationality, does this make it right? I remember we discussed at the forum whether or not it is realistic to think we can live

in a world without it, perhaps it's not. I would like to think, however, that people who use these terms casually are just subconsciously remembering their history so as to not march down that road again. Racism is in fact ignorance. If we can't treat the people we share a planet with, with dignity and respect, well than I want to be idealistic and believe that we can.

Whether or not the show exists, this stereotype would have existed. I am no expert, but as long as we allow race to play a major role in how we view people, people are going to make generalizations about certain individuals based on their backgrounds. Now, is this show very reminiscent of the previous Real World series on MTV really that bad? Imagine the potential controversy that would have arose, should the producers have chosen the slightly tenderer wound of our country's minority groups.

To comment on this issue or to read ahead on what topics affecting Italian-Americans she will address next please visit The Wooden Spoon online at <http://ilcucchiaiodilegno-thewoodenspoon.blogspot.com/>.

People Poll with Tiffany Morris

What's your take on Valentines Day and do you have any plans?



Samantha Garcia
Communications

"I Love V-Day! Laser tag!"



Edson Wright

"A day to show your love for people. Taking my girl out to the movies."



Sundus Abou-Hatab
PreMed

"Love should be expressed everyday"



Paolo DiPaolo
"Overrated"

"Overrated"



Najwa Miller

"Sharing the day with friends family and your girl/boy friend it doesn't have to be serious,"