

# Eye on Editorials

## Ordinary Tipster



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"It's going to rain tomorrow," someone will say to their friend. Another will say, "I heard it's going to snow about 5 to 10 inches overnight, so maybe we won't have classes!"

We find ourselves frequently conversing about the weather, perhaps even on a daily basis. So why is it such a sometimes "hot" topic? We can't do much to change Mother Nature's mood swings, but we can alter how we react to her affects – the least we can do is talk about it.

Depending on the kind of weather, what falls from the sky or how cold it is outside will really affect how we go on with our days. We'll either bundle up with five layers of clothing or brave the icy flakes or whip out the umbrella and slip on the rain boots. The weather may cause us to cancel plans or organize a last minute trip to the beach. It could even ruin our day, as we watch the rain drip down the window and lament over our soggy socks, or conversely brighten our day because of an unexpected sunny sky. Because weather so greatly influences our lives, it becomes an easy topic for conversation.

Weather also is a part of our environment – it's everywhere. So when an awkward silence sneaks its way into a conversation, people may naturally use

the weather as a topic to start up the talking again. We even jokingly say, "Some weather we're having, huh?" or "Beautiful day, isn't it?" because we hear those phrases so often they generic conversational phrases, such as "How are you?"

Additionally, from a student standpoint, a change in the weather could mean a day off, particularly if it's a snow day, so no wonder we'd want to talk about the weather. It's an uncontrollable force that grown-ups cannot stop from happening and the anticipation of the night before the snow-storm is exciting, especially when you check the school website and see, "SCHOOL CLOSED" – a happy-snow-day-dance commences on the bed.

Also, in using the weather as a topic to break awkward silences, the weather is a very relatable topic because it affects all of us. It's difficult to talk to a neurosurgeon about Super Mario Bros. or a police officer about Chemistry homework, but bring up the current weather conditions, and you may have just started a conversation.

You could imagine people hundreds of years ago, at sea waiting for the enemy ship or walking a cobblestone street with a parasol in hand, talking about the weather. Remember "global warming?"

Movies like *The Day After Tomorrow*, *2012*, *A Perfect Storm*, *Twister* and *Dante's Peak*? Sunglasses? Wind-shield wipers? Umbrellas? Mittens? Hurricane Schwartz on NBC 10? We wouldn't have all of these without weather.

No matter how you look at it, weather has a significant impact on our lives, "weather" we like it or not.



Photo Courtesy of <http://www.about-philadelphia.com>

## The Wooden Spoon: "It's Not Easy Being Green"

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

Kermit knew what he was talking about when he sang his infamous song on the Muppet Show. What I mean is that "it's not easy being the minority" in any country. History is currently repeating itself (as it typically does) but just in another variance in Italy right now. Illegal African Immigrants are flocking to Italy for jobs picking fruit and other crops just so they can provide for their families. What is casting a murky shadow on this "job filling" is that some native Italians cannot find work, but even worse than that is most of the crops are owned by mafia or people affiliated with them.

This past January, riots broke out in my mother's native region of Calabria over what else?—racism. It only takes a few ignorant humans or one match to start the fire. According to a Time online article, Africans were shot at with pellet guns thus launching outrage among the immigrant community. Most of these communities, by the way, are temporary. These are slums not unlike the tent cities being erected in Haiti currently because their homes were destroyed. The living conditions are very similar as well.

These people, or a majority of them, are honest and hard-working just trying to find work so they

can provide for their families. Many of them are being suckered into providing the mafia which they are dealing with a good sum of their wages or are required to pay a fee to them because they are giving them work. The Pope, who has a major presence in Italy, even asked the citizens to go easy on illegal immigrants as they are humans too. Italy is quickly out-doing Britain in regards to the numbers of immigrants to the country but it still remains a good portion of native born Italians.

This is where the problem lies: with all the encouragement in the world from Italy's Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, anti-immigration isn't a new thing being pushed among their society. Many Italians have compared it to the Native Americans being forced onto reservations here in America, but this clearly is an over-exaggeration.

So, without me naming names, have you noticed any similarities here? Oh, say to America and its illegal Mexican immigrants. For years, we have said that "they take away our jobs", "they're dangerous", or "it's just not legal". So why don't we make it legal? Is there anything really wrong with people from underdeveloped and possibly even corrupt countries

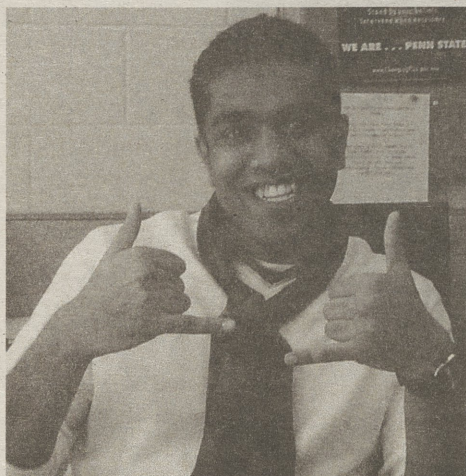
going to another country for work? This work is usually labor intensive and not popular among the country's native citizens, but is something that they don't mind doing. This, then, produces a stigma, made up of racist remarks, branding people who are already struggling and consequently making life even harder for them.

I'm not an expert on immigration laws or the like, but I do know this: racism doesn't make the situation any better. Thinking you're better than somebody else because of where you're from, what social class you belong to, or because of your culture is ignorance. I was raised to believe that we can all coexist as long as we keep open minds and hearts. Everybody should have an equal opportunity at everything in life because we are all people. I promise that not all of the articles I write will focus on racism, but this one just hits so close to home.

To read an interactive version of this article, complete with video coverage of Italy's immigrant crisis from major news resources, please visit The Wooden Spoon online at <http://ilcucchiaiodilegno-thewoodenspoon.blogspot.com/>.

## People Poll with Tiffany Morris

What's your favorite thing to do when snowed in?



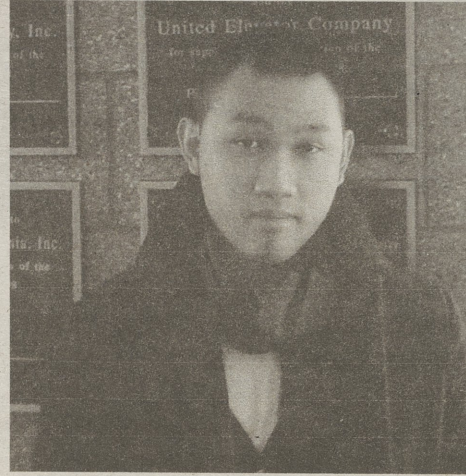
Joel Koshy

"Watching my Favorite Movies!"



Charlene Pressley

"Sleep..."



Roth Soy

"Sleeping and watching movies!"



Lauren Jerla

"Watching a good movie and baking!"