

Weekly Political Ticker

ADAM SPINELLI

H&SS editor • political science major

This past Wednesday **President Obama** gave his first **State of the Union** Speech to a joint Congress...he called for many new policies to be created, ranging from health care to climate change, freezing the budget to lowering college costs, and renewing campaign promises to creating bi-partisan efforts...**Obama** called for **"Don't Ask Don't Tell"** to be repealed from the military...He also slammed the recent Supreme Court decision for campaign financing...Last week the Supreme Court repealed a decision made regarding campaign financing which has been criticized by both sides of the aisle...Former Vice Presidential Nominee **Democrat John Edwards** split from his wife Elizabeth Edwards amid controversy of his new child...Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board **Ben Bernanke** has been nominated by President Obama to serve another term...his confirmation vote is scheduled for this coming week...Obama is expected to boost education funding by \$4 billion...The **"Kennedy"** seat in Massachusetts was won by Republican **Scott Brown** last week...he is the first Republican to hold a seat in Massachusetts in over 30 years...First Lady **Michelle Obama** is expected to set up a commission to help childhood obesity...

On This Day in History: January 29

1802: John Beckley becomes the first Librarian of Congress.

1845: Edgar Allan Poe's **"The Raven"** is published for the first time, in the **"New York Evening Mirror."**

1850: Henry Clay introduces in the Senate a compromise bill on slavery that includes the admission of California into the Union as a free state.

1861: Kansas becomes the 34th state of the Union.

1916: In World War I, Paris is bombed by German zeppelins for the first time.

1936: The first members of Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame were named in Cooperstown, NY.

1949: "The Newport News" is commissioned as the first air-conditioned naval ship in Virginia.

1929: The Dow Jones industrial average peaked at 381.17.

1995: The San Francisco 49ers became the first team in NFL history to win five Super Bowl titles. The 49ers defeated the San Diego Chargers 49-26.

2001: The U.S. Senate delivered testimony for Monica Lewinsky and two presidential advisers for perjury, videotaped testimony in the impeachment

Aquila to retire from H&SS Director position

ALLI HEITZENRATER

H&SS writer • creative writing major

Richard Aquila, the Director of the School of H&SS, is resigning as director and will start teaching classes again in the Fall 2010 semester.

"Aquila has done a fine job as director," says Greg Morris, Professor of English. "He has strengthened the department and the school, however, I relate to him wanting to return to teaching."

Every major in the department, including political science, has grown in enrollment during the years that Aquila has reigned as director.

The other faculty/staff members of the Humanities and Social Sciences Department look forward to continuing to work with Aquila as a full-time faculty member.

"Aquila did a wonderful job as director of the department," said professor of English and Creative Writing, Eugene Cross. "He's going to do a great job as a professor."

The department as a whole hopes that the new di-



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Dr. Aquila will resign from his position as the Director of the School of Humanities and Social Science after the Spring 2010 semester.

rector will continue to work towards enhancing and promoting the programs, majors, and minors offered. In addition, it is wished that the new director will also try to bring in more prospective students.

The current faculty and staff also hope that the new Director will work with

them to help promote their teaching and research efforts.

"My recommendation to the new school director will be to meet with administrators, individual faculty members and groups of faculty members," says Chair of the Political Science Department, Robert Speel. "It

is important to meet with everyone in order to learn the institutional history of what has worked well for us in the past, what has not worked so well, what our goals are for the future and what impediments to our goals could perhaps use assistance from the director to remedy."

So while Aquila has served for about four years as the director, he is eager to return to his original job of teaching. Many faculty are also eager to work with him again from a full-time faculty standpoint.

Psych Club, Psi Chi raise money for Haiti aid

LASHEENA BARNES

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The situation in Haiti is dire. And as a student in Erie, PA, you may feel that you have few chances to help the people in need.

But thanks to several groups on campus, you now have your chance to help. Groups on campus have set-up and will continue to keep a "Hope for Haiti" table up

outside of Bruno's.

In light of several groups on campus, including the Psychology Club and Psi Chi, the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, the Organization of African and Caribbean Students and the Lambda Sigma Honors Society have taken up the effort too. The groups already involved have recognized and attended to the idea that the situation in Haiti is all of

our problems. Many of us are directly effected and all of us indirectly. When something happens in one place in the world, there is a ripple that affects everywhere. Being that we're so close in proximity, the ripple is larger. We are all moved. Hear the stories, watch the video clips, view the pictures.

Troops have been sent down, as well as people

from many other federal organizations.

"Last week I got a phone call," said sophomore Adam Fracassi. "My dad is a part of FEMA and has gone down to different zones during natural disasters like Mississippi & Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina and Texas during hurricane Gustav."

Last week I got a phone call from him, because the

government had told him that he is going to be going to Haiti to help with the situation down there. So for me, I'm personally involved."

There is a crisis at hand and, it takes capable and caring people to address it. It took said people to coin the slogan and start the effort, "Hope for Haiti." It's a noble, if not a bit inflated catch phrase. Giving hope is a deed that takes more than dollars to address. Those dollars are going to be invaluable to the people of Haiti, but we would like to plant in your minds that it's the effort and measure of support behind every dollar that lets the people of Haiti know that we're here and that we care deeply.

In the name of hope, we fundraise and will make our contribution so as we encourage you to do as well. They desperately need all the assistance that we can offer. There are three ways to give: stop at a fundraising table outside of Bruno's, go to redcross.org, or text HAITI to 90999. The organizations listed above and the people who have already donated are investing in hope. Any and all are welcome to join the effort or give where they can.



Royalty-free photograph courtesy Fireside International

Many buildings in Haiti, such as this crippled school building in Port Au Prince, are permanently damaged following the 7.0 earthquake.

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