

What happened to the *Lion's Tale*?

By Jerry Trently, Jr.

Even Lee Iaccoca wouldn't have wanted it. It lasted two terms and disappeared, but reasons for the *Lion's Tale's* demise came from the production and financial burdens it placed on its father publication, and apparent lack of student interest.

In its March 29, 1983 issue, *Capitol Times* published a survey giving readers the choice to vote to keep its weekly newsletter, *Lion's Tale*, or allow it to become a brief edit in *Capitol Campus'* history.

As had been expected by many on the *Times* staff, response to the survey was exceptionally poor, resulting in *Lion's Tale's* discontinuance.

Already burdended with *Times* responsibilities, no one on the larger monthly wanted editorship of the *Tale*, which had been done previously by students on independent study.

"I never really enjoyed doing it," said former *Tale* editor, Joseph Guberman, "but it helped me fulfill my graduation requirements through independent

study credits."

Lion's Tale, conceived after SGA budget ratification, had no budget of its own, meaning *Times'* funding was drained to support it.

Based on last year's production costs, a weekly newsletter under the same format as last year's would cost its publisher about \$40 per issue. Publishing on weeks not scheduled by the *Times*, *Lion's Tale* would cost an

Feature stories done in past *Times'* editions, like those on Drs. Rooney and Smith, and in-depth stories like last year's SGA election coverage and this issue's coverage of the Dr. Gilmore story, require far more space to be done properly than a weekly or bi-weekly could provide.

I agree a need exists for an intermediate news source to cover smaller events occurring between *Times* issues, but let's not

penalize the monthly's finance and personnel departments to produce it.

Let's charter a new organization, give it its own budget to produce a weekly newsletter, and keep it as a completely separate entity from *Capitol Times*.

Chrysler met the challenge, but the tale of a *Capitol Campus'* weekly has neither ended or begun.



estimated \$840 annually to produce.

Capitol Times is a news-magazine covering a variety of topics aimed at a broader base than more specialized news briefs.

LETTERS

Editor,

Before beginning the main purpose of this letter, I want to compliment the *Times* staff and advisor for a vastly improved tabloid replacing the former *C.C. Reader*. It is much more professional and the coverage more urban and interesting. In most respects it presents a positive image for the campus.

This said, I now raise serious objections to the reporting and inaccurate quotations attributed to me in an article appearing in your last issue entitled "Low black enrollment may boost PSU Tuition." First of all, your reporter asked for and was given an account of our activities at *Capitol* to recruit black students for an inclusion in the article, none of which appeared in the article. For readership information, the *Capitol Campus Admissions Office* has initiated a number of special projects to increase black student enrollment.

In another matter, it was particularly distressing to have been twice misquoted. One, "As a satellite campus..." A dictionary definition of satellite is an "obsequious follower." This description is anything but appropriate for *Capitol Campus*. My statement was more accurately, "As an upper division campus we have additional problems identifying and recruiting minorities who qualify at the junior level and who want our particular programs." While we can identify and do recruit minority students at the Penn State campuses, I made no reference to a reluctance to compete with University Park for these students. We provide another option within the University for those who prefer a smaller campus and/or our programs.

I did not state that "most of our students come from a 50-mile radius." I said, instead, that community college graduates tend to transfer to colleges within a 50-mile radius. For this reason it is difficult to recruit any student from the large urban community colleges in the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia areas.

It is unfortunate that negative articles about the number of black students attending Penn State have been very prolific lately. Also unfortunate is the fact that Penn State has excellent black students and that a proportionately high percentage of them graduate.

All of us at Penn State can do much to encourage the black student, and we can begin by offering a more positive and constructive approach.

Mary E. Gundel
Director of Admissions, *Capitol Campus*

Capitol Times

Thursday, September 22, 1983
Vol. 18, No. 1

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