

Where's the waste?

An Editorial
By Linda McCarty

The probability that the unknown waste buried in the woods near Meade Heights poses a serious health threat to Capitol Campus seems slight. But the incident has posed serious questions about the University's awareness of and preparedness for potential environmental hazards.

For eighteen years Capitol Campus has occupied the land once owned and utilized by the Air Force. Hasn't anyone at least inquired about the barrels only partially hidden in the ground for over 20 years? It is understandable that those who have only walked along the Meade Heights path failed to notice. Yet Penn State has maintained houses within yards of the area and even built a path on top of the site, and still it appears as if they've never completely explored it.

Had they, someone would have undoubtedly stumbled across the Air Force remains. Or maybe someone did and their findings were deemed too insignificant to warrant further investigation.

Even when the barrels containing an unknown and potentially hazardous substance were discovered, not by campus officials, but by outside agencies searching for the source of contaminated water, it appeared as if Assistant Provost John Joseph was one of the last persons to be notified.

He shouldn't have been. Matters which concern the health and safety of students, faculty and staff should be brought to the immediate attention of those in charge at Capitol Campus, then those at University Park. Not vice-versa.

Had the threat been more immediate, the delay through University Park's Safety Office could have proved costly and perhaps deadly.

While researching the story, Capitol Times was approached by the administration for information. Why? Because we were the ones who asked questions, investigated the problem, and demanded answers. We only did what the administration should have done.

Letters to the Editor:

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First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who donated their time and effort to make the book sale that was held March 21 and 22 a success. Almost \$400 was collected from students, faculty, and staff and donated to the Joseph C. Atkins Memorial Scholarship Fund. I was pleasantly surprised at the response the students showed; it seems we are not as apathetic as we are portrayed to be.

I was also surprised at the response encountered from the faculty--but not pleased. This fund was organized for one purpose--to pay our respects to a fellow human being. We weren't honoring him as a professor, husband, father, or anything else--only as a man.

All faculty members of Capitol Campus received announcements of our book sale and a request for donations of used books. Several times flyers were sent out and met with not only apathy, but selfishness. The basic response was, "I didn't know him, therefore I don't care." Only after Stanley Miller (Acting Provost and Dean) sent a memo from his office requesting cooperation from the faculty, did they start to "suddenly care" about this man and our endeavors.

It is indeed rare at this campus to get students involved in any extra-curricular activities, but I was not aware that our faculty was competing with us for the "Pennsylvania State University/Capitol Campus Apathy Award". I personally find it very sad that some faculty members had to be begged before they would take five minutes out of their schedules to get rid of books that were only collecting dust to begin with. Yes, sometimes it is difficult to be "Capitol Campus Proud".

To the faculty and staff who cooperated from the start, I wish to express my deepest thanks. A special thank-you goes out to Ricardo Valdes, who ran around the school and helped me pick up the book donations, and to Dr. Mehdi Khosrowpour, who helped organize the fund and supported the involvement of the student committee.

Wendy Susan Batkin
Editor, 1984 'Capitolite' Yearbook

Editor,

As a student on this campus, I feel it should be brought to the attention of everyone that in the opinion of some students, S.U.B.O.G. (Student Union Board of Governors) is not representing everyone who attends school here.

The issue that most influenced this belief concerns bands selected to play at our Rites of Spring weekend celebration, and also a review of bands that have played at functions sponsored by S.U.B.O.G. throughout the year.

S.U.B.O.G. was approached by two students with a proposal to hire a dance band for the Rites of Spring. Since more than one band is going to play, and a rock-and-roll band had already been booked, the request seemed very fair. But it was turned down, and not reconsidered, even after a petition for the dance band, with eighty names, was brought to a S.U.B.O.G. meeting. Instead, S.U.B.O.G., in all their wisdom and fair judgement, decided to hire three rock bands. At the time of this writing, the decision, to the best of my knowledge, still stands. Their attitude, in my opinion, was stubborn, closed-minded, and ignorant.

Since everyone here is a Penn State student, everyone should, at least once in a while, be encouraged to attend social functions set up with help from S.G.A. (Student Government Association) money. This will happen only when S.U.B.O.G. realizes that not everyone shares their tastes.

With a new S.U.B.O.G. staff ready to take over for fall term, maybe attitudes will be different and more diverse functions (and diverse bands) will be employed (for example, jazz, country, new wave, reggae, soul, etc.) If not, it seems likely that a designated coalition will approach the administration with a request to investigate S.U.B.O.G. and scrutinize the way they spend the students' money.

Jeff Weis
B.C.T. major

Editor's note: In the interest of fairness, the 'Capitol Times' contacted Jeff Schnier of S.U.B.O.G., who stated that a group of students requested an alternate band for Rites of Spring, but failed to meet S.U.B.O.G.'s deadline. Schnier added that S.U.B.O.G. also offered to provide time during Rites of Spring for any interested group to sponsor a band of its choosing.

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The 'Capitol Times' welcomes letters from readers. Letters intended for publication must be signed by the author and indicate his/her club or organizational affiliation, if any. The 'Capitol Times' reserves the right to edit or reject letters at its discretion, although it is our policy to edit as little as possible.
Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper or its staff.

To correct our mistakes:

The photograph of Joe Oddo on page three of our March issue was taken by Laurie S. Bedford, not Jeff Shatzer.

The article "Short roster won't harm baseball team's spirit" that appeared on page fifteen was written by Linda McCarty, not Angelo Vecchio