

# Campus Forum

## Sunday closing halts research

It's Sunday afternoon after the all-too-short Thanksgiving break and there are only two weeks left until all of those research projects are due. So, as a campus resident, why not come back early enough to do some last-minute research before writing those papers?

After getting the already compiled notes together, it's time for the long journey to the library. However, when you get there, you are in for a big surprise. The library is closed!

Yes, you're saying, but the library was open on Friday. That's right, the day that most campus residents were spending time hours away from Capitol Campus, they could have been working on their research papers. Instead, everyone who figured that the work in the library can be done on Sunday after returning was in for a big surprise.

Upon further investigation of the situation, it was discovered that the computer center in the Olmsted Building was operating on its normal Sunday evening schedule. If a service that serves a limited group of people can be open, why can't the library at least open in the evening? The dorms did not even open until Sunday afternoon, so many of the resident students were forced to stay away until then.

The problem is not that the library was open on Friday; at least the commuting students had the opportunity to do research. But, is the library that badly understaffed that no student workers were available to work that one Sunday evening?

Hypothetically, if you had a paper due on Monday morning at 8 a.m. and needed the date of a magazine article from the library, breaking and entering would have been the only way to get the information.

The mighty institution known as Penn State, once again, has shown its might. Yet, this time it could prove to be a bad reflection on the grade of one of your papers.

-Don Strausburger

## Letters to the Editor:

### Nuclear debate deserves attention

To the Editor:

It was interesting to see the response of the SGA here on campus to HACC's recent decision to attempt a stockpiling of cyanide pills on campus. Certainly this had some shock value and is not a preventative response to nuclear war, but it does show some effort to rise above apathy.

The student government here at Capitol, in their recent statement published in *The Capitol Times*, suggests that they might hold a forum on the issue of the nuclear arms race. First of all, it was unfortunate that such a forum could not have been held prior to the elections since the degree of nuclear proliferation will increase or decrease according to the candidate chosen.

(Letter was submitted before election day -- Ed.)

Second of all, such an educational endeavor was tried by outside interests approximately a year and a half ago. The Nuclear Freeze group came to Capitol to talk to students about the issue of nuclear war, and only a small handful of students turned out. Certainly the population which turned out for that was less than that which [had been] anticipated for such events as a Buns and Legs Contest or a Toga Party. They get more advertisement than the issue of nuclear war.

Perhaps HACC's response was dramatic and negative, but so are the issues. The SGA points out that the "very idea of suicide stands in direct opposition to generally accepted western traditions of morality." It is truly unfortunate that mutual destruction does not; it seems to fit nicely with both western and eastern morality.

That can be changed, not by making small statements, but by drawing attention to the issue and making efforts to arouse public consciousness. If the SGA hopes to do this it must first impress on students the imminent reality of nuclear war, before the bombs fall, and before people would rather commit suicide than live with the pains of worldwide destruction and individual emotional and physical trauma. The SGA must help get students interested in wanting to attend forums on these issues. That has to be the first step. Maybe it takes some kind of crisis or shock to get people talking. Perhaps that is what HACC accomplished.

Patricia Kishpaugh,  
Graduate Student,  
Education

### Drunk drivers: a brother's anguish

Dear Capitol Campus Penn Stater:

You don't realize it but you came mighty close to having a few of your front teeth loosened the other day. You were laughing at the time, so you didn't notice anything threatening but it was there.

You were in the library and you were laughing with friends and telling them about how you'd been arrested -- for the second time -- for drunk driving. Ha! Ha! It was a big joke.

But you see the fellow student who overheard you lost his little brother to a drunk driver. He was only 15 when the drunk driver hit him as he stood on a bridge, flipped him into the river, and left him to die. Your fellow student knows what it's like to be in the family of a drunk driver's victim. His mom got so much older overnight, it

seemed, and she was so quiet and remote; no longer the fun-loving, happy adult who had so willingly helped with the soccer team fund raising and the band parent's functions.

And yes, your Penn State classmate misses him too. After all, he was a pretty neat guy, even for a little brother -- on all those sports teams and so well liked by his classmates. So when you were busy laughing and telling your friends about that second DUI arrest -- well, it was all he could do to clench his fists until the knuckles turned white and walk away.

So you drink. If that's how you handle the stresses of being a college student, that's your business. But if drink and then drive, That's Everybody's Business.

You have never, as one nearby PSU graduate did, held your

big sister's hand while she came out of anesthesia from the fourth kidney operation. That was after the doctors decided they could no longer save it following the collision when the drunk driver in a pickup hit her head on, on her side of the road.

If someone jostles the ankle with the six permanent steel pins in it, or the other leg where the three knee operations included a ligament transplant, then all of the doctors' careful work can be undone in a second. And there's no way those legs can be repaired again to keep her walking.

So they're making a big deal out of drunk driving. So what! Those crashes always happen to someone else. That's what John Heim thought, until his drinking companion and driver ran into a concrete wall and killed himself. John? Why John's about your age, but he'll live out the rest of his life in a nursing home with a bunch of old folks across the Susquehanna River, unable to feed himself or control his body functions.

Actually, statistics show that one out of every two of us around right now will have our lives permanently effected by a drunk driver in the next 15 - 20 years -- and those effects are never for the better. Your chances are just about even right now -- 50/50 -- That unless folks start to change their attitude about driving drunk -- You could be the Victim of a drunk driver pretty soon.

Now wouldn't that be funny!

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Ghan Desai

A Penn State Capitol Campus  
Graduate

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