

Commission on Women to Hold Forum

By Vicki Koon

Originating in University Park as an organization to address issues and problems unique to women, the Commission on Women formed a satellite group on the Penn State University at Harrisburg campus in the Fall of 1986. The organization is connected with University Park by its organizational goals and by its need to go through University Park for some of the resolutions to the issues raised.

The organization is chaired by Susan Richman, who also represents the Faculty Women on campus in the organization, Sharleen Martenas, who represents Staff Women on campus, Beverly Swartz, who represents the Clerical and Technical Service Women on campus, and Andrea Reisser, who represents the Women Students on campus.

The Commission acts as a fact-finding organization, trying to discover what issues are of particular interest and concern to women. The Commission is not a grievance organization in that it will act upon a grievance. Rather, it is more of a support organization. It will listen to any grievance or concern, give support if any is needed, and then assemble the information it has received and pass it on with recommendations. According to Susan Richman, the Commission sees its goal as "providing a channel for communication and resolution."

Some of the issues that have been raised have already been resolved by just an improvement in communication. Many of the Clerical Staff on this campus were having a problem knowing their job classification through University Park. People weren't being intentionally kept in the dark,

although not being able to get this information caused feelings of stress and job insecurity. By the Commission realizing that this was a concern and notifying the proper people, the issue has been resolved.

The Commission has so far only been investigating issues related to the Staff, Clerical, and Technical Women on campus. Much of their findings to date are not related to "sexism" issues, rather, they are issues that just happen to be of most concern to certain groups of women. One of the major areas of concern for future action is the computerization of the campus community. The unification of equipment and proper training of staff are the major issues here. Other issues the Commission has heard are raised by the Part-Time Staff and Clerical Women. As with any part-time position, there is a problem of job security and usually a lack of reimbursement for job loyalty. After thoroughly hearing out all the concerns of all the Clerical, Technical, and Secretarial Women on campus, the Commission will make its recommendations to University Park.

As far as sexist issues go, "almost always, the offense is unintentional, due to a lack of knowledge or sensitivity towards the subject," says Susan Richman. What a woman may perceive as sexual harassment is more often than not a lack of sensitivity on the other person's part. Ms. Richman recommends that we be no longer neutral to the issues, but instead make a conscious effort to be aware.

Sometime towards the end of February, the Commission will begin hearing issues of concern to the Women Students on campus. An open forum will be held for discussion and airing of concerns and problems. The women on the Commission are also available for receiving information on an individual basis.

PARDON US!

In the January 14 issue of the *Capital Times*, in the article "Professors Defend Engineering Surcharge," Professor Cheryl Ebel, Electrical Engineering Technology faculty, was misquoted. In a recent interview, Professor Ebel explained that in the past, the EET program has received a six-year accreditation. Following the last review of the EET program in 1985, the accreditation board for engineering technology granted the EET program a four year accreditation with a letter.

The actual accreditation process and its evaluation is quite detailed. In general terms, a six-year accreditation is considered exceptional. Most schools receive the four-year accreditation with a letter. This indicated that some changes in the department are required. A four-year accreditation with a visit indicates that ABET, the Accreditation Board for Engineering Technology, will return to the school to evaluate measures taken to meet accreditation standards.

Numerous factors contribute to a school accreditation. Records, entrance requirements, faculty-to-student ratios, job placement with competitive wages for graduates, and adequate facilities and equipment are just a few of the criteria a school must meet to receive its accreditation.

Widoff Names Student Activities Coordinator

By Tom Boyle

The hills and valleys of the Dominican Republic seem far away now, but the Capital College's new student activities coordinator still has fond memories of her days in the Peace Corps more than 20 years ago.

Janet C. Widoff began working in the Student Activities Office last October and in early January became the full-time coordinator.

"I love the spontaneity of my job. I enjoy working with students and the ideas that they bring into the office," said Widoff. "I felt pleased to be able to help WNDR have phone lines installed into their studio on one of my first days at the position."

Widoff, formerly an English instructor at the Harrisburg Area Community

College, assists various student organizations plan and finalize arrangements to bring guest lecturers to the campus.

"She is a very nice person to work for and always has a smile," said colleague Lois J. Cochran. The Student Activities Office is located in the



Olmsted building, Room 212, and has three full-time staff members.

Widoff, an Indiana native, now lives in Mechanicsburg with her husband and two teenage children. She

met her husband, Mark P. Widoff, an attorney and part-time Capital College instructor, while in the Peace Corps.

She enjoys walking and traveling; her last trip took her to Puerto Rico. When traveling to New York City she always stops at her favorite restaurants that serve Spanish and Middle Eastern cuisine.

Widoff, when not attending graduate classes in the Humanities at the Capital College, enjoys watching her favorite television programs, "Family Ties" and "Cheers."

Widoff hopes to work for many years to come, but she already has an idea what she would like to do when she retires. After seeing a very happy retired couple in the Peace Corps in the 1960s, she would like to retire to the Peace Corps and travel to China if the chance would arise.

Capital Times

Editor-in-Chief.....Jan Travers
Managing Editor.....Vicki Koon
Photography Editor.....Sylvia Johnson
Graphic Artist.....Joe Kupec
Business Mgr.....Diane Fitzgerald
Advertising Mgr.....Kris Hansen

Staff: Tom Boyle, Ray Burkett, Mike Camilli, Thalia Cook, Rhonda Graby, Michele Hart, Luke Hess, Julie Larson, Tom McGovern, Jean Meitz, Sharon Olmstead, Kathy Riley-King, Alan Pincus, Denise Reinas, Bob TRs

Advisor: Joanne Smith

Printed at the Press and Journal, Middletown.

The Capital Times is published by the students of Penn State at Harrisburg. Concerns about content of any issue should be directed to the editor in Room 212, Olmsted Building. Any opinion expressed are those of the author and are not representative of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The Capital Times does not endorse its advertisers. The Capital Times welcomes signed letters from readers. Unsigned letters cannot be printed; however a writer's name can be withheld upon request.

Tarnhelm Announces Deadline

Dr. Theodora Graham, Tarnhelm's faculty advisor, and Denise VanBriggle, editor, have announced the deadline of Friday, February 27 for student submissions to the college literary and arts magazine. Tarnhelm is published annually through a generous grant from the SGA. Each year cash awards are available for first and second prizes in the fiction and poetry categories.

Tarnhelm accepts poetry, short stories, brief creative essays, black and white graphics, and black and white photography. The magazine provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students of all majors to express themselves in the print medium of their choice. In addition, having your work published can add a significant note to your resume. Please share your creative entry for consideration

If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents, or if you have questions about submissions, inquire at the Tarnhelm office, 216, or in Student Activities 212.

SUBOG Assumes a New Role

Beginning in the fall of 1987 S.U.B.O.G. (Student Union Board of Governors) will serve a different purpose on this campus. As part of the student government improvements, S.U.B.O.G. will be the coordinator of all social clubs and organizations here at Penn State, The Capital College. S.U.B.O.G. will need organized and enthusiastic leaders. Elections for President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be held Wednesday, February 11, at 9 p.m. in the Meade Heights Coffee House.