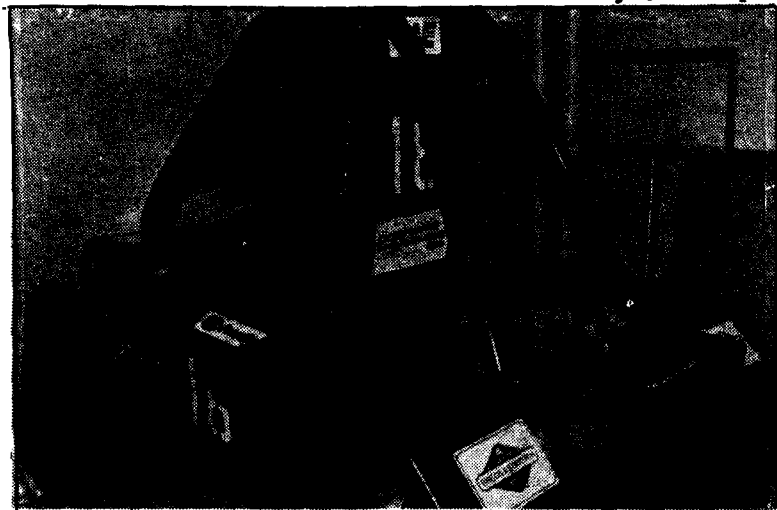


Photo by Joe Kupec



Baja Vehicle on display during recent Admission's Open House.

Baja Project Is In Motion

By Joe Kupec

What has one cylinder, must accommodate a single operator ranging in size from 6'3" and 250 lbs. to 5'4" and 100 lbs. and be built by students from the ground up within a budget of less than \$1,500? It's the Penn State Baja Project.

According to Jon Bredbenner, a MET associated with the project, Baja Vehicle Project is well on its way to redesigning a new model for competition in May 1987. The existing baja vehicle, frequently used for recruiting and open houses, is too slow to compete in the upcoming competition.

The goal of the project is redesign and build a new baja vehicle by March. The timetable calls for testing and last minute modifications in April and running in the May competition.

Originally conceived as a senior design project several years ago, the baja project is now open to all majors on campus. "It's a great design experience for engineering majors, but everyone is welcome to join," said Bredbenner. "The project is a fun learning experience," he added.

The national organization that sponsors the competition distributes the

standard one cylinder Briggs and Stratton engine, design specifications, and competition rules. The amount of time and money invested in the project are recorded and weighed against the vehicle's performance in competition. Equipment and time over the limit established by the rules acquires penalty points against the vehicle.

Bredbenner estimates that the design and drawings will be completed by the end of

January. Students interested in joining the project should look for the baja posters next semester announcing the next baja project meeting.

Does Alcohol Run Your Life?

We are planning a special section in a future issue to coincide with a "Know when to Say When" campaign on responsible consumption of alcohol. We are looking for alcohol related stories. If you have a story you would like to share with the student body, please stop by room W-129 or call 944-4970 to discuss it with me. If you would rather not reveal yourself to your peers, anonymity can be guaranteed.

Alcohol education is something we all say we are for, but when it is presented in a sterile, generic format, we just ignore it. By relating stories of Penn State students, we hope to show you real people with real problems.

Please take the time to share your story with us. If you prefer not to write the story yourself, a staff member would be happy help.

Jan Travers

Improvements Made to Weather Service Center

By Tom McGovern

After numerous complaints by students, faculty and staff, changes have been made to the Student Information Center Weather Service.

Faculty are now being asked to phone in cancellations to the Center by 6:45 am. From 6:45 to 7:00 am, cancellations will be recorded on the answering machines and students can begin calling in after 7:00 am. Later class cancellations will be made if needed, and students are being asked to wait as long as possible before phoning in. Classes starting after 11:00 am will not be put on the recording until 10:00 am, and evening classes

will not be put on until late afternoon.

The present system of two phone lines and two answering machines will be updated to three of each as soon as they can be installed. The time system, which before, anyone could call in whenever, is being put into effect immediately.

Michael J. Breslin, Director of Community Relations, has implemented these changes to help ease the confusion a class cancellation due to inclement weather can cause, and to reduce the amount of phone calls coming into the center at one time. More phone

lines could be put in, Breslin said, but the cost would eventually be reflected in students tuition. The cost of installation is the same for each line installed, so if more lines are needed, they will be added later.

"Students living in the dorm and at Meade Heights could make fewer phone calls by passing the word around of a cancellation," said Breslin. "When inclement weather strikes, we all need to cooperate, and combining phone calls is one way to keep the lines free for other students."

Take The Challenge To Use The Writing Lab

By Ronda Graby

The Capital College Writing Lab is located in W242 of the Olmsted building. The lab provides service for all undergraduate and graduate students in the programs on campus.

Each semester, all entering undergraduate students are required to complete a one-to-three page writing sample, which is evaluated by two people from the Humanities division, either faculty members or graduate students. The samples are reviewed for organization, clarity, coherence, and development of ideas, as well as grammar and structure. The results of the sample are sent to the student and to the academic program in which the student is enrolled.

Each sample is then filed in the lab, and the results become a part of the student's permanent school record.

After students have received their results, those with marginal or unacceptable scores are referred to the lab for help. Other students are referred to the lab by faculty members or other students.

The Writing Lab is directed by Mrs. Joanne M. Smith, a Humanities and English instructor on campus. Mrs. Smith works with many students who take advantage of the lab's services, which include individual conferences and program clinics. The conferences are usually one hour long, once a week, on a continuing basis. The clinics last fifty minutes, once a

week, and run only four to six weeks.

The Writing Lab has grown in leaps and bounds since it was first introduced in 1981. Today it is considered one of the most "in demand" spots on campus, according to a regular user of the lab.

Take the challenge and use the Writing Lab!

Where:	Room W242
Hours:	
Monday	11:00-4:00
Tuesday	10:00-11:30 3:15-5:30
Wednesday	11:00-12:00 1:00-7:00
Thursday	9:00-1:00
Friday	By Appointment

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