

# Former SGA President Seeks Public Office

By Jan Travers

A former student government president is wrapping up her campaign for a county office.

Jeanette Brinker-Vinson, a 1987 graduate of Penn State Harrisburg, is the Democratic candidate for Register of Wills in Dauphin County. Running against a group of Republican incumbents who are credited with raising property taxes 53 percent this year, Brinker-Vinson is optimistic.

"We [Democrats] are the minority party in Dauphin County and as a result we have less financial backing, but the whole Democratic slate works well together," she said. Brinker-Vinson said that if elected, the Democrats would establish a budget guideline system which, according to the candidate, has been missing during the current Republican administration.

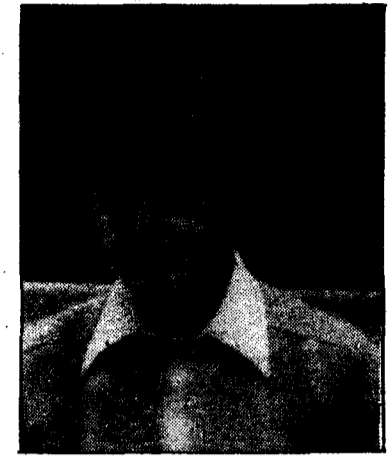
Brinker-Vinson credits her involvement in SGA while a student as the force behind her preparation for public office. "When you are involved politically, whether academic or real world, you have an administrative task which can be equated. You have responsibility of handling a budget and allocating funds to help the entire constituency, you have to learn the art of

**WILL IT TO...**

**Jeanette Brinker**

**VINSON**

**FOR REGISTER OF WILLS**



compromise in your work with others, and you must try to be as impartial as possible."

According to Brinker-Vinson, the campaign has been fairly close to what she expected. However, one disappointed she encountered was the faculty response, both here and at Harrisburg Area Community College (where she attended her first two years), to her request for support. "Professors teach us that we should be politically active. But when it is time to put your

money where your mouth is there is no response. I've learned that people don't always mean what they say," said Brinker-Vinson.

Brinker-Vinson has found the campaign trail especially rough on women candidates. "Regardless of the talk of equal rights, females are still treated differently in politics. Men can be themselves but women must be perfect."

Brinker-Vinson has a word of caution for students. She said that in

addition to doing well in the classroom, get involved in other activities. The idealism learned in the classroom is not connected to the practical, she said. "I learned more from Janet Widoff (student activities coordinator), Trum Simmons (student advisor at HACC), and Jennifer Krohn (former Penn State Harrisburg student activities coordinator) than from classroom teachers because by living what I was learning I absorbed it," said Brinker-Vinson.

## SGA Swears-in New Members

by Cindi Greenawalt

The Student Government Association (SGA) held a swearing-in ceremony October 6, for its newly elected Board Secretary Carol Kilko, Committee Secretary Michael Pauza, and Senators Darvin Geyer, Brenda Marchegiani, Jodie Kelley, Jacqueline Curley, Maria Rusnyk, Bernie Mixon, and John D'Ambrosia. Dr. Ruth Leventhal welcomed the new members. Senators John Nagengast and Gene Albano were sworn in October 13.

Ronda Graby (Senior) and John Nagengast (Junior) were selected to attend the Regional Conference in Maryland to represent the Capital College.

Wendy Bowie was appointed Chief Justice of the Student Court. New members of the court sworn in are Dale Zartman (Sr), Liz Tamaro (Sr),

Melinda Platt (Sr), Elaine McConnell (Jr), James Cusick (Jr), and Carey Eisenhower (Jr). At the October 13, meeting, there remained one vacancy on the Student Court. Interested persons should contact SGA beside the Student Activities office on the second floor of Olmsted.

The senators and officers have selected office hours when they will be available to the student body. The hours are posted on the SGA office door.

The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) is looking for a couple to represent the Capital College in a 48 hour dance marathon February 21 and 22, at University Park. Interested parties should contact Todd Hammaker for details.

The SGA meets every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in room W137 of Olmsted.

## New Black Enrollment Up

By Bernie Mixon

Enrollment figures of black students in predominately white institutions are drastically declining across the country. Remarkably, black student enrollment is at an all-time high here at Penn State Harrisburg. The question is why? What is being done so differently at this institution to warrant such a drastic increase? The answers to these questions were provided by Joanna Williams-Dovi, admissions counselor.

In the fall of 1986, a Minority Visitation Day was conducted by Admissions. The purpose of this

gathering was to better acquaint the prospective students with the campus. Williams-Dovi commented that this was a chance to get "black students on campus and give them a good basis."

Fine, now that the black students are here, what now? The turnover rate among black students at predominately white institutions is astounding. What can this institution do to retain these students? Williams-Dovi said she would like to see "tutorial programs, and black students getting more involved and socializing in the campus community."

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### Good Samaritans Still Exist

I would like to recognize one of our fellow students at Penn State Harrisburg for acting in accordance with the definition of HUMANITARIAN, which states the movement for the protection of man against all that could threaten his complete development. Lack of income—that is what is threatening me. Hamilton Bank promised me my student loan seven weeks ago. Now they say, "Oh...just a few more weeks...or months!" So I work as a waitress and pay the bills as I can.

I expected Tuesday morning's mail to be the same assemblage of nagging bills and assorted advertisements as any other day. However, I was pleasantly surprised to discover an envelope with an unfamiliar handwritten address. I opened the letter and out spilled \$100 accompanied with an unsigned message. It said "I offer you this gift in hopes that it will give me the gift of your smile—which I miss seeing." Not only was I shocked, but I was warmed to see this demonstration of humanity, and my faith in it became rekindled. Thank you "Joe Student" for the luxury of affording me the privilege of smiling again. When I am able, I promise to pass this same favor on to someone else. For as Kant stated, if there is no acceptance of promise, then the act of promising becomes not merely a vain effort—but it ceases to be that kind of act—it ceases to be promising.

Knansie Griffing