

Students React to Smoking Policy

By Jeff Quinn

Penn State Harrisburg's no-smoking policy, which prohibits smoking of cigarettes, cigars or pipes in any university building except private residences, has created a variety of reactions from smokers and non-smokers alike.

Many smokers are upset with the new policy that forces them outside to light up, while many non-smokers are relieved of their fears of inhaling in the building.

Kerry Tyson, a junior electrical engineering technology student thinks the policy is discriminatory.

"It's unfair," said Tyson. "Smokers

should have rights too."

Another smoker agreed with Tyson.

"The policy is fair to non-smokers, but unfair to the smokers," said Francis Metz, a humanities student. "By the time it gets real cold, things are going to change."

Many smokers feel there should be a smokers lounge or designated area inside the building where they can smoke. They also feel a middle ground can be reached between smokers and non-smokers.

Louis Rice, a humanities student and smoker, said he will go along with the policy but that the smoking issue is not dead.

"It's set up like a quarantine, smokers

and non-smokers," Rice said. "As a group, we should find an alternative."

"I understand people don't like smoke," said Lisa Rusnak, a junior behavioral science major, "but there should be a compromise."

Lynn Gross, a business management student, summed up what many of the smokers feel.

"I'll abide because it's policy," Gross said.

On the other side of the coin, many non-smokers are delighted over the new "smoke free" policy.

Kristie Scholl, a junior humanities-business student thinks it's about time for the new smoking policy.

"I think it's a great idea," said Scholl. "I can't stand smoke."

Scholl feels that although there is a no smoking policy people will smoke in the bathroom and find other ways around it.

Other non-smokers agreed with Scholl that they like the policy change.

"Finally," said one non-smoker, "Now I can walk down the halls and eat lunch in the Lions Den without inhaling smoke."

Like many of the smokers, some non-smokers feel that a compromise is needed.

"I believe people who smoke shouldn't be forced to go outside to light up," said John Garvey a communications student. "They (smokers) should be given space somewhere inside."

Nittany Lion Promotes PSU-H No Smoking Policy

By Mary Lee Schnable

He was in the library... in the Lion's Den... in the elevator... giving out mints and buttons to spread the word about Penn State Harrisburg's new smoke-free environment.

That friendly lion stalking our hallways with a basket of goodies on his arm during the past couple of weeks really had a split personality.

Sean Donnelly, a senior majoring in Environmental Engineering, and Tony Kessler, a Junior majoring in Structural Design Construction Engineering technology, shared the job as a part of the Smoke-Free Environment Committee's effort to make the transition from a smoky to a smoke-free environment a smooth one.

"The (smoke-free) policy is fair," said Donnelly, who is a member of the Committee. "Some say it is an infringement on smoker's rights, but smoker's often infringe on other's rights."

Kessler, who is not on the Committee, is also all for a smoke-free environment.

The lion was used to avoid the authority figure image, Donnelly said. Students often see him as the mascot at sporting events.

Not everyone was receptive to the lion's friendly overtures, though. Kessler said one little girl was afraid of him and resisted all his efforts at friendship.

"I was all over the place," said Kessler, who liked to stand next to students studying intently in the library and stare until they looked up, startled to see a fanged face watching them.

Both Donnelly and Kessler said that while most people enjoyed their antics, some, who they pegged as smokers, preferred to keep their distance.

The "lions", who brought smiles to many faces as they paraded around in a suit that was hot and uncomfortable, also earned work study pay for their efforts.

Student Protests Smoking Policy

By Nathan Lee Gadsden

A Penn State Harrisburg graduate student who violated the campus no smoking policy says she plans to continue smoking in the halls of the Olmsted Building.

"I'm not doing this to make a statement," said Jackie Guida while standing in the third floor hall dragging on a cigarette. "I'm just standing up for my rights."

Guida said the policy discriminates against smokers. The administration, she added, is ridiculous to expect people to stand outside in January.

"If we are to go outside to smoke, then nonsmokers should go outside to breathe," she said.

Guida understands that she may suffer consequences for her actions, but she encourages others to also take a stand.

She said the administration should set aside an area for those who choose to smoke.

Guida also objects to the way the policy was instituted. "They could have put it up for vote or discussion," she said. "I pay to go here. I pay their salaries."

The policy ignores a large group of people including employees, according to Guida.

Promotional Program Helps some Smokers Adapt to the Smoke Free Environment

By Lisa Ridley

Penn State Harrisburg has been declared "smoke-free."

Posters and pamphlets everywhere in the Olmsted building say that a smokeless life is a healthier one.

"The policy has been accepted well by faculty, staff and students," said nurse Jean Kresge. "No smokers are really complaining."

Kresge said the policy relies on the cooperation of everyone in the building.

Information posted in the lobby tells smokers they should quit. Other literature and workshops are offered for smokers who need help to stop.

"Some smokers said [the policy] helps them smoke less," Kresge said.

Some smokers have told Kresge there is too much information circulating. Others have praised the offers of help. "If it helps one person, it's well worth the effort," Kresge said.

Kresge said that PSH is the first Penn State campus to go smoke-free. In April, a university wide no smoking policy will go into effect.

BSU Celebrates Black History Month

By Donna K. Holmes

Black History Month is coming in February and Penn State Harrisburg's Black Student Union (BSU) has planned a number of events to celebrate. With the entire student body, faculty and staff in mind, BSU's programming should prove to be enjoyable as well as educational to all who attend.

The events are as follows:

February:

- *1-3 - Continuing Education Program BCAC, W-132.
- *8 - Program on Aging, W-132 at 2:00 p.m. Reception at 12:00.
- *10 - Educating the Culturally Deprived, Jean Wicker, BCAC, W-132 at 4:00 p.m.
- *13 - Drug Abuse Panel Discussion Gallery Lounge 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- *14 - Keynote Speaker Dr. Fulani CUB 7:30 p.m.
- *18 - Jr. High School Recruitment (All day with participants)
- *20 - Dr. Fuget, BCAC 1:00 p.m. (Tenative)
- Nommo Dancers CUB at 7:30 p.m.

Capital Times Staff

There will be a staff meeting on Friday Jan. 27 at 2:00 p.m. Please stop by the office to pick up your next article assignments. Thanks!

Help Wanted

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