

# OP-ED

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to the elevator story printed in the April 4th edition of the *Capital Times*. There are a few things that I feel should be addressed regarding this incident. The article made it seem as if I had disobeyed orders to not enter the penthouse area. In actuality, I was never "denied access" to this area. I was with a group of firemen on the basement floor when a call came over the radio that the electrical room for the elevator had been located. I informed, who I believed was the fire chief, that I was familiar with some of the electrical aspects of an elevator, and I could probably manually open the doors if I could get to the electrical room. He then sent me upstairs to give it a try. Contrary to what the officials later believed, I placed myself in minimal physical danger. To manipulate the high voltage electrical relays for the elevator, I used a wooden broom handle, an excellent electrical insulator. I was well aware of the hazards of such a situation, and I took appropriate precautions.

The final issue that I wish to address is the controversy regarding the missing emergency key. I'm not going to make any particular accusations, but think about it. Is a vandal going to go to all the trouble of unscrewing the cover for the key box, remove the key, and screw the cover back on? I doubt it. What possible use would he have for this key? I feel further investigation should take place in this situation. The 12 people that were in the elevator were very lucky that there was no real emergency, such as a fire, that would have left them helpless. The availability of that key

would have freed the trapped individuals in seconds as opposed to half an hour.

Steve Swanson  
Mechanical Engineering Technology

Dear Editor,

In response to "Penn State Proud," an editorial which appeared in the March 21 Times, I agree with Michele Shannon that the publication should have been edited and proofread much more closely.

I'm not sure I found it "appalling" and "embarrassing," however.

Furthermore, I wonder if Michele Shannon volunteered any of her time to assist in the editing and proofreading of the paper, or if her involvement was limited to the criticisms in her letter--?

As an Editor-in-Chief 4 years ago at the Hazleton campus newspaper (5 and 6 years ago at the Middletown High School newspaper), Michele, I speak from experience: the demands on a newspaper editorial staff are extraordinary; the deadlines come all too soon for glossy professionalism; and the staff often dwindles down geometrically after a few short weeks to a "faithful few" who ultimately run the show.

John and Vicki, let's not waste our valuable time with complaints without substance. I support that if a critic is genuinely concerned with respect to the quality of the finished product, she or he will become a part of its process.

Cordially,  
Daniel Kane

## WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON

What on Earth is going on .... The Nittany Lion in the lobby has undergone some reconstruction. For our beloved Earth Week, someone painted it black with yellow eyes. It now resembles the

hated panther. Why don't we just call ourselves Pitt-Harrisburg? Or maybe the Penn State-Harrisburg Panthers? We traded our mascot, which represents the Penn State University, so that we looked good for the Earth Week demonstration. That must have seemed like a good trade-off to somebody.

What on Earth is going on... Have you heard some of the announcers on ESPN's baseball telecasts? I'm not sure they auditioned some of these commentators. A couple of them might have studied at the Ralph Kiner school of sports announcing. My favorite color commentator is Bill Robinson. If he is allowed back in the booth, and if you're in the mood for some laughs, by all means please give the broadcast a look.

What on Earth is going on ... In the *Capital Times*' last issue, someone wrote about the terrible state that baseball is in, and how baseball players are terrible role models for our children. Now, I agree there are some players who make big mistakes. Show me someone who doesn't make mistakes and I'll show you a liar. The guy who wrote this article obviously doesn't know the game of baseball. The number of good players, who give to charity and are super role models, far outnumber the players who make mistakes. In addition, this guy doesn't know how to go to a sporting event in general. Before you go to a Phils' game, you eat and drink (plenty) before you go into Veterans' Stadium. Then you talk to scalpers who are willing to give you good seats. If the guy in the article had been a true Phils' fan or baseball fan or sports fan, he would have known what to do to enjoy a sporting event such as a Phils' game. The only thing I am certain of, is

that the person who did write that article shouldn't be a role model for anyone this side of a Hitler youth rally.

He should also try to write opinions about things he actually has some minute knowledge about. Unfortunately, baseball doesn't fall into that category for him. He should probably try a topic like Star Trek.

What on Earth is going on... PSH played the role of hypocrite quite well this past week. We had our tropical rain forest display, we had our trees planted, and we had plenty of pamphlets. But, before Earth Week, PSH had not practiced any recycling. I was told that PSH will start to recycle only because of a mandate handed down from some environmental board. It is a great idea, but why didn't we start recycling before Earth Week. I also believe many of those people wearing those lovely Earth Week t-shirts don't practice recycling. But they look great in those t-shirts.

What on Earth is going on... Somebody throws some junk, garbage, trash and leftovers into the back of the Olmstead building and they call it a sculpture garden. If this is true, what is Fred Sanford's front yard--a \*@#^ing museum. We sure hope that our valuable tuition dollars are not going towards the garden. We could get materials for it from any one of a thousand trash and Salvation Army bins. We want our tuition money to go towards quality items, like the electrical board across from the Lion's Den checkout. The board is an example of a vital item that we need to grow and expand Penn State Harrisburg as an institution of learning. Maybe next we can get a beautiful fountain installed into the lobby.

Skippy, B.Bobby Brown & Friends

# Straight Talk

Bob Caton  
*Capital Times Staff*

It was a dark and stormy night...I wanted to watch a little TV. But, unfortunately for me, I was no longer in a world where cable TV made sense! Yes, I live in the 9th circle of cable hell, for I am hooked up to Sammons Communications!

We are all at the collective mercies of WPMT and Sammons when it comes to what we are "permitted" to watch, thanks to the "Syndex" law that our illustrious, anally retentive, legislators have seen fit to thrust upon us during a break in one of their frequent gin and hooker fests.

In theory, Syndex sounds like a good idea because it protects small, independent TV stations from being stomped into dust by "superstations" like WPIX in New York and WTXF in Philly. A station like WPMT would pay a lot of money for the syndication rights to, for example, "Family Ties". Because the bigger stations broadcast in the area, nobody would watch the show on WPMT. WPMT would be unable to sell enough commercials to pay the bills, and would therefore crash to earth like an Air Jamaica jet.

No big loss, as far as I'm concerned. WPMT has all the programming quality

and innovation of TV Marti. "Gilligan's Island" reruns would bring more class to that station.

Anyway, WPMT demands that Sammons block out competing programming, no matter when it is scheduled, and Sammons happily replaces the stuff with the Sammons Propaganda Channel--which sends out subliminal messages to buy premium cable channels. Seriously, if one listens hard enough, the words "You NEED the travel channel!" or "Your life is incomplete without the weather channel!" can be heard through the stirring strains of the Living Strings' version of "Inna-Gadda-Da-Vida."

As a result, we are all doomed to become devotees of "Love Connection" and "The Voice Of Freedom" thanks to Sammons' obliteration of "Cheers" and "Arsenio" every night. Who benefits? Sammons. We still have to pay our exorbitant cable bills, funding tequila binges at Sammons main office--for less TV.

I won't even discuss the fact that Sammons is stalling SportsChannel until the NHL playoffs are over, seeing as how the NHL coverage is the ONLY

thing worth watching on SC. I personally can go without "Tibetan Yak Racing" or "Distance Spitting from Trump Plaza."

I know what you are thinking..."What can WE do? Raise a people's revolutionary force, storm the gates of Sammons, and give the executives lye enemas while forcing them to watch tapes of Pia Zadora as Lady Macbeth?"

A good idea actually, but Movie Merchants destroyed its only copy of Pia's *Macbeth* in the interest of humanity.

A better idea? Put a cheery little note in with your next extortion payment to Sammons, letting them know that you are sick of Syndex. Then write your local legislators, telling them that Syndex and Sammons really pull the bell tower rope, and getting rid of Syndex would most decidedly be in their best interests. Boycott WPMT advertisers and let them know that you're doing it. Soon the TV will not be spewing anything more than its usual trash.

Sounds like a mondo bitchin' summer project to me!

By the way...Earth Day hoopla may be over, but don't forget what it's all about. Rallies and concerts are nice, but changing things starts with YOU!  
Until next time...

## STUDENT INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency is offering summer internship opportunities for students residing in Dauphin, Cumberland, and Perry counties, who are receiving State Grant Aid from PHEAA and who are enrolled in two or four-year postsecondary institutions.

Students who are interested should contact the Urban League of Metropolitan Harrisburg, 25 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101 (717-234-5925).