

GENERAL NEWS

PSH LAND OPPORTUNITY AT FRUEHAUF



PHOTO BY JOHN RUDY

Scott Wolfe
Capital Times Staff Reporter

Recently, there has been talk about Penn State Harrisburg possibly acquiring some new land to expand the campus. To see if the talks were successful, I recently interviewed Dr. James D. South, Associate Provost for Administrative Operations.

Capital Times: Have there been any plans or talks with the people from Fruehauf about expanding Penn State Harrisburg to their property?

Dr. South: We had a number of conversations with representatives from the Fruehauf Corp. about their plans for their property and the effects of a change in use of that property from the university. The discussions started back in November 1989, and they continued most recently as of yesterday (September 5).

CT: Is there a need to expand onto their property? Have we "exhausted" all of our property?

South: No, that's not the reason. We are looking into the future and saying that the college property is blocked in on all sides. We can't expand to the east because of the elementary school, on the south side is Route 230, and the Odd Fellows Home to the west. If we would ever need additional land, the only place which is possible is to the north, and that happens to be available now. More important though, it's a matter of controlling or looking at the context in which we operate, and the kinds of companies that might locate in the Fruehauf area could have an adverse effect upon us. So we are trying to protect the environmental context within which we operate. Our discussions are not solely to do with the university acquiring the property, but rather have a series of things in terms of what both plans are, how they can make the best use of their property, and what would be compatible uses. There are a number of existing legal arguments between Fruehauf and the university that come into play, and they need to talk with us as they look at other development opportunities for their property.

CT: So it's basically just talks right now. Aren't there any plans of building?

South: Fruehauf has told us what they think the price of the property might be, and we have not made any kind of counter offer on purchasing the entire property. We have talked with them about acquiring parts of the property, rather than the entire property.

CT: Has there been any plans made of the types of buildings that would be built should this deal be successful?

South: There is a physical plant master plan for the campus, which is located on the land we own now. If we would acquire any additional property that would not necessarily mean that we would move to plan buildings for that new property. I believe our first priority continues to be, regardless of the Fruehauf property, a new library building and the location of that is in the physical plant's master plan and that wouldn't change if we would acquire the Fruehauf property.

CT: How long has Fruehauf been closed down?

South: The last trailers and the last manufacturing occurred during May of this year. They began to scale back their operations this past winter.

CT: Would there be any problems of putting classrooms on Fruehauf's property if the deal is successful?

South: Those facilities do not lend themselves to academic uses. The only use we would have for Fruehauf's property is for industrial buildings. They are not designed for educational purposes, but they could house some laboratories. But it would not make sense to use them for traditional classrooms, or offices or a library. They are not designed or built for those kinds of activities. Those are very large buildings, and would not be used for academics, even if somebody were to give them to us. We also have to look at this as an input toward local communities. What is needed back there is some business or industrial application that will generate jobs and support the local economy, and at the same time, build activities that are compatible with the university's activities here, and perhaps where there is some interconnectiveness between the university and those industrial or business activities--students doing projects, faculty members consulting, those kinds of relationships, but not for the university to operate those academics.

CT: Who are the officials that you are meeting with?

South: One of the officials at Fruehauf has been assigned to work with us, and they have engaged the services of their consulting firm that operates out of New York City. We are in contact with them on a regular basis, and the direct representative from Fruehauf is based in Atlanta, and we converse with him by phone. We're talking with them about a number of activities which could benefit Fruehauf by making that partial land more attractive to be developed. At the same time, the university would get something in return that we think would benefit the university. Those discussions have gone quite far, and we are close to an agreement, but that's not for the entire parcel of land.

CT: Anything else you would like to add?

South: This represents an opportunity and we would be less than judicious if we did not explore every aspect of what's going on with our closest neighbor.

Fruehauf opened in 1966, about the same time Penn State Harrisburg opened, and was part of the old air force base. Therefore, Fruehauf's property became available about the same time that PSH became available.

Fruehauf is asking for \$15 million for the entire property, Dr. South said.

In addition this is not the first attempt to obtain additional property, he said. In the past, PSH attempted to negotiate with the Odd Fellows Home to obtain some of their property, but those talks were unsuccessful.

COLE PORTER: ONE OF A KIND

(A ONE-MAN MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC PORTRAIT)

STARRING -- WILLIAM GRAHAM

More than 40 Cole Porter Songs Including:

- * I Love Paris
- * What is This Thing Called Love?
- * Night and Day
- * Just One of Those Things
- * Begin the Beguine
- * I've Got You Under My Skin

September 18, 1990 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gallery Lounge,
No Admission Charge!

Sponsored by the Student Government Association

Middle East from 1

better chance it will continue to go up. Something's got to be done or it's just going to get worse."

Most PSH students seem to think the United States is justified for being in the Persian Gulf, and support the governments actions over the last month. As far as a war, some feel that this will not occur, and other means will be found to end the crisis.

"I think we will do everything to solve it through diplomacy, for if we initiate something now--it could make us look real bad," says Scott Butcher a marketing major.

Gary Porta, mechanical engineering, also sees diplomatic means solving the crisis. "If the countries involved continue to work together with these sanctions, Iraq will be forced to back off. If the countries breakoff this unified voice, it could go longer."

Gedeon Mudacumura, a public policy major from the country of Rwanda in Central Africa says he supports the United States intervention in the Gulf, but fears that the longer the crisis continues, the less chance his country will have in obtaining foreign aid. But more importantly he says, "It is also both a humanistic and social concern that affects the entire world."

Faculty Information

NEW FACULTY:

- Dr. Jean Harris - Assistant Professor of Professional Accountancy
- Dr. Lalvani - Assistant Professor of Humanities and Communications
- Mr. Joseph McGinn - Assistant Professor of Humanities and Philosophy
- Ms. Sandra McMinnis - Instructor of Information Systems
- Mr. David Morand - Instructor of Management
- Mr. Richard Stegman - Instructor of Information Systems

ADMINISTRATION CHANGES:

- Dr. Gayle J. Yaverbaum, Acting Director of the School of Business Administration has replaced Dr. Melvin Blumberg.
- Dr. Kurt Parkum has replaced Dr. Jacob De Rooy as Director of the MBA program.

PROMOTION AND TENURE:

- Mehdi Khosrowpour
- Andrew S. Lau
- Michael L. Young

PROFESSOR:

- Kathryn Towns

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR:

- Richard T. Ammon
- Mehdi Khosrowpour
- Andrew S. Lau