

# OPINIONS

## Vicki's Voice...

Recently some state legislators and a local newspaper suggested the construction and operation of a four-year university in Harrisburg--financed by the taxpayers, of course--to create a new image for the city. The legislators in favor of a new university claim it would boost the area's economy and provide better service to college-bound residents of Pennsylvania.

Yes, by all means, provide direct competition to PSH and use available resources to build a new university instead of funding much-needed expansion at PSH. That means existing institutions, like PSH, will see even less funding from the state to improve educational facilities and curriculum.

PSH and other colleges in the area began expansion studies to determine if they could accommodate the need in the city. Expanding existing facilities would clearly cost the taxpayers much less money than building a new "Harrisburg University."

The problem with "Harrisburg University" is that legislation cannot seem to find enough money to increase funding to existing state universities, so how do they plan to finance a new institution that would cost millions--therefore diverting state funds from already strained educational resources. In addition, Pennsylvania ranked 47th among the 50 states according to state finances devoted to higher education. Is Legislation trying to put us in last place instead?

Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) and PSH already provide students with facilities for higher education. Instead of using the taxpayers' money to build a new four-year institution, legislators should increase state funding for established schools to expand and improve on their current facilities and add to their staffs. This would allow the schools to admit more of the students declined admission because of space restrictions.

Improving and expanding our existing facilities and offerings at PSH is a more sensible solution to the problem than pouring millions of tax dollars into building a new university.

A four-year Harrisburg institution will only hurt PSH and HACC by putting even more stress on the state budget--which is already underfunding higher education institutions.

The only rational solution is to help Penn State University fund the expansion of PSH and provide education for four years plus graduate classes. Penn State conducted its own studies and then announced the institution is ready to respond to requests from legislators and the community to expand from a two-year school to a four-year school.

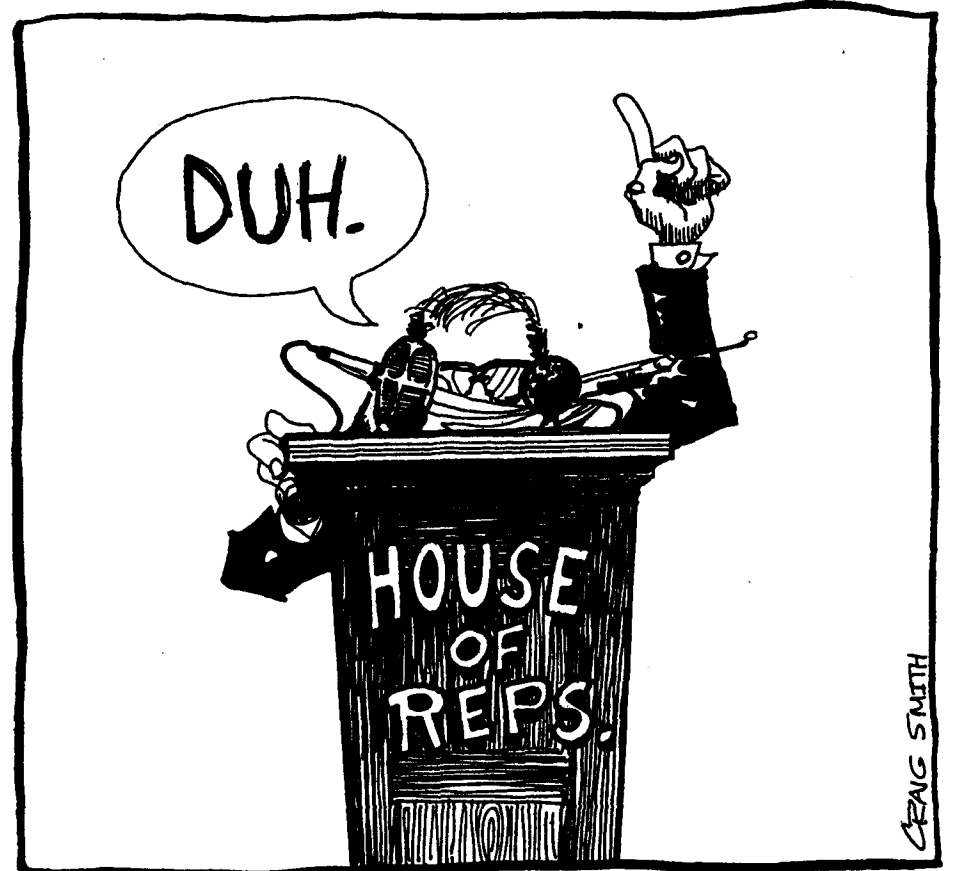
Obviously, Penn State administration did their homework and are not willing to see PSH silently kicked out of legislators' paths or the minds of the community. If legislators worry about furthering economic development, perhaps they should take an economics course--say at PSH--to learn the best way to accomplish the task.

Or perhaps we should elect Penn State economics professors to legislative positions. Penn State administrators are definitely using their heads and available resources to find a solution to the problem, but state legislators are proposing a project that will only hurt existing institutions and the Harrisburg economy.

**Victoria Cuscino**  
Editor-in-Chief

**CAPITAL TIMES STAFF MEETINGS:** Please plan to attend a meeting on Monday, October 8 at 10:00 a.m. or on Tuesday, October 9 at 12:30 p.m. in the office. Attendance to one of these meetings is mandatory. If you cannot attend, please contact Vicki or Jon!

**ATTENTION:** The Capital Times editors decided to change the publication day to every third FRIDAY instead of Wednesday for production reasons.



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A newspaper for the student body

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