

EDITORIALS

Smoking not glamorous

Cancer sticks shorten lives

"Smoking is very glamorous" reads the sign hanging in our office. The picture above the phrase features an old lady, reminding me of my grandmother who died of lung cancer and other smoking-related diseases eight years ago this June. The lady in the poster sucks on a cigarette held by wrinkled and probably shaky hands as her scraggly hair hangs down in her face.

I've been told my grandmother was a beautiful woman and at one time a very powerful woman who owned numerous night clubs throughout my home town. Unfortunately, I'll only ever remember my late grandmother as a very sick woman who couldn't stop smoking even when her life depended on it.

Almost everybody has a horror story about the effects of smoking. I think it's utterly repulsive. There's nothing worse than cleaning up after a party and finding a drained beer can full of ashes. Nobody bothers to ask for ashtrays anymore.

The thought of second-hand smoke harming my health discourages me. I'll hopefully never smoke as long as I live and will quite possibly suffer the ill-effects of so-called "passive" smoking. I applaud Penn State's decision to ban smoking in university buildings. It's not like people were lighting up in class, but I would just rather not walk around in a smoke infested environment.

I realize the addictive nature of cigarettes. My roommate's sister, who has tried to quit many times in the recent past, just made a bet to quit cold turkey until 21st birthday in February, 1992. She could possibly win a free dinner at the restaurant of her choice and free drinks the entire night if she makes it. I wouldn't count on it. She'll most likely light up before the end of semester. If she makes it, I'll applaud her. If not, I won't be surprised.

Speaking of my roommate's sister, why does it seem like a large majority of smokers today are women. "I'll get fat if I quit" is the most frequent response. Ahh, the live for the moment attitude strikes again. Stay thin now and sacrifice a few years somewhere down the road, ladies.

Make the last years of your shortened life very painful just like my grandmother's, rest her soul.

Jon Fleck
Editor-in-chief

Corrections

The nature of an award received by Simon Bronner was described erroneously in the April 5 edition. Bronner was named Distinguished Professor, a title that is not annual but remains his as long as he teaches at Penn State.

A story in the April 5 edition misstated a committee responsibility of Theodora Graham. Graham is chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. James Hudson is chair of Faculty Council.

EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS !

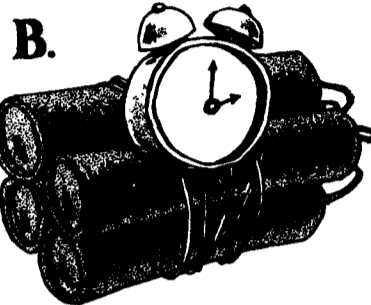
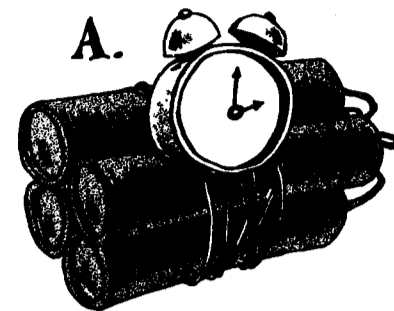
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Submit your letter in Room W-341 or place it in our mailbox in Room 212. Typed submissions are preferred. Please include your name...we cannot print anonymous letters.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

MORALITY QUIZ

ONE OF THESE IS USED BY VICIOUS TERRORISTS WHO HAVE NO REGARD FOR HUMANITY TO BLOW UP POLITICAL TARGETS.



THE OTHER IS USED BY GOD-FEARING CITIZENS TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR BELIEF IN THE SANCTITY OF LIFE BY BLOWING UP ABORTION CLINICS.

WHICH IS WHICH?

STEIN '84
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NEWS - NEA

College Press Service

As the semester winds down, I have two more weeks of grueling work ahead of me. I'd like to make some departing acknowledgements and say some goodbyes as I turn the reigns over to the capable hands of Karen Putt and the rest of our terrific staff.

T.J., Karen, Elin, and John. You've been great all semester. Thanks for the hard work and the all night layout sessions. It's been fun. You're all a great bunch hedgehogs.

Dr. Peter Parisi. Thanks for putting up with my antics for two years and especially for requiring your advanced reporting class to write stories for the paper. I've learned a lot from you.

The Advanced Reporting class. Thanks for all the legwork and the many solid stories.

My roommates, Jeff and Steve. Thanks for a great year. All the fun will not be forgotten. Here's to more fun in the future, remaining lifelong friends, and the success of Team Jazzy.

Deb and Amy. You're two of a kind. Can anyone beat Deb or Amy? Nobody but Jack.

Denise and Bernie. Hello! Hello! The next time I feel a foreign substance under a car door handle or on a doorknob, you're both getting it.

Eddie, Mike, Beth, and Cheryl. See you back in Altoona sometime soon.

Jon Fleck
Editor-in-chief

A newspaper for the student body

Capital Times

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