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of its parts," he added.

"I believe Penn State has what it takes to achieve a bright future," Thomas concluded.

Leventhal spoke on a more personal level about Penn State Harrisburg.

"Although I can extoll its virtues, being here has its challenges," Leventhal said. She remembered her arrival at the campus, when the prevailing attitude was "We've always done it this way."

Leventhal discussed the expansion of Penn State Harrisburg over the years, describing enrollment increases, development of many new programs, and landscape improvements.

"Our growth remains well within the vision of our founders," Leventhal said.

Leventhal said Penn State Harrisburg has become "more responsive to adults and non-traditional learners," citing evening classes which bring the experience of students from the work world into the classroom.

Leventhal drew laughter from the audience when she said she had "good news and bad news."

"The good news is, the goals I set are still valid. The bad news is, the goals I set are still valid," alluding to her goals set when she arrived on campus in 1984.

Leventhal said "The most exciting thing about our future is we can make it be what we want it to be."

While some looked to the future, others reminisced about the past during lunch in the Vartan Plaza, as alumni chatted while munching cheeseburgers, hot dogs, hot pretzels and wet-bottom shoofly pie, sold by Penn State Harrisburg clubs.

Dave Kurtz of Steelton, a 1972 humanities graduate, said the college has changed greatly since he left.

"It's grown in many ways--in leaps and bounds," Kurtz said, noting changes in the bookstore, library, and "Vendorville," now called the Lion's Den.

Kurtz, a budget analyst for the State Senate Appropriations Committee, was surprised on a recent drive through Meade Heights.

"I couldn't believe how quiet it was,"

Kurtz said. "There used to be a party every minute. I think I left a part of me there."

Philadelphia resident Ron Soloff, a 1970 elementary education graduate, agreed with Kurtz.

"It's changed," Soloff said. "It's larger, but there's enough here to keep our memories alive."

Kurtz fondly remembers 15-cent draft beers at the Tiltin' Hilton in Highspire, which was wiped out by floods in 1972, according to Kurtz.

"It was the kind of place you could pour a pitcher of beer over your head and nobody would ever notice," Kurtz said with a smile.

Alumnae said their education at Penn State Harrisburg has benefitted their careers.

Kurtz said he got a well-rounded education, being a humanities major.

"It gave me the basis and skills to resolve problems," Kurtz said. "It helps you think for yourself."

Kenneth Sahd of Camp Hill, a 1973 business administration graduate agreed.

"It gave me the skills to prepare for a business career," said Sahd, an employee at the State Civil Service Commission.

Sahd added that his education taught him sound financial skills, which he applies in his personal life and job.

"Without my education here, I wouldn't be the person I am today," Soloff said. "I came out with a tremendous attitude and belief in myself and my education."

At the Time Capsule Ceremony in the Vartan Plaza, the college buried a capsule containing PSH memorabilia. Items included an IBM card, a program from the 15th Convocation, 1991 alumnae directory, 1991 fall schedule, calculator, slide rule, and a current issue of the Capital Times.

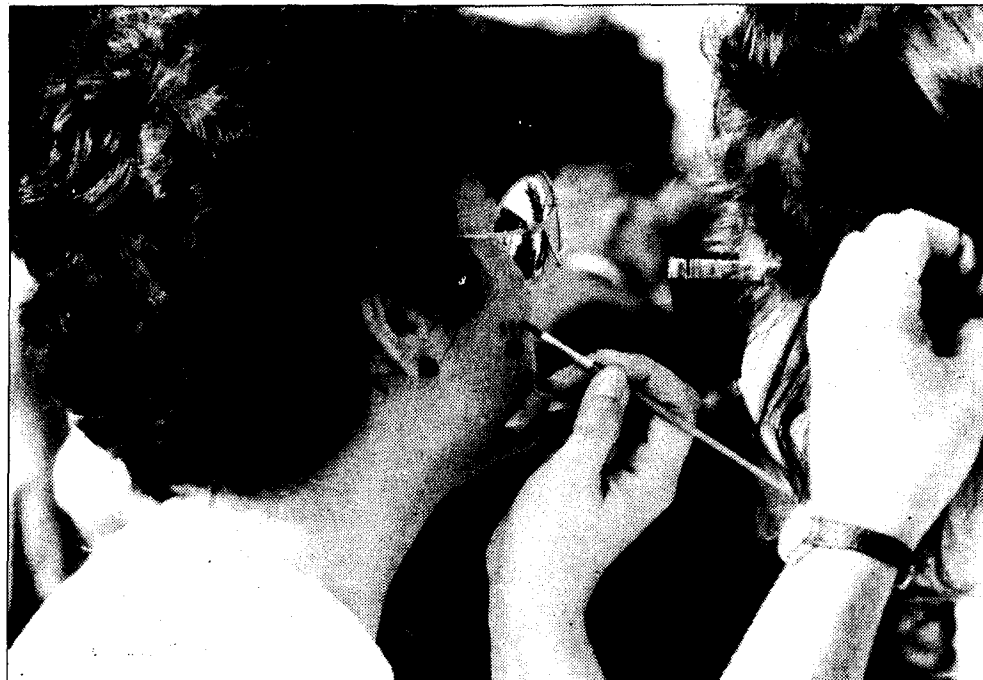
At 4 p.m., a group of about 30 donned sneakers to participate in the Silver Sprint, a 3.1 mile race around campus. Entrants walked, jogged and ran the course which included a loop through Meade Heights.

Other scheduled sports events were volleyball, basketball, soccer, and baseball games.



Photo by John Rudy

Participants await the start of the faculty processional.



Provost Ruth Leventhal joins in the festivities.

Photo by John Rudy

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