

Students learn from mock interview tapes

Donna Lenker
Special to the Capital Times

Your hands are clammy. Your stomach is in a knot. And it's not the flu.

You're just thinking, "how am I going to pull this interview off? Getting this job could be the chance of a lifetime."

A new program sponsored by the Student Assistance Center uses videotaped mock interviews to show students how they look during an interview and what kinds of questions to expect from prospective employers.

"Interviewing is like anything else," said Nancy NeJame, job developer in career services in the Student Assistance Center. "It is a skill. You can learn it, develop it, and practice it."

The hour-long session includes 20 to 30 minutes during which students are interviewed on videotape, said NeJame, who helped develop the program and

conducts the mock interview.

In the next 20 to 30 minutes, NeJame and the student view the tape and critique the performance together.

With the recession, companies are looking more closely than ever at their hires, NeJame said. Interviews are critical.

The mock interview program is free and open to any student interviewing for employment or graduate school.

Sporting a dark business suit, hair neatly combed, Steve McQuay, a senior in mechanical engineering technology, was first to go through a mock interview session. McQuay called the mock interview a "mirror."

"It's a great opportunity for students to see themselves, like they have never seen themselves before," he said.

Students sign up in advance and submit an interview request or resume stating their major, a specific job title, or a

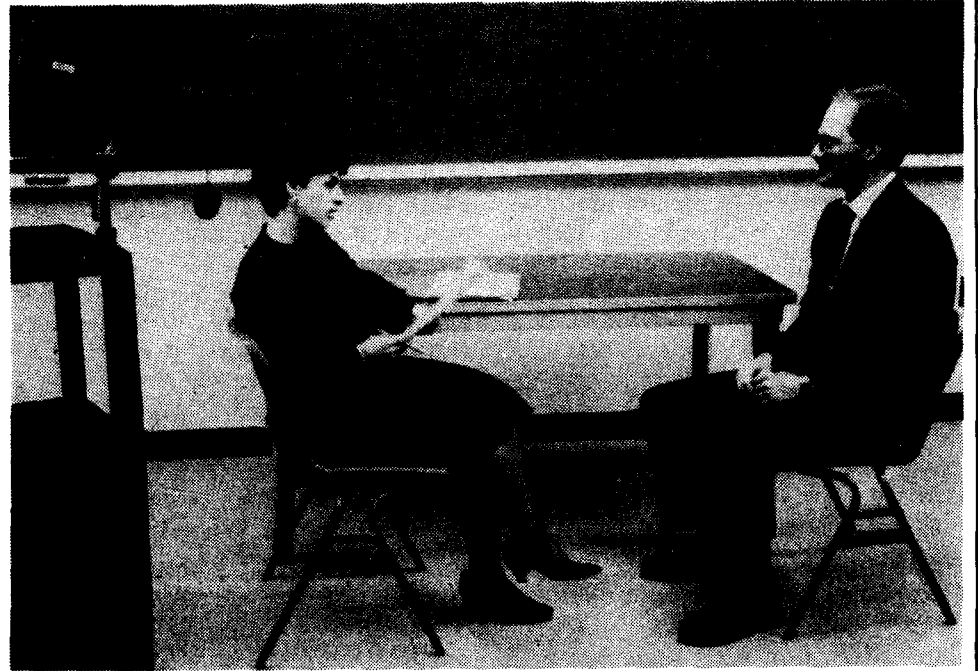


Photo by Elin Marcel

Nancy NeJame from the Student Assistance Center conducts a mock interview with Robert Ciprich, an electrical engineering major. Mock interviews are videotaped to allow students to study how they performed in the interview.

company that they are interested in interviewing with.

Currently four appointments per week are available for the interviews. But

NeJame said more would be added if demand grows.

"A 30-minute interview can literally determine your future," she said.

SGA approves publication about clubs

Lee Ashton
Capital Times Staff

A publication titled "Club Penn State" that will focus on the clubs available at Penn State Harrisburg got the Student Government Association's stamp of approval at their last meeting.

The SGA met Feb. 25 to hear from Denise McMullen, a senior humanities major, who discussed the merits of a book focusing on PSH clubs.

The proposed publication, called "Club Penn State," would outline the activities of each club, as well as membership criteria, she said.

Speaking in favor of the new

publication, McMullen said, "It doesn't seem like a lot of people know what different clubs are available here."

SGA voted to allocate \$600 to fund the book, which McMullen said would cost about \$575 to produce.

It's not just the subject matter that will make "Club Penn State" unique; it will be designed and edited by the college's magazine and newsletter editing class.

The book will ultimately be made available to students seeking admission to Penn State Harrisburg or participating in orientation activities.

"I think this will be very beneficial and is money well-spent," said SGA President Mike Hermick.

SGA will review a draft of the publication before it is printed and distributed.

In other news, Hermick addressed a concern that was initially heard during the Student Affairs Committee meeting he attended on Feb. 24. A student said visitors gaining access to the gym on a first-come, first-served basis were preventing PSH students, staff and faculty from using the facility.

Hermick said he will contact Duane Crider, PSH director of athletics, to learn what the current visitation policy is, and if the policy permits only one guest to be signed in, then it should be enforced.

"We understand what community

outreach is all about, but our students should come first," Hermick said. He believes the problem is most noticeable at lunch and from 3 to 6 p.m.

In other action, SGA approved an expenditure of \$61 for soft drinks and pizza to be served during a Humanities Division open forum to be held March 3, in the Gallery Lounge.

Members also agreed a proposed television lounge should be located in the Lion's Den Vault, rather than in Room 216. A proposal will be sent to James D. South, associate provost for administrative operations at PSH, conveying these thoughts.

Library, from page 1

years ago we started barcoding the new books as they came in, even though we aren't automated."

Because of the complications library staff, students and faculty could face if the barcoding is not completed by summer, Shill said if the goal of Aug. 1 seems unattainable, the entire process could be postponed until the winter break between semesters.

"We need time to train our people and to get all the bugs out," he said. "In the event that we don't finish the barcoding by summer, we could very well be doing it as the books are checked out. And that could be problematic."

Shill said a second long-term goal is to redesign the exit and check out area of the library. Shill said campus administrators still need time to discuss the option of

remodeling the front area of the library to provide "a smoother traffic flow to the exit." Shill said James South, associate provost for administrative operations, "should soon be starting the process of getting work bids, etc...for the project."

The Students For a Quality Library organized last semester as the result of an open forum on the library. The group drafted a petition calling the library "a

second-class facility which does not reflect a fair return on the student dollar." A total of 1,182 students signed the petition at hallway stations and during blockwalks in the final weeks of the fall semester.

The group then sent a copy of the petition to both Provost and Dean Ruth Leventhal and Shill, calling for immediate improvements in library conditions and equipment.



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