

Yearbook popularity suffers at PSH

Anne Feeney-McGovern
Capital Times Staff

Has the Penn State Harrisburg yearbook outlived its usefulness?

Sixteen percent of Penn State Harrisburg's 1991 graduates bought a copy of *The Capitalite*, the school yearbook. Nationally 75 percent of graduates purchase their senior yearbook, said *Capitalite* editor Monica Bowersox.

Janet Widoff, coordinator of student activities and advisor to *The Capitalite*, said she wonders whether students here still want a yearbook in its traditional form, or whether a different format might be more popular.

Her idea might work for George Nagle, a senior majoring in American Studies.

"The image I get of a yearbook is a high school thing," Nagle said. "Maybe if

they called it something different."

The problem may go deeper than image. Robert W. Colman, assistant professor and coordinator of community psychology, said weak school spirit induced by family and work obligations may contribute to the sparse response.

The tendency for students to isolate themselves in cliques within their own curriculum may also contribute to the lack of attachment to the school, said Sharon Purcell, a recent communications graduate.

"I basically stayed in my own little department," Purcell said. "The only people you get to know well are the people in your own curriculum."

Clem Gilpin, assistant professor of community systems, said the sluggish economy might keep students from shelling out the \$25 a yearbook costs.

"I'd rather spend my money on a roll of film and take pictures of all my friends," said Maryann Harpin, a senior majoring in secondary education.

Many students surveyed said they didn't realize Penn State Harrisburg published a yearbook.

"I didn't even know there was one," said Andre Valsing, a junior majoring in communications.

The answer to the awareness problem may lie in advertising.

"I have not seen anybody selling the yearbook," Gilpin said. "They may not have developed a marketing strategy."

But Bowersox said letters advertising yearbook sales go out to the parents of graduating seniors, suggesting the yearbook as a graduation gift. She said she placed ads for the yearbook last semester in the *Capital Times*.

"The problem is, there's not enough additional promotion after the letter," Bowersox said. "So we're working on an advertising promotion."

Labor is another obstacle. Currently only five students work on the yearbook staff.

"We definitely need more staffing," Bowersox said.

One student said he might purchase a yearbook, but his comments seemed to underline the problems haunting the academic tradition at Penn State Harrisburg.

"Most likely I will buy one," said Paul Wolf, a senior majoring in humanities/business. "I'm not 100 percent positive. It's nice to have just to look back and see friends and clubs. I don't know--it's kind of thin."

PSH faculty opposes school choice bill

Angela West
Capital Times Staff

Many Penn State Harrisburg faculty members believe if the school choice bill would be passed it would not serve a positive purpose, but promote segregation and divide the educational system.

"We have enough problems in the education system, and this could be more of a distraction," said Robert Lesniak, associate professor of education. He added that the system could become racist and create unwanted classes of people.

"Elitism could creep into the system," Lesniak said.

Under the choice plan, parents would receive tuition vouchers worth \$900 to enroll their children in private, parochial or public schools outside their districts. The choice bill was defeated in the legislature last year, but supporters of the idea promise to reintroduce it.

Lesniak said under the voucher system, communities will no longer play a valuable part in their educational decisions, or have the authority to complain.

"If we take the squeaking out of the

wheel then there is no one squeaking about the things that should be fixed," Lesniak said. "If the voucher system is approved, they will be robbing from the poor to give to the rich."

Other faculty members are also opposed to the plan for similar reasons. Barry Kanpol, associate professor of education attacked the proposed voucher system.

"I think the voucher system camouflages the real issues," he said, "that includes poverty, hunger and teenage pregnancy."

Anna Hayek-Kanpol, instructor of

elementary education agreed.

"It's evil because they want to give money to rich kids to go to school" she said. "It's racist and it would not work for the poor kids because poor kids do not have \$900 to attend any school in the first place."

William Henk, associate professor of education, said the whole plan needs revising before it could be passed.

"I think the issues should be researched thoroughly," he said. "I'm concerned about the fact that public schools are strapped financially now. The voucher system is not going to help."

High percentage of college students lack health insurance

Ann Feeney-McGovern
Capital Times Staff

Although accessible and affordable health care remains an issue for all Americans, college students have the most reason for concern.

According to a national study done on the medically uninsured, 29.9 percent of

people in the 18-24 age group have no health insurance.

J. Marvin Bentley, professor of health economics at Penn State Harrisburg, spoke before an audience of 75 on March 11 at the Downtown Center in Harrisburg. He said the 18-24 age group which comprises college students and graduates cannot afford health insurance rates.

Bentley told the audience that this group of people are also usually healthy, thereby placing a low priority on health insurance in their budget. For these people, unexpected illness also brings on financial hardships.

Bentley defined the medically indigent as "at risk for financial disaster if they experience a medical problem that ruins

them financially."

He also said we need programs that will reduce the risks to the medically uninsured, such as investing in public health care programs and improving the effectiveness in the delivery of medical care.

Pennsylvania's medically indigent population rates at nine percent. This places the commonwealth in a healthier position when compared to states such as Texas, where 26 percent remain uninsured.

Crime, from page 1

Alesky said most vandalism occurred at Meade Heights. Stop signs had to be replaced and on Halloween, cars were soaped and toilet-papered.

Despite the increase, police are not changing procedures, because the crimes are scattered across the campus. Alesky said they were going to keep up with their patrols.

"We don't have a pattern to our patrols," he said. "It deters crime from happening that way."

Alesky suggested some strategies students can use to hinder criminals.

"Make sure valuables are secure and marked with some kind of I.D., such as a social security number so the item can be identified," Alesky said. "People will have second thoughts."

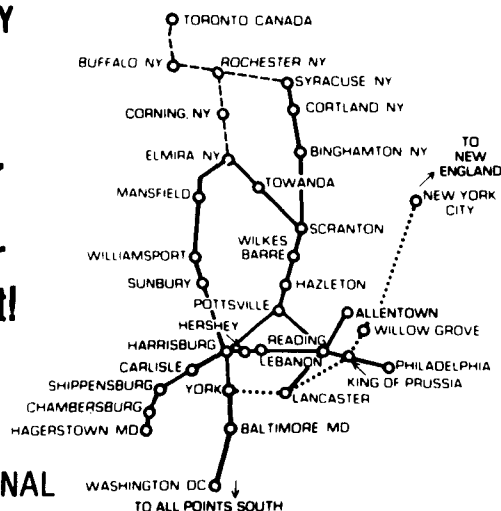
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