

Cutbacks create long lines at Writing Lab

Stacey Simmers
Capital Times Staff

Students needing help from tutors in the Writing Lab will have to wait two weeks because the Lab's budget has been cut by \$2,000 and more students want help.

According to Karen Bowser, writing and learning resource specialist, the combination of less money and more students results in a growing waiting period.

"Students realize the benefits so they come again and again," Bowser said.

Roxane Balog, a junior psychology student, said that last year she could just

drop in when she had to. This year's long wait is inconvenient.

"I'm starting a paper seven weeks in advance. That's really not bad but I have other commitments that need to be taken care of now," Balog said.

But Coleen Hoar, a senior secondary education student, said last year was just as busy.

"This year, I put in at the beginning of the semester for an hour a week," Hoar said. "I learned my lesson last year."

As of Oct. 14, the Lab completed 284 appointments. At the same time last year, the Lab completed 234 appointments.

Cutting three hours saved only \$450 per semester. Bowser said she hopes to

save the other \$1,100 by reducing photocopying and not buying new equipment.

The Writing Lab isn't the only student service cut because of budget trouble.

Peer Tutorial lost \$6,000 this year. Last year it had \$11,000 to pay student tutors.

This program pays students who have shown proficiency in a particular subject \$6 an hour to tutor students who ask for help in that subject.

To make up for the money that has been lost, one tutor didn't start working until the third week of the semester and students are limited to two hours of help each week, as opposed to the three they

would have gotten last year.

In other attempts to conserve limited funds, clinics are set up if a few students request tutoring in the same subject.

In a clinic, as many as six students meet with one tutor. If a clinic is set up, students might get more than two hours.

"As a result of using clinics wherever possible, more students are being helped while using fewer tutor hours," Bowser said.

This time last semester, 366 hours were used for Peer Tutorial. This year, Peer Tutorial used 342 hours.

It's tough to improve some services and save money at the same time, Bowser said.

Game stresses cultural awareness

Matt Hunt
Capital Times Staff

Six students increased their awareness of diversity. They learned a little about other cultures, the laws regarding discrimination, the society we live in and had fun doing it.

They did all of this by playing the Diversity Game.

The game was monitored by Debbie Jackson, a student affairs assistant, at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22 in the Gallery Lounge.

Jackson started things off by briefly explaining how the game is played.

The players answer questions in one of four categories: legislation, society, jobs and demographics. Each time a question is answered correctly, the player or team of players receive a colored chip. When the player or team of players collect chips of all four colors, they start to move to the center of the board, Jackson said.

While moving from the outer board to

the center, the players either answer questions relating to other cultures or takes a chance card. This card relates an action the player has "performed" and tells the player to move either forward or back a certain number of spaces, Jackson said.

When a player reaches the center of the board, they have won the game and achieved cultural awareness, Jackson said.

Jackson paired the players into teams and they played for about an hour. After the game, the players discussed how the game increased their cultural awareness.

Dennis Roland, a senior criminal justice major, said this approach was a non-threatening way to discuss diversity issues. "No one has to be afraid of being nailed for their opinions like if it was an open discussion."

Lorrie Lynn, a graduate student in community psychology, however, pointed out this can only be used a few times. "After the first few times, people will start to memorize the answers."



Photo by Mike Starkey

A group of students perform at karaoke night. See story, page 3.

PSH CAMPUS BRIEFS

by Stacey Simmers

Provost Ruth Leventhal and Student Government Association have allocated \$1500 under the Campus Compact program to fund projects that benefit the local community.

Campus Compact is a support organization that provides funding for volunteer mini-projects.

Last year, some students painted lines on the parking lot at the Thrift Shop in Middletown and a group of student engineers printed books that introduced children in local schools to the field of engineering.

Anyone needing money to fund a project should apply for a grant from Campus Compact.

Pick up applications in room 212.

Penn State Harrisburg's student yearbook, *Capitalite*, needs people to work on its production.

"In the past, one or two students end up doing most of the work," Janet Widoff, advisor to the *Capitalite*, said. "It takes more than two people to put this book together."

So far, only two students have volunteered to help.

Last year, SGA spent \$4000 on the yearbook that sold 150 copies.

Widoff said that Student Government needs to decide if they want to continue underwriting this project.

Anyone interested in working on the *Capitalite* should contact Widoff in room 212.

Students want a MAC machine on campus. SGA wants to get one for them. This is just one of the goals set by SGA during its meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

SGA also wants to set up a mailbox system for non-resident students so they get them same information that residents get.

"If we want people who live off-campus to participate in campus events, we need to let them know what's going on," said Lori Gring, vice president of SGA.

Other goals include:

- Clocks in the hallways and/or classrooms
- More telephone booths
- An intracampus telephone

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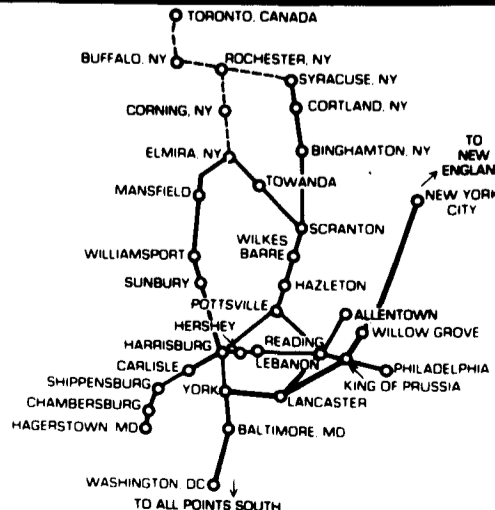


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