2/PSH NEWS

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Humanities profs to develop multi-media teaching tool

Matt Hunt Capital Times

You are sitting in your Western Tradition I class. The instructor punches some buttons on a classroom computer and images from a CD-ROM illustrate city planning and architecture in Ancient Greece and Rome

Welcome to the classroom of the future. And it's not as far away as you might think

Instructors at Penn State Harrisburg, headed by Associate Professor of Humanities and Art History Troy Thomas, are developing such a CD-ROM to support instruction in the Western Tradiuon course

It is a project that Thomas describes as part of the multi-media classroom which has been a goal of the humanities division some time now

The project is funded by a grant from Penn State's Computer-Based Education Laboratory.

CBEL accepts only 25 percent of the applications it receives, Thomas said.

In addition to city planning and architecture of Ancient Greece and Rome, the CD-ROM will illustrate 11 topics. Currently, Thomas said, he and his colleagues are concentrating on just two examples--the Acropolis of Athens and the Forum of Trajan.

Thomas said the CD will be used both inside and outside the classroom. Users can select images from any part of the disk.

But the disk is not just for images, Thomas said The CD-ROM can also be used to understand the philosophy behind the architecture and the city planning. The CD-ROM 18 also designed to be interactive.

"It will be possible for students to go to the computer lab and use the CD-ROM to reinforce what they learned in class," Thomas said "They will be able to explore the Acropolis in a way they cannot during a lecture for from a sketch or drawing."

Thomas said that this will create a new learning experience for the student.

Also working with Thomas on the project are Associate Professor of Humanities and History Louise Hoffman and Assistant Professor of Humanities and

Writing Matthew Wilson. Assistant Director of Computer Information Systems Terry Majzlik is contributing computer expertise.

Thomas said the project could take at least five years to complete.



Photo by Michael Starkey

HIGH-TECH HUMANITIES -- Troy Thomas, Associate Professor of Humanities and Art History, is heading a team of humanities faculty that is developing a CD-ROM to teach ancient art and architecture.

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don't they fix it!"

Pucciarella said when she complained to the housing office, the woman she spoke with told her to just leave the bedroom door open to get heat because there weren't any space heaters left. After a call to the coordinator of residence life, George Young, Pucciarella said she received a heater within an hour.

At least five students bought their own heaters, said Karen Barbosa, a senior

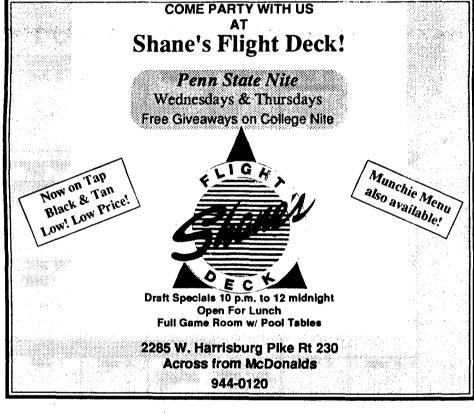
management information systems major. "We have to turn up our heat at night to 80 degrees," Barbosa said. "We didn't say anything about it because they [maintenance] don't fix anything else in the house."

Matinchek said only two men maintain all 140 Meade Heights homes.

Concerning the heating problem, Matinchek said: "I've been here for 12 vears and the same heating system has been in there. You're bound to have problems, but this is the first year people have complained.'

He added that he would be glad to check any houses if the students tell him.

Maintenance can be reached through the housing office at 948-6244.



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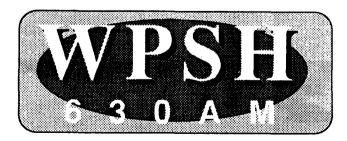
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