

The Penn State Harrisburg

# CAPITAL TIMES

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# Hillary Clinton and health forum come to PSH

Susan Jones-Yurkiewicz  
Capital Times Staff

A first for the campus, a first for the first lady.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, the first first lady to take on substantial public policy duties, came to Penn State Harrisburg to attend Sen. Harris Wofford's Pennsylvania Health Care Conference in the Capitol Union Building on Feb. 11.

It was the first time Mrs. Clinton ventured out of Washington, D.C., on her mission to reform health care. It was the first time any first lady has set foot on the PSH campus.

Mrs. Clinton said that health care was not the only compelling reason for her to make the trip.

"My father, who is a Penn State alum, and my brother, who is a Penn State alum, would have thought that any call by the Nittany Lions, whether about health care or anything else, had to be responded to," she said.

Family ties were not the reason the international media swarmed to the campus. They came to see the first lady at work.

They came from everywhere. There were television crews from CNN, C-SPAN, NBC, ABC and dozens from regional stations. The satellite vans crowded the parking lot next to the CUB. Television cameras were positioned on the sidewalk for remote broadcasts at noon.

There were local radio stations as well as National Public Radio.

The print media included *People* magazine, *The New York Times*, *The Los*

*Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, and the local press.

Patrick Cockburn, a reporter for the British daily, *The Independent*, explained the attraction to Mrs. Clinton. He said, "Hillary's become a superstar."

That's exactly how the media reacted.

Outside the Educational Activities Building, the media crowd was five times the size that of the local crowd who came to catch a glimpse. The White House staff separated them--onlookers on one side, press on the other.

When the first lady showed up with the vice president's wife, Tipper Gore, the media, eager to get a picture or a quote, pushed forward against the barriers causing a minor scuffle as they all shouted questions.

Mrs. Clinton wore turquoise and Mrs. Gore wore red. They were two bright spots of color in the media sea of muted browns and blues.

After lunch, the two women walked to the CUB, and the press followed.

On the hill opposite the building, the fifth-grade class from Demmey Elementary School, which adjoins the campus, waved and called to the two women. Their efforts were rewarded with smiles and waves before Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Gore were whisked in from the cold.

In the Student Center, where the conference was held, television cameras were perched on raised platforms on three sides of the room. Journalists sat in chairs or leaned against walls furiously scribbling notes as Mrs. Clinton gave her opening remarks. It was the only time the



Photo by Candy Franks

THEY'RE HERE -- Tipper Gore, Hillary Clinton and Harris Wofford climb the steps to the Capital Union Building--the site of the health forum.

press was quiet.

Shortly afterward, the press drifted away to file the stories. When the two

women left at 4:15 p.m., only a few reporters were there to record their departure.

## The provost went to the chapel--and got married

Angie West  
Capital Times Staff

Ruth Leventhal, provost and dean of PSH, had a special Valentine's Day treat on Sunday, Feb. 14. She married John Childe, an attorney who represents the public interest in environmental protection.

The wedding was held in a Middletown church at 11 a.m., with a brunch following the ceremony. About 80 people were invited, mostly family and close friends.

The two had been dating for over a year and chose to marry on Valentine's Day because it is romantic and that way they will be sure to remember the date, Leventhal said.

Along with her new husband, Leventhal gained two new children, 10 and 12.

There wasn't enough time for a honeymoon, but the new couple extended their weekend to spend an extra day together. Instead of a traditional honeymoon, Leventhal said that summer plans have already been made to go



Ruth Leventhal

traveling and camping in the Southwest with their children.

Leventhal said she is very happy and added with a smile, "It feels as if I have a life partner."

## Parking fee gets green light for fall semester

Ed Paukstis  
Capital Times Staff

Penn State Harrisburg has recently decided to reinstate parking fees for students and faculty as part of a university wide program.

The new fee will likely be \$40 per semester for full-time students and \$120 per year for staff, said James South, associate provost for administrative operations.

The parking program will help to raise money for various projects like the maintenance and construction of sidewalks, parking lots and lights on campus. It will also lessen the burden that has been put on general funding (money from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and tuition) by such activities, South said.

He added that the fee is necessary because the university's general funding can no longer afford to pay for parking, the cost of direct instructional research and service activities.

"There are real costs involved when we have to hire somebody to plow snow off the road in the parking lot, so this

program will be supporting those maintenance jobs," South said.

The fee will be based on the total number of credits that the student is taking. Part-time students and those who will agree to park farther away from the center of the lot during normal business hours will pay a reduced fee.

Short-term parking meters will be installed to accommodate vendors and others who use the university facilities for recreational purposes.

Some students feel that the fees are unjust and that the school should first consider other priorities before starting a parking program.

"If I'm going to buy a parking permit, I want to be close to the building," said James Smith, a senior electrical engineering major.

"I believe that there are more important things that the university should worry about, like the budget cutting of the Job Development Recruiting Service," said Lori Gring, president of the Student

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