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The Penn State Harrisburg

# CAPITAL TIMES

## Police trade four wheels for two

Ed Paukstis  
Capital Times Staff

Penn State police services plans to become actively involved with students and faculty this spring when the department introduces the university's first bike patrol.

According to Charles Alesky, chief of police services, the patrol will begin sometime in early spring when potential biking hazards like half melted snow, ice, and scattered cinders have disappeared.

Alesky said the department tried to start the program in October 1992 but felt that it was too late in the season.

Two officers will be assigned to patrol the campus from morning to early evening, Alesky said.

One officer will ride a bike along the paths, parking lots and sidewalks around the university's dorms and Meade Heights. The other officer will cruise the beat in a squad car.

"If an emergency does arise and more vehicles are needed, the officer assigned to bike duty can radio the car for help," Alesky said.

Officers riding a bike, unlike those driving a squad car, will not carry weapons but will have portable radios and pouches for carrying necessary paper work.

The officers will be required to wear bike helmets and the standard spring/summer police attire, which

consists of a blue or white button-down shirt and knee-length shorts.

"The officers will also observe the rules and regulations of the road while riding a bike, as if they were driving a car," Alesky said.

Hopefully, the program will aid in crime prevention, Alesky said. More importantly, he said he believes that it will help to bring police officers and people on campus closer together.

"The officers will be able to come directly into contact with people on campus," Alesky said. "Officers will be able to provide useful information that people might not be able to acquire from a single police officer in a squad car."

Still, the department realizes the physical demands that bicycling many hours a day can exert upon an officer.

"The program is designed to be voluntary, and some of the officers are enthusiastic and interested," Alesky said.

Officers will be allowed to use their own bikes if they do not want to use the one provided by police services.

"We found the bike on campus almost two years ago and searched for its owner for almost a year," Alesky said. "Nobody claimed it, so we were able to fill out the necessary paperwork to keep the bike for the department's use."



Photo by Michael Starkey

This will be the last time you see the PSH basketball team in action. Due to the proposed budget cuts all varsity sports have been eliminated. Students are in an uproar protesting the action, but will their voice be heard?

## Forum discusses budget cuts and varsity sports

Ruth Leventhal, provost and dean of PSH, held an open forum in the Gallery Lounge at 12:30 p.m Thursday, April 8. Student turn-out was good for the first time in two semesters.

Leventhal began the forum with a brief statement of purpose. She expressed her concern that students were not attending her office hours which she holds twice a semester allowing students to visit and discuss situations on campus.

The questions asked at the forum ranged from the overcrowding of classes to budget problems

Students' main concern seems to be the cutting of varsity sports. A majority of the questions centered around the program being cut from the budget.

"The forum was very informative with lots of feedback from both students and

the provost," said Bill Stoner, a community psychology graduate student.

Michelle Feingold, a junior accounting major, found the program unhelpful. "I didn't find her to be open minded about athletic concerns," she said.

Ericka Wolter, a junior accounting major, wasn't pleased with the program either and said, "She didn't answer things the way we asked and she didn't have any intention of answering them."

Leventhal said that the purpose of the forum was to give students the opportunity to speak out. She added that she was prepared for some of the questions that students asked because the Student Government Association (SGA) had provided her with some questions prior to the forum.



Photo by Michele Loeper

THESE SLABS WERE MADE FOR WALKIN' - A student uses the newly finished walkway outside of the west wing of the Olmsted Building. You can also see the remains of the March's "Storm of the Century."

## Death of the CapTimes?

Michael Stone  
Capital Times Staff

The *Capital Times* is dying.

Due to a decrease in staff, and with the upcoming graduation of more than half of the staff, the *Capital Times* is faced with impending doom. And, with its death goes the 19-year tradition of publishing a campus newspaper.

The newspaper, for the last few years, has been published every three weeks, usually producing five issues per semester. Although it has employed quite a few people, it has turned into an organization run by a small nucleus of communications students.

However, with a larger staff, the

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