

Men or Women: Who is the dominating sex?

Michael Reteneller
Capital Times Staff

Gender related issues were discussed among 25 students in the Communication Genderly Workshop on March 23.

Janet Widoff, coordinator of student activities, and Steve Backels, a counselor at PSH, based the workshop on a similar one done at Indiana University.

Jeff Nash, an EET major, said that students sat around a table and were given instructions to grab any one of the blue papers on their tables.

"The exercise intended to show the most dominating person at each table," Nash said.

Backels explained that people are not always what they seem. He went on to say how men might feel pressured to get the biggest piece of paper, or how women might use their nails in order to get some paper.

The workshop proceeded with a quiz that Widoff got from the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) at a national conference at Indiana University.

Widoff attended the (ACOI) conference seminar on gender and communication issues. Using the (ACOI) questionnaire, she surveyed on-campus students earlier in the semester.

Widoff used the same quiz to help students recall and discuss their answers at Communication Genderly.

The quiz consisted of twenty questions. One question was, "Do men

talk more than women?"

Students at one of the five tables agreed that women talk more than men.

Despite the stereotype, research has shown that men talk more than their share of the time, Backels said.

Widoff asked, "Are women more likely to answer questions that are not addressed to them?"

Most of the 22 men that were present agreed that the answer to this one was "true."

Actually, the answer was "false," and men manage to capture more than their fair share of talk time, Widoff said.

All the quiz questions followed along the same guidelines of gender communication problems and barriers.

Widoff said that she was pleased with the turnout and the way students shared their own ideas.

"There was interaction and answers to questions," Widoff said. "Students exchanged their own thoughts about the issues."

Christine Strouse, a junior business major, said that she attended the workshop because she is always open to more suggestions about how to communicate better.

The general male consensus was that that men need an edge in the dating world.

"Men just want to know more about women," said Eric Hokanson, an EET major. He added that in his social experience, he has noticed a big

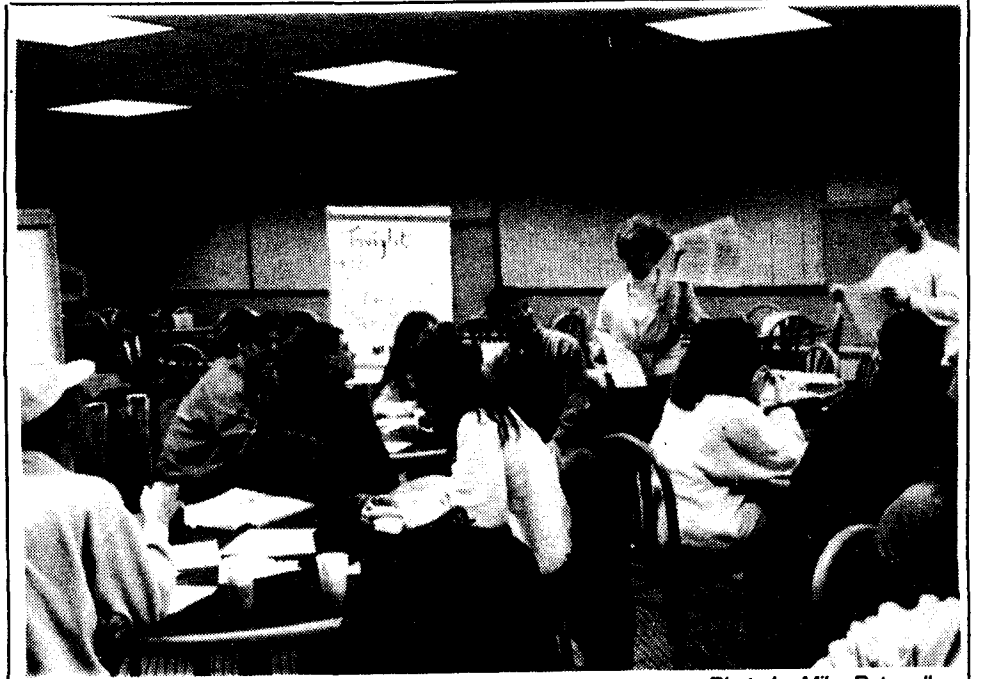


Photo by Mike Reteneller

Students discuss ways to break communication barriers between the sexes.

communication barrier between males and females.

The last workshop exercise involved the students adding their own opinions to the results of the on-campus survey.

The workshop was planned to help students understand the issues.

"It got students to talk and think about

gender issues and social stereotypes and communication styles," Backels said.

Before students ate the complimentary hoagies, they were encouraged to communicate as much as possible with their partners, and to always be truthful.

CAPS, from page 1

Capital Times has the potential of being published again, possibly even bi-weekly or weekly.

What's needed to save the *CapTimes*? PEOPLE.

Many students think you need to be a communications student or a journalism major to write for the paper. Wrong. While it is true that many of the writers are aspiring journalists, there are many writers who aren't. And, you don't need a

communications background for a lot that goes on at the paper.

For instance:

- The newspaper income thrives on the ads it receives. People are needed to seek advertisers. If you're a business or PR major--or if you're just persuasive--this job is for you.

- Photography. The *Capital Times* needs photographers and can train anyone to shoot photos. The more pictures we have, the nicer an issue looks and shows us more of the campus life we don't see.

- Editors. This job does not involve sitting down with a stack of articles and looking for typos--a copy editor does that. The *CapTimes* editor coordinates the issue, assigns stories, deals with the community and runs the entire club. If you like to be in charge and are a motivated person, give us a call.

- Layout. The paper lives and dies by the physical layout. It's not a difficult process, but it's time consuming. If the layout team were larger, the paper would get done twenty times faster.

- Business Manager--a person good with books who can write a check.

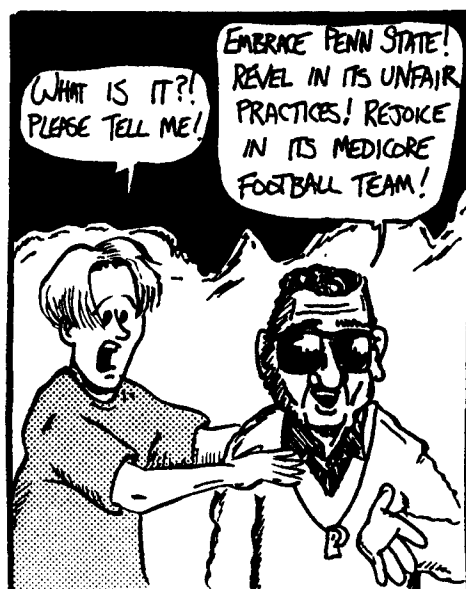
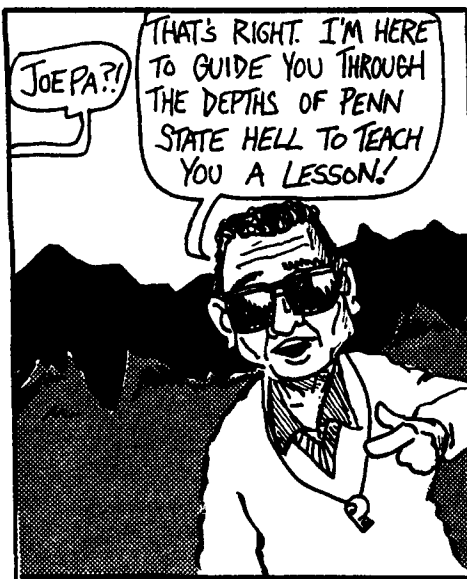
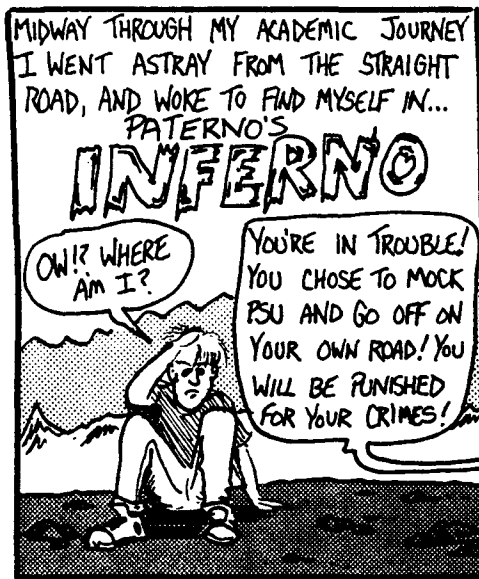
- Columnists. If you have some opinions, or you want to try out some material before doing stand-up, give it a shot.

If you want to see the tradition continue, and you're interested in helping out, give us a call at 944-4970 or contact Advisor Dr. Peter Parisi at 948-6203.

The best issues were put together thanks to people who never had any newspaper experience, but gave it a shot.

STAIRWAY TO HELL

by TREV STAIR



Stair