

From the desk of the editor...

## What Really Matters?

As I sit at my computer terminal on this late Tuesday evening, while my body subsists on nothing but Domino's and caffeine, the things that come to mind are sometimes almost frightening. Like, did you know that "Enola Gay" spelled backwards is "Yag Alone"?

I digress. This came about in conversation while my editorial staff (read: the fools I talked into staying here with me all night for free pizza and Coke) and I tried to determine what should be the topic of my editorial piece for this issue.

There were several subjects suggested, ranging from relationships (and how we just don't have them) to Aaron West (not to be confused with Adam West) and the graffiti found on this campus (look for that story in next week's issue - yes, next week!) to the turmoil surrounding SGA lately.

I chose none of these topics. At least, I don't think I did. I don't think I've picked anything yet. We just can't seem to pick any one thing that we feel is most important. Actually, Joy hasn't added her input yet, because she won't get off the phone with Corn Boy.

I digress again. Sorry about that, I think I dozed off.

What I have realized by now, however, is that no matter how many issues we may address in each paper, it doesn't really seem to matter. Life goes on, injustices continue, and nothing we print seems to change anything.

Or does it? I mean, students and faculty dive for the paper when it comes out, and we have received thanks and congratulations on a quality product. Some, however, say we don't do our homework (and I'm not just talking about the teachers whose classes we've skipped).

We've learned from this semester, as well. My reporters have discovered how to do in-depth reporting, how to hunt down someone who doesn't want to talk, how to call faculty members at home and get away with it, and how to force your way into places where you're not wanted. God, what a rush.

Now, as I prepare to end my term at PSH, I look back on the last two years and realize that maybe there are some things that do matter, like the friends (and enemies) I've made, and the fact that, no matter what, I've left my little mark here, by losing my mind and allowing myself to be railroaded into being editor this semester. And though that time is coming to an end, the memories, and the close relationships we've established in this dingy little office will never fade.

Oh, and there is one more thing that matters: Red Dog, and lots of it.

## Letters to the Editor

### CONGRATS to the Cap

Editor,

I would like to congratulate you on a fine paper! I am glad that it looked so well and it conveyed the messages that the students needed to know. It also represented the ideals of the student body here at Penn State Harrisburg and you and your staff should be commended for their efforts as a whole.

You have my support and if you ever need anything in the way of quotes or help, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Duane Brooks, Junior, MIS

### Condom-nation

Editor,

Religious right political hacks like columnist Cal Thomas try to portray use of condoms and safer sex as a liberal-left political plot.

Yet Surgeon General Antonia C. Novello, appointed by Republican President George Bush, issued a statement published in the June 9, 1993 issue of the *Journal of American Medical Association* strongly supporting condom use for prevention of HIV transmission. Similar statements were issued by her predecessor, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, who was appointed by Republican President Ronald Reagan.

Novello claims that 20 percent, 40 percent, or 80 percent of all new HIV seroconversions in the United States will be avoided if 25 percent, 50 percent, or 100 percent, respectively, of persons use condoms consistently and correctly.

As to the question of pores in condoms, which has replaced the medieval question about how many angels can stand on the head of a pin in the minds of modern day religious zealots, she cites a National Institutes of Health study which found no holes even at 2,000 times magnification.

Acknowledging that holes can occur, she refers to quality control testing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration which has found an average condom waterleak rate of 0.3

percent. If the failure rate of a batch of condoms exceeds four per 1,000, the condoms are recalled and barred from sale. This is a far cry from the 33 percent failure rate hysteria mongers like Thomas proclaim.

She says that there are further obstacles to passage of HIV even through a microscopic hole. A free virus, which is nonmotile, would pass through a hole only if it were associated with a cell that moves or if it were moved by hydrostatic pressure through a hole.

However, monocytes and lymphocytes that may carry HIV are too large to pass through microscopic holes detected by simulating free HIV in fluid under pressure found that most condoms leaked no fluid at all and that, "Even the worst performing condom reduced estimated viral exposure 10,000 fold."

The statement cites condom effectiveness during actual use evidenced by contraceptive failure rates ranging from one per 100 to 16 per 100 users per year. She illustrates the importance of proper condom use by results from a British study of married, more experienced users with condom-user failure rates for pregnancy as low as six per 1,000 users per year.

C.M. Roland's concerns about the barrier performance of latex rubber featured in the June 1993 issue of *Rubber World* were rebutted by an article by M.D. Morris and T.D. Pendle in the very same issue.

Morris and Pendle attribute condom failures mainly to misuse rather than any inherent defect in the product. Leaching in water, which is part of the normal condom production process, effectively makes the porous structure in the latex disappear, they claim. They also refer to the two rubber layers of a condom saying that, "the possibility of a hole being made through both layers, or of a hole in each layer being perfectly aligned seems extremely remote."

They say that their contention is further borne out by the tensile strength of condoms under high elongation and direct experimentation with the HIV virus.

Jim Senyszyn, Highland Park, NJ

## Just Do It!

All Pirincioğlu  
Guest Columnist

There seems to be a blatant disinterest expressed by the students of this school in regards to the clubs and organizations of Penn State-Harrisburg. I don't see a single reason why a student can't get involved with even just one club.

There are many reasons to explain my stance on this issue. The first major complaint I hear from students who live on my floor is that they do not have enough time. This is not true. Even if you work full time and have 15 credits, you will still find the time necessary to be a member of a club. With the experience that I have with clubs, I have seen that even 1 hour a week is sometimes enough. The clubs on campus do not want to bog you down and take all your time. All that is wanted is a little of your free time. And everyone has free time. I don't know a single person, and I never have, who has not had an hour or two free every week of the year.

Another thing that students don't have a right to complain about is the lack of clubs. There are over 20 clubs on this campus that cater to any interest you might express. Whether you are interested in skiing, DJ'ing on the air, or want to become a member of an honorary fraternity, the chances are being provided to you. Outside of the fact that you will learn and gain the experience of being in a specific club, chances are that you will also make friends who have some similar interests that you possess. And if all this does not please you, and if you think you already know enough people at this school, then consider how it will look on your resume. Companies always look to see if you participated in any extracurricular activities.

Going on my own experiences I have attained at this campus, I strongly believe that joining at least one club should be made mandatory by this school's administration. Now, don't get me wrong. I am not trying to lecture you or attack you if you are not in a club.

My only reason for believing in this is that I personally know how beneficial being in a club is. I feel that what I have learned from being in the clubs that I am in is very important. Those who have not been in a club have a tough time understanding it, but believe me. These clubs are one of the few things that we students own and run on this campus. Help out and keep it going, or we can lose it all. It could be one of the best experiences you leave this school with.

## Searching...

for adopted male born in 2/71. You may be my brother! Contact my search group at:  
Searching  
P.O. Box 7446  
Harrisburg, PA 17113-0446  
or call (717) 939-0138.

## The Cry of a Fan

Jeff Wittmaier  
Guest Columnist

Well, baseball is back, but with a huge cloud hanging over it. The players got their injunction and the owners decided not to lock out the players. So the season is set to start on April 26 with each team playing 144 games. But who is to say that the players won't strike again or that the owners won't lock them out later on. This thing still needs to be settled at the bargaining table and until that happens, I find it hard to put all of my heart into a season that may not be finished again.

Onto better things in baseball: the Hall of Fame Committee voted to induct Mike Schmidt, the greatest third baseman ever (forget about Brooks Robinson) into the Hall in his first year of eligibility. Schmidt is probably the best player to ever put on a Phillies uniform. Schmidt played his entire career with the Phillies from 1973-1989. He finished his career with 548 home runs, won 10 gold gloves and led the National League in home runs eight times. Schmidt was named the Most Valuable Player of the National League three times, 1980, 1981 and 1986. He also led the Phillies to their only World Championship in 1980. Also, the veterans' committee finally came to its senses and voted in Richie Ashburn are going into the Hall in the same year, since they represent the two most recognizable Phillie players over the last half century. Ashburn was a great center fielder for the Phillies from 1948-1959. For Ashburn, the honor is long overdue. He batted .308 for his career, collected two batting titles and was one of the best center fielders of his time.

Congratulations to UCLA and Coach Jim Harrick, who can finally get the monkey and the ghost of John Wooden off his back as UCLA captured the 1995 NCAA Men's Basketball National Championship. UCLA's win came in a classic championship game. They lost their point guard and spark plug in Tyus Edney for the virtually the entire game, but they still found a way to beat Arkansas, thanks largely to Ed O'Bannon, the tournaments most outstanding player, scored 30 points and grabbed 17 rebounds, and Freshman sensation Toby Bailey with 26 points.

In regards to my predictions in the last paper on the NCAA basketball tournament, I did not pick a winner, simply because I did not want to look like an idiot if I picked one and they lost in the first round. I will now reveal who I picked to win it all since everybody by now already knows UCLA won it all. I went with Kentucky to beat Maryland in the Championship game. I came close, but no cigar. You may ask: Why Maryland? Simple, that is where I went to school for my first two years, so I guess a little bit of bias did come into play there. I was also somewhat biased in picking Joe Smith of Maryland to win Player of the Year honors, but hey I was right. Super Joe Soph Smith became only the fifth Sophomore ever to win the Ban/Naismith College Player of the year award, so I guess a little bias pays off every once in a while.

How could I mention basketball without mentioning the return to basketball of "his Ainess" Michael Jordan. Jordan finally came to his senses and returned to the game that he loves. The NBA is much better off now with Jordan back in the league as its feature player, rather than absorbing itself in Shaquille O'Neal who is more absorbed in himself than with the game. Jordan blasted back onto the scene scoring 55 points in his fifth game back, the highest single game point total for a player this season. The 55 points came against the New York Knicks at Madison

### Student Court Decision

The Court having heard testimony on April 18, 1995 declare the Student Government Elections null and void. Ballots will not be counted and will be destroyed. A new election is to be held on April 24 and April 25, 1995. Said election is not to occur until a meeting with the Election Screening Committee and all candidates for office is held. The purpose of this meeting is to educate and clarify the electoral process and procedures for the Election Screening Committee and the candidates. Said meeting is to be scheduled forthwith by the President of the Student Government Association and the Election Screening Committee.

**Reasoning: Electioneer - to canvas votes for, or otherwise work for the success of a candidate or political party in an election.**

Electioneering is in violation of the Student Government Bylaws. Procedures were not observed by the election committee as well as the candidates. Testimony indicated that misunderstanding about the electoral process existed prior to the election, during the election, and after the election by the Election Screening Committee and the candidates. The Election Screening Committee and the Candidates did not:

**Conduct the electoral process as outlined in the bylaws. In specific: No candidate shall have the right to electioneer within a 20-foot radius of the poll. This includes campaign posters.**

## Dear Nittany...

Dear Nittany,

I have this problem. I have too much work to do and not enough time to do it. How can I get everything done and still have a life?

—Study 24 Hours a Day

Dear Study 24 Hours a Day,

Join the club, unfortunately it's that busy time of the year. If you feel overwhelmed with work, you may try budgeting your time. Set realistic goals for getting your school work done and also find time to relax and kick back with your friends. Without a healthy balance of both, your work won't be satisfactory and you won't be happy.

Dear Nittany,

I think my roommate is homosexual, I sometimes see him walking around with his best Sunday dress on, and a wicker hat with the tag still attached like Minnie Pearl. I've lived with him for two semesters now and it really doesn't bother me that much anymore, but I think it's starting to rub off on me. I find nothing wrong with painting my toenails and dying my hair pink. What should I do?

--Buffalo Bill

Dear Buffalo Bill,

If it feels good and doesn't clash with your pumps-I say go for it!!!!

"Dear Nittany" is a new regular column in the *Capital Times*. You can write to "Dear Nittany", by leaving a letter in the mailbox, located in the Student Activities Office, or in our office, located at W-341 Olmsted, Peace.

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