

GUEST EDITORIAL

BY REVERLY A. CIGLER, PHD

The 1990s may be remembered as Penn State Harrisburg's "RE-ING DECADE." The College is redesigning, reframing, rebuilding, reforming, reshaping, reworking, reengineering, reorganizing, reconstructing, reconstituting, and reinventing its units and processes for delivering high-quality education and training.

Planning and implementing comprehensive, long-term change mean converting redesigned visions into new realities. It requires strategically rethinking and redoing policy-making, administration, and service delivery systems, and relations across units—both inside and outside the College. Values-based, mission-driven responses occur through entrepreneurial, creative, and flexible responses amidst a seachange of economic, social, technological, demographic, ideological, and political forces.

Attention must be redirected toward reinvesting in human capital to insure benefits for the College's stakeholders. Responding to customers refocuses decision-makers on results oriented

goals by rejuvenating accountability and rejecting bean-counts of false successes. Facilitating partnerships reemphasizes collaborative relationships.

The "RE-ING DECADE" holds promise for reversing trends toward apathy and revolts, and negative reaction and rejection of even good ideas and positive change.

Restructuring lends hope that the College can be retaken, reclaimed, revalued, and respected by its most apathetic.

A rekindled spirit and institutional renewal and resurgence depends, in part, on how reinventors and reinventions are reintroduced.

Other "RE Words" must guide the experiment. Remember to:

—Revisit, restudy, reexamine, reevaluate, and rethink what has and has not worked before.

—Reconsider and redefine who does what, when, where, why, and how.

—Reuse, recycle, retain, recover, restore, recreate, and reinvest—in good ideas, people, programs, and past successes.

—Reduce, repeal, relinquish, retract, and release what has failed.

—Reveal facts.

—Relearn and retool as requisites for reenergizing, reinvigorating, recharging, reframing, and renewing the modes of College governance.

—Reawaken to a recommitment and rededication to tolerance and cooperation.

—Reacquaint and reconnect students, faculty, and administrative leadership through reopened lines of communication.

—Renegotiate our contracts with each other at a time when "wants" are often redefined to be "needs" and "needs" redefined to be "rights."

All stakeholders must reinterpret, redefine, and reeducate themselves about the balance between their rights and obligations or responsibilities to the entire College community. Without that, there will be no reemergence of community, revival of responsible institutional citizenship, or a reinvented Penn State Harrisburg. The last half of the 1990s will simply be a rerun of the past.

Beverly A. Cigler
Professor of Public Policy and Administration

Student Government Association Senator offers his insight and clarification of funding decisions.

Dear Co-Editors:

As an SGA member and a former staff member of *The Capital Times*, I feel that a few things need to be clarified regarding the scandalization of the funding decisions made by the SGA.

First of all, the underlying issue is that our entire campus is clearly not adequately funded. Secondly, the campus media gets the largest cut of the funding allotted. Finally, the decision of SGA to allot the additional \$800 was more heavily criticized by students than any other SGA decision in my memory. The overwhelming student consensus favored saving that money.

The content issued discussed at SGA meetings were primarily concerned with the repetitive public humiliation students felt they were the victims of in articles in *The Capital Times*.

According to media law, the SGA may not have a right to investigate the source of their disgust, but it certainly has a

responsibility as the government of the student body.

Although I support the responsible journalistic endeavors of *The Capital Times*, the recent publicity targeting my statements in this debate have been taken out of context. My argument is that the student newspaper must diversify to better serve the student community, more effectively cover campus events, and provide a forum for all students (including those who have been ridiculed in recent editorials). My original stand included no implication that funding should be discontinued. In fact, it should be noted that my deliberate abstention was the pivotal vote that allowed the additional \$800 allotment to *The Capital Times*.

The conclusion of my argument encouraged SGA members and disgruntled visitors who criticized *The Capital Times* to join the staff and make their voices a part of the campus media. The fact that a combination of

commendations, as well as criticisms, of *The Capital Times* were also included in my statements was also omitted. Consider this: objectivity and unbiased coverage is dependent on what is not reported, as well as what is reported.

I wish you would consider a less aggressive approach in dealing with your critics and attempt to accommodate the individuals who could be great assets to the future of *The Capital Times*. I understand that all citizens have 1st amendment rights. However, considering the pivotal nature of this issue, I think it is time to deal with each other with civility and respect. Although I understand your right to do so, I do not expect to see or hear of any further degradation of university students in future editions of *The Capital Times*. Thank you for cooperating in the spirit of reconciliation.

Matt Fisher
Former SGA Senator At Large

Student voices concern over petition to shut down *The Capital Times*

Dear Co-Editors:

Recently I was asked to sign a petition that requested Student Court to suspend the operations and assets of *The Capital Times* because of alleged violations of their constitution. This petition alleged that *The Capital Times* was violating the subsections of the constitution concerning the editor-in-chief. The petition alleged that the editor-in-chief failed to oversee the business and advertising of the paper, disregarded rules that undermined the students, and failed to interact productively with the administration.

This petition was supposed to be signed by the president of all the clubs and organizations on campus. Because I am a president of an organization on campus, I was given the petition. I was appalled to see the some presidents actually signed the petition. It was evident to me that the students who were distributing the petition were unhappy about the recent money allocations and remarks that had been made about them in several editions of *The Capital Times*. They were relying on other clubs' and organizations' dissatisfaction with the money allocations to get them to sign the petition.

I would not sign the petition on several grounds. First, *The Capital Times* is currently being run by co-editors and not an editor-in-chief. The petition states the editor-in-chief is in violation of the constitution. The fact that there is no editor-in-chief, in my opinion, makes the petition invalid. Also, the petition did not specifically state

the actions of the editors that were allegedly in violation of their constitution. How can one sign a petition that requests that our only college newspaper be shut down with such vague allegations?

I am sure that the production of a school newspaper is very difficult, especially when the paper is severely understaffed. Presidents of clubs are not qualified to make decisions about how to run a college newspaper.

Those who signed this bogus petition, should spend less time passing around a vague and unfounded petition, and place those efforts into making submissions to the paper or assisting in other more productive ways.

As for the presidents who signed the petition, you should all be ashamed of yourselves! You all signed a petition representing your organization and the members of your organization. Being a president of an organization is not a job to be taken lightly. When you sign a petition representing your club or organization, you should be sure all your members also believe in that petition. If they don't, then you are not representing the members of your club or organization, and you are doing a disservice to your position.

The reasons behind the petition will probably never be known. However, I believe that one reason for the petition is because *The Capital Times*, received more money than other clubs and organizations. No club or organization got the money they request-

ed. If the paper got more money, so be it. The decision was made, and we, the presidents, must live with that decision. We must make do with the money allocated, or try to get money elsewhere.

Another possible reason for the petition is an attempt at retaliation for remarks made about certain students in the editorial section of previous editions of *The Capital Times*. If they feel that these remarks are unfounded, then they too can write to the co-editors and dispute them. Rather than being unscrupulous and trying to shut down the media, they should use the media to speak their mind and not try to stop its production.

Whatever the reasons, the possibility of a few misinformed students trying to shut down our college's most important literary source is preposterous. Those who produce the paper should be applauded. It may not be the best newspaper, but it is the only one we have. They make do with the resources they have and produce a quality newspaper.

I am writing this editorial as a student, and none of the opinions stated are necessarily those of my organization. I am sure that those who distributed the petition have submitted it to the Student Court. I urge the Court to thoroughly investigate the charges in the petition and dismiss these unfounded allegations. I hope that the members of the Court will be more responsible than those who signed this unfounded petition.

Sincerely,
A concerned student,
(Name withheld by request)

Management/Marketing student speaks out - the presence of the student newspaper and literary journal should be carved in stone - it's that simple.

Dear Co-Editors:

LET'S BURN ALL OF THE LITERATURE AND HANG THOSE THAT CONTRIBUTED TO IT. Is this the message that the SGA is trying to convey? As students in the American university system we should be trying to cultivate the artfulness that comes from writing, painting, etc. instead of trying to suppress it.

The Capital Times and *The Tarnhelm* are essential entities that should not even be the subject of debate; their presence should be carved in stone. The allocation of money to various clubs should be a supplement - not a support program. The truth comes to light especially when the downfall of literature and student expression is at stake.

There seems to be a

strong misconception that only the Humanities students contribute to the literature on this campus. This is an extreme falsehood with no real backing to support it. I am a double major in Management and Marketing. I have submitted articles to *Rolling Stone* and *Heartland* just to see my work in print. Do not think for a split second that the only contributors to the literary works on this campus are only Humanities or Journalism majors. They are not.

Writing is a form of expression that cultivates the mind and gives an education. Many think an education is simply a degree imprinted with their name and that of the university. It is not. An education is an open-

ing of the mind to see things in different ways. It enables an individual to seek out new ways of doing things and opens the mind to all possibilities. An education can only be accomplished through reading, writing, and thought. Do not confine reading and writing to only that which concerns a major. As American students we cannot let any organization attempt to suppress our natural and constitutional rights to basic freedom. Our Federal Government is attempting enough of that already.

Always remember: be curious, take a stand for what is right, and expand your horizons. You will have a better chance of seeing the light.
Robert A. Ford
Marketing/Management

Do you have an opinion or a comment?

We want to hear it! Write a letter to the co-editors and drop it in our mailbox on our office door (W-341) or in our mail box in the Student Activities Office (Rm. 216). Be sure to include your name, major & phone #.