

Returning Adults Series

"Adult learner" encourages others to get busy

Debbi Mallek
Staff Reporter

Our series on "returning students" continues. This perspective was submitted to the Capital Times by Rosemary Flamini.

I am a member of the older population who return to college - those designated by this University as "adult learners." To be truthful, even though I am surrounded by classmates two generations younger than myself, I never feel older.

How did I get to Penn State Harrisburg? During the ten years I worked at the Hershey Medical Center, I had a goal to obtain an Associate's degree.

I earned one, with the bonus of graduating with my daughter and daughter-in-law on the same day, although their degrees were BAs in Communications and Education respectively. Then I retired from my job at the Hershey Medical Center.

After much persuasion from my family - all "Penn Staters" - I decided to pursue my BA. So here I am at Penn State Harrisburg, learning new material and making new, much younger friends. But our age span does not seem to matter to them, nor does it matter to me.

Believe me, I was apprehensive before I arrived, but that anxiety disappeared in less than a week. Everyone I have met: students, faculty and administrative staff, helped me fit in with ease, all kindly ignoring my orthopedic sneakers, lens implants (from cataracts), and loss of breath when climbing the stairs to third floor classes.

To others of my age group who may read this, I can only say: "get busy, enroll, enjoy!" The benefits? You'll still get older, but you'll get smarter.

We welcome your comments and additions to this series. If you're interested in participating in this series on returning students, please contact Debbi Mallek at the Capital Times Office (717) 948-6440. We look forward to sharing your stories.

One hater in a sea of good people

Student addresses racial vandalism on campus

Throughout the time since the first African set foot on the American continent, a concerted effort has been made to control and subjugate them. As time has progressed, we have seen a gradual diminution of the number and boldness of white supremacist acts. This progress is an unequivocal endorsement of the efforts of all the good people whom African-Americans have met along the way. Many have had no reason to help, other than their love of humanity and their love of God. Many wonderful Americans have used the powers of love and positive education to check the forces of hatred.

Recently, an act of racist vandalism on campus has turned more than a few heads. After the initial shock, we should carefully consider this incident as what it really is: a parameter for judging the progress which has been made over the years. As I said before, the boldness of racist acts has decreased. We moved from the whip to the police dog to 1996, when a racist's only recourse is to proclaim his superiority on the wall in the john. Whoever the poor soul is, he knows that his brand of iniquity will meet no approval in a place populated by good people.

Even the fact that an act was committed by a racist individual instead of a racist group bodes well for the campus. There is no organized support group for haters. A boatload of haters cannot stay afloat in a sea of decency.

We African-Americans have been insulted before. We will neither accept it, nor be bogged down by it. The fact is that others have tried for centuries to hate us into oblivion, deluding themselves into believing that if they could just hate us efficiently and effectively that we would disappear. Dr. Naim Akbar points out that "[We] have proven that we are more powerful than the forces which have sought for so long to destroy us. After they have done their absolute best, we are still here." Having routed the standing armies of white supremacy, what is an appropriate response to an isolated display of hatred on campus?

The good people of the campus should be cautioned not to look for a scapegoat in this instance. We have seen first-hand that hate is not a successful tactic. Hating the hater is tantamount to adopting the failed strategy of our defeated foe. That would be foolish, because we know for certain where that leads: straight to the john.

Mark L. Walston
Senior-Public Policy
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the shooting does not affect PSH "just because it happened on a Penn State campus."

"Of course my heart goes out to all of the families that are involved," Bankos said. "But, I don't feel unsafe at this campus. If it would have happened at Elizabethtown College or another local university, then I think it would have affected my feelings of security more."

American studies major, Rosemary Flamini said that despite the distance between the Harrisburg and University Park campuses, her membership and past history with this university connect her to the tragic event.

"I was devastated. That is a lawn that I've walked on, and I'm not certain that I can walk on that lawn again without remembering what happened there," she said.

"The shooting injured all of us. It really did," Flamini added.

Cindy Knaub, public policy and criminal justice major at PSH said, "I don't know how the rest of the student body feels, but you can't

not care."

Knaub said that she would like to see programs started and pamphlets distributed at all Penn State campuses that educate students about preventative measures and deterrents for violence.

She also said that there should have been better communication at PSH to inform students about the shooting at University Park.

"I think PSH should have addressed the shooting in the 'This Week,' and they should have listed a contact, like the student assistance center, if students had questions they needed answered or if they needed counseling."

Chief Supenski said that he has started crime prevention and awareness programs on campus. On Oct. 7, a program was conducted by Police and Safety Services to educate resident students about personal protection.

"It's easier to prevent someone from being a victim, but that involves individuals taking responsibility for their own security," he said.

Supenski said that students should remember that the campus has an escort service and bike patrol which

can be used to escort students to their cars or dorms.

Gordon Moon, president of Chi Gamma Iota (XGI) said that the PSH campus administration should have been more open with information regarding the shooting.

"We're an educational institution. We should be able to discuss this event. We have forums on everything else on campus, why not this?" Moon said.

"Keeping things hushed up won't change a situation. If the students are concerned, then the issues should be addressed," he said.

Julie Osborne said that as an alumna she was surprised that the shooting happened at Main Campus because University Park is a low crime area.

Osborne is a 1992 speech communications graduate from Penn State Main Campus. She is now locally employed as a marketing coordinator at the Thousand Trails Hershey Preserve in Lebanon, Pa. She maintains her connection to the university as a member of the Berks chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association.

"It's a shame. College

is a time when you can enjoy your freedom as a young person. I hope that the students can overcome this event and enjoy their education."

Chief Supenski said that it is up to the students as to how this tragedy will affect their lives.

"You can allow yourself to be paralyzed by such an incident, or you can make yourself more aware," he said.

Provost Bruhn said that an event like the shooting at the State College campus make us "especially sensitive to human frailties."

"We are all saddened by the loss of a young life and must now look forward to a period of healing and forgiveness as we seek to rebuild together the sense of sanctuary that is a necessary part of our community," he said.

A scholarship has been established to honor the memory of Melanie Spalla. It will be awarded to an undergraduate student at the University Park campus.

Contributions may be sent to the Office of University Development, 116 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802.

CAREER SERVICES INFORMATION MEETINGS

Seniors interested in participating in the on-campus recruiting programs at PSH and University Park must attend one of the Career Services Information Meetings that will be held in the Olmsted Auditorium. Meetings are scheduled for:

Monday	October 7, 1996	5:15 pm - 7:00 pm
Tuesday	October 8, 1996	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Wednesday	October 9, 1996	8:00 am - 9:30 am
Wednesday	October 9, 1996	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Thursday	October 10, 1996	9:00 am - 10:30 am
Thursday	October 10, 1996	2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

The new "TeSS" system and procedures will be reviewed and the on-campus recruiting process discussed.

ATTENTION: ALL JUNIORS, SENIORS, GRADUATE STUDENTS

TeSS -- IT'S HERE!!!

Career Services has completed the installation of its new computerized registration/job hotline system. All students interested in accessing the employment opportunities whether part time, full time or co-op/internships are required to register in the new system. To learn more about TeSS, individuals should attend one of the Career Services information meetings or visit Career Services in W-117. Once registered, individuals will be able to dial in and:

- hear voice recorded job listings (full time and part time) that match their particular career interests
- learn about co-op and internship opportunities
- listen to "NEWS" about pending workshops, seminars, and career fairs
- schedule interview appointments with visiting employers
- verify future interview schedules

ALL 24 HOURS A DAY -- AT THEIR CONVENIENCE!

In addition, resumes of students and alumni can be searched by the system and those resumes faxed (by the computer) directly to the employers who have contacted Penn State Harrisburg regarding their Human Resource needs.

TeSS -- YOUR LINK TO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES!

Race fans are close to the action at Silver Spring Speedway in Mechanicsburg

Kelley Thomas
Staff Reporter

It is a place where hundreds of fans gather in the stands as they cheer and shout for their favorite driver - and though it is not NASCAR, it is still a thrill to watch the local weekly race live, rather than staying at home and watching Daytona on your television.

Every Saturday evening in Mechanicsburg, fans line up to purchase their tickets at Silver Spring Speedway to see in the end which race car driver will have their picture taken at victory lane.

When you walk through the gates, you are greeted by the smell of french fries and pizza that linger from the food stands into the air. Fans crowd around vendors looking to buy Official Racing Programs, pictures of their favorite race

cars and souvenirs.

Trailers loaded with sportsman race cars drive into the pits and unload their cars quickly so the pit crew members can look over the race cars. One pit crew may change a tire while another pit crew may put gas into the gas tank.

Late models and street stocks are two other types of race cars that race at the Springs. They pit behind the racetrack.

All of the colorful cars are numbered and are covered with local sponsors. Some even have national sponsors such as Saturn, Pepsi and Old Milwaukee.

Family, friends and fans stand on top of the trailers in the pits so they can have a clear view of the quarter mile dirt track about to be raced upon.

After all eyes looking up at the American flag move down to the race cars, you

know that the races are about to begin.

Drivers wearing their fireproof racing suits put their helmets on and buckle themselves into the race cars.

The engines are started, leaving a roaring echo in your ears. The drivers circle the track slowly and form the starting line up for the first heat.

The white pace car, who leads the pack, puts on its left turn signal and exits the track. Just a straight of way to go, the yellow light flashes to green and the drivers put the gas pedal to the floor.

The ground rumbles and the dust flies. The billboards surrounding the track become a blur when you have your eyes focused on a 90-mph race car.

There are really fast cars, excellent drivers, slow cars and crazy drivers. Anyone can pick them out

After the checkered flag is waved on the tenth lap, four more heats follow. The top four cars from each heat make it to the final race - the feature. The remaining cars from the heats race in a consolation race. Out of the two consolations, the three top cars from each make it to the feature also. This puts a total of 26 cars in the feature event.

"All right ladies and gentlemen," the announcer from the press box exclaims. "What time is it?" The fans clap, whistle and reply, "It's feature time!"

The water truck finishes making its rounds watering the dry dirt track while pit crew members push the race cars out onto the track so the drivers can start their engines and begin the feature.

The 26 race cars drive from a double line up. After the green **See Race pg. 6**