

## Letters to the Editor

# Students voice concerns over poor campus communication and student apathy

Dear Editor,

Numerous students have failed to receive University information regarding their education at Penn State Harrisburg (PSH). Why do such important details fail to reach their eyes? Because they never get their mail!

During my first semester at PSH, I haven't received information imperative to my enrollment status, changes in my major and registration requirements. I've verified my address with the University and they have it correct, so where is all my mail? Who knows, but this mishap could've easily been prevented if Penn State Harrisburg provided their students with mailboxes.

Surrounding Penn State campuses equip their students with mailboxes, so why are we left empty-handed? Do we not deserve to receive information imperative to our education?

After transferring from Penn State York (where they cared enough to provide us with mailboxes), I find it almost impossible keeping up with University requirements because mail fails to reach my house. I'm not blaming anyone or anything in particular, but this must stop and can be stopped if each and every student had a mailbox.

Presently, the only way students can communicate with each other is to call at home (long distance for some), or hope to catch them in the hallways. Although E-mail make communication between students, faculty and staff helpful, it isn't always convenient or practical for someone to sit at a computer terminal to type a message.

Student mailboxes aren't a luxury, they're a necessity. PSH students must be aware of University procedures and be

able to contact other students.

By each student having a personal mailbox, the University would save money on postal fees and phone calls. For the students, mailboxes would provide a means of efficient and effective communication and the security of receiving important information regarding their education: enrollment and financial aid, notices regarding their major's department and related organizations, be notified more quickly about interlibrary loan requests, and to receive final exams and projects.

Most of the other Penn State campuses provide their students with mailboxes, why should PSH be an exception?

Melissa A. Jago  
humanities major

Dear Editor,

In Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, apathy is defined as a lack of interest or concern. It gives a synonym of indifference.

This is what I see at Penn State - Harrisburg.

What I do not understand is why their is such a low turn out for events, clubs and activities?

I have sixteen credits and work full time. But in order to get something from college you have to give something.

I am not majoring in journalism but I do my best to write a story or cover a movie for the campus newspaper.

This is the time to try new things and find out what you are interested in!

Get involved! I was scared the first time I wrote a story.

What are you going to put on your resume? When the person interviewing you for your first REAL job asks about activities, what are you going to tell her? I did not participate because I partied my way thru college. NOT!

Students say they feel lost and lonely. They have no friends or any one to talk to. How are you going to meet people if you are not involved? You have to reach out.

The person in your class who is always borrowing your notes might be available for a movie, or even just to catch a bite to eat.

For those of you who are wondering, the people who come

here are for your enjoyment and/or educational pursuits. I went and saw Fourth Avenue who was sponsored by SGA. Fourth Avenue was great but there was hardly any students.

There was more staff and senior citizens than students. I know from doing my schedule that not a lot of classes are offered on Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Where were you at?

Is not there an hour or two that you could spare to help yourself, your college and community? Or is Melrose and 90210 that important?

What are you going to get in the real world from watching TV?

Nicole Lynn Meck  
Psychology major

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SURVEY NOVEMBER, 1996

Next semester there will be a campus-wide Leadership Conference consisting of several mini-workshops on Saturday, February 1, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Leadership Workshop Planning Committee would like your input in deciding the workshop content. We would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to answer the following questions.

1. Which of the following mini-workshops would you be interested in attending? Please rate your interest in the following topics on a scale of 1 - 5 with 1 being the **STRONGEST** interest, 5 the **LEAST** interest.

- Turning a Good Idea into a Great Event
- Conflict Resolution
- Passing the Gavel (club transition)
- Communications Skills
  - Verbal Skills
  - Written Skills
  - Computer/Technological Skills
- Organizational Skills
- Time Management
- Diversity and Leadership --Leading in Multicultural Workplace
- Stress Management
- How To Run A Meeting
- Utilizing Campus Resources

2. Which topics would you like to have included that have not been listed above?

3. Would you attend this mini leadership workshop conference?  
(1 Highly likely to attend - 5 no interest in attending)

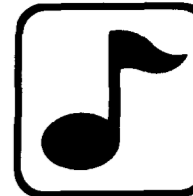
1 2 3 4 5

Please return the surveys to room 212 or any member of the Leadership Conference Committee by Tuesday, December 3.

Thank you for your help.

Leadership Conference Committee:  
Brian Dudley, Psychology Club  
Paul Feenstra, Student Government Association  
John Stone, American Society Mechanical Engineers  
Vicki Young, Sigma Iota Epsilon  
Dr. Stephanie Field, Advisor Pi Gamma Mu  
Tom Steck, Advisor Chi Gamma Iota (XGI's)  
Janet Widoff, Advisor Student Government Association

# Soundtrack builds anticipation for "Evita"



Christopher R. Stotz  
Staff Reporter

The soundtrack for the Andrew Lloyd Webber film "Evita," directed by Alan Parker, boasts a new and much stronger sounding Madonna.

For fifteen years we've become very familiar with Madonna but never really took her seriously as a singer, but more as a publicity machine.

Once again, she has reached into her little bag of tricks and with the help of vocal coach Joan Lader in New York, is shining in the role of Eva Peron in this epic musical.

This two-CD soundtrack is evident of her hard work and determination to play the role Madonna feels she was born to

play.

From the famous "Don't Cry for Me Argentina," to the fast paced "Buenos Aires," Madonna's voice remains in pitch and solid.

Even the new and sentimental track "You Must Love Me," is done beautifully.

The film, which is over two hours in length, is all singing. There are no spoken words.

This soundtrack features the songs from this film and also includes some of the dialogue.

Even Antonio Bandaras, who plays Che, does a fair job of singing in this film. His stronger song is "Oh What a Circus," but isn't bad in the others.

Johnathan Pryce, who stars as Juan Peron, does a fantastic job with his vocals on the soundtrack and adds a dramatic

flare to the song "She's a Diamond," as well as the other tracks he sings.

The music, written by Andrew Lloyd Webber, was recorded in London in 1995 before filming began in Argentina and Budapest in early 1996.

The soundtrack, released on Warner Brothers Records, can be purchased at any music store for around \$26.

The film *Evita* is to be released in New York and Los Angeles on Christmas Day, and nationwide on Jan. 10.

This soundtrack only helps to create mass anticipation for this long awaited film.

If all goes as planned, this new Madonna should have Hollywood singing again.



# Sweet Passions coffee shop has "chutzpah"

Christopher R. Stotz  
Staff Reporter

Coffee shops seem to be the place to do socializing in the mid 1990's. They offer a trendy atmosphere where people can have friendly gatherings or business meetings. Sweet Passions on 1006 3rd St. in downtown Harrisburg provides the capital city with a fabulous place to sip coffee and taste the sweeter things in life.

As far as selection is concerned, Sweet Passions has got a good amount of drinks to choose from like any coffee shop, they've got flavored coffees, mochas,

expressos, and everything in between at a fair price. They also offer a wide selection of delectable treats including their famous sour cream poppy seed muffins. If food is what you're after, their scrumptious chicken salad is highly recommended.

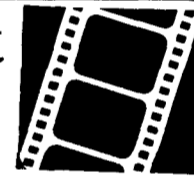
Food isn't all that goes into creating a successful coffee shop. Atmosphere is also important key.

Sweet Passions employee Jackie Moyer says, "Our atmosphere is fabulous. We've got a cute courtyard in the back. It's not so much trendy as it is relaxing. It's got chutzpah... or pizzaz. I'd come here if I didn't work

here." The walls are sky blue with puffy white clouds painted across them to give a relaxing illusion. And, there is also a skyline of Harrisburg painted on the wall.

The food and the atmosphere along with interesting entertainment such as tarrot card readings on Tuesday and Thursday evenings add spice to any moment in center city Harrisburg. Next time you need to "cawfee tawlk" with friends or are looking for a place to hold a professional meeting, consider Sweet Passions. It's worth the trip.

# Characters and audience both get what they deserve in "Ransom"



Nicole Lynn Meck  
Staff Reporter

"Do you know anyone who wouldn't turn you in for two million dollars?"

Think about that for a minute. I can not think of any one and that includes my parents. And the same is probably true for you.

The basic plot outline for "Ransom" is that a multi-millionaire's son is kidnapped for ransom. The plot twists and turns. It is a definite fun roller coaster ride.

Mel Gibson and Rene Russo play the parents of the kidnapped little boy. There does not seem to be much physical attraction between them but that has never stopped a movie yet.

In fact, you get the impression the husband never tells his wife anything. But the ongoing plot keeps the

movie going.

A dirty cop played by Gary Senise is the key character behind the kidnapping. His love interest played by Lili Taylor does a fantastic job being a confused and frustrated gang member.

Senise tells Taylor, "You are not afraid of the kid, you are afraid of your own humanity."

Even though Gibson was told not to involve anyone, he brings in the FBI. This is one movie where the FBI actually gets a good rap.

Delroy Lindo plays the chief agent for the FBI who is in charge of the investigation. Lindo will do everything in his power to get Gibson to play by his rules.

As the movie goes on, you see where Gibson has lied to his family, authorities and himself.

When paying the ransom

goes a wry, Gibson changes the ransom into a bounty to turn in the people who kidnapped his son.

Everytime you think the movie is ending, it continues on. It keeps going and going and .....

The film is directed by Ron Howard. It is hard to imagine little Richard Cunningham or Opie Taylor directing an action packed movie like this. Howard does a fine job balancing the scenes between the kidnappers and the parents.

"Ransom" is one of the few movies where patrons get their money worth.

In life, events do not always turn out how they are planned or people don't get what they deserve but in "Ransom" they do.

It is well worth the money to see it in the theatre and this will be one of the few I buy.

## From Audit pg. 3

were corrected before they were mailed to students, he said.

Strevler maintains that every effort is being made to ensure the accuracy of the audits prior to their publication. In fact, he reports, the audits for science, engineering and technology were not mailed at all as a result of inaccuracies which "would have caused more confusion than good."

In response to an increasing number of complaints from the campus community, Strevler said that after Thanksgiving, he will have University Park run audits for all enrolled students. Enrollment services will then go through the audits with staff members to spot mistakes and make modifications so that the January audits will be accurate.

Another problem seems to be that staff assistants and faculty advisors feel that the training provided to them on the degree audit software was inadequate. This is a particular problem in that students invariably

seek their assistance to correct their audits.

"I have not been trained on it," said Gilpin. "The training was offered primarily to staff assistants."

Gilpin believes the faculty needs to know how to utilize the computer system so they may access the audit for themselves.

While Strevler insists that staff assistants have been trained on the modification process so that it can be accomplished within the department, Louise Smith, staff assistant of undergraduate programs in the school of business, contends that the computer does not always work the way it is supposed to. This is when, according to Smith, she tells students to just go by what their paper study plan indicates. In other words, "throw away the audit."

Enrollment services will be providing additional training in the near future which is intended to reinforce the ability of staff assistants to make local modifications to students' records, Strevler said.

Strevler stresses that

throwing away an inaccurate degree audit will not help the students. Any inaccuracies must be brought to the department's attention and corrected or future audits will continue to be wrong.

He also encourages students to ask for a print out of corrected audits so they may show them to concerned parents and/or employers.

"It's funny," Strevler said, "when the program first came out faculty advisors complained that they weren't seeing enough of the students. Now they're complaining because they're seeing too much of them."

The future of the degree audit program promises to be very interesting according to Strevler. By Nov 22, students at University Park will be able to access their audits via the Internet and students will be able to complete "what if" scenarios with their course structures.

This technology should be available at this campus in another year or so. Within three years, students will be able to

See Audit pg. 6