

To the Editor

Alumni and Special Events Office says that graduates will have a student processional in the May 1997 ceremony

Dear Editor,

In response to your "Student processional should remain a part of commencement" letter "From the desk of the Editor" in the January 23 issue of The Capital Times, please allow the college to share some relevant graduation ceremony information with your readers.

We wholeheartedly agree that the student processional is an important part of the stately display and splendor surrounding our commencement ceremonies.

Students will have the opportunity to process as a class to Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" on May 18.

On December 14, an unfortunate series of events preempted the student processional. As a result of facility-related factors beyond Penn State Harrisburg's control we were unable to safely accommodate and effectively organize hundreds of graduates in precise marching order. The large room we used in the past, and will continue to use in the future, was temporarily rendered unsafe by a major remodeling effort. The facility owners were most apologetic and generously offered alternative indoor space, but the space was too small for our needs. An outdoor assembly option was not con-

sidered due to winter weather conditions.

When Penn State Harrisburg leases a graduation ceremony facility, a complicated array of factors influence the contracting process. Facility availability, guest seating, accessibility issues, parking, procession assembly areas, lobby space, and other factors, combine to determine overall suitability. For example, consider the guest seating factor. While maintaining student concerns as a priority, past experiences have demonstrated that approximately seven seats are needed for each graduating student—one seat for the graduate and six for guests. Any time we have five or fewer guest seats per graduate, seats are rationed through a ticket system. This rationing system results in personal hardships for many students.

With 502 graduates eligible to participate in the December 14 ceremonies, approximately 3,500 total seats were needed to avoid rationing tickets. Only the Hershey Arena (7,200 seats) and the Farm Show Main Arena (7,600) can accommodate that many people during one ceremony. The other local choices are multiple ceremonies in our own Capital Union Gymnasium (1,200), The Forum (1,900), Hershey

Theatre (1,900), Zembo Temple (2,400), and Founders Hall (2,700).

Among the possible facility selections, the Hershey Theatre satisfied the most requirements and was subsequently contracted for our two December 14, 1996 and two May 18, 1997 ceremonies.

The contract process for the 1997-98 ceremonies will be revisited this semester, part of which will include a formal direct-mail opinion survey of the Summer/Fall 1997 and Spring 1998 graduating students. The results will be incorporated into the factors influencing our facility contracting process.

All students, faculty, staff and friends of the college are invited to share their commencement ceremony thoughts with the Alumni and Special Events office at their convenience. I can be reached directly by telephoning (717) 948-6272, faxing (717) 948-6470, emailing jum4@psu.edu or visiting W106 Olmsted.

Best wishes for a successful semester and congratulations on your upcoming graduation.

Sincerely,

James R. Malm, Coordinator
Alumni and Special Events

Student says Ebonics: language, yes; but not the answer for quality education in public schools

Ebonics? What's that? Ebonics is the term chosen to describe the language spoken by many African Americans in the United States.

The term first came into vogue last year when the Oakland, California school board attempted to recognize Ebonics as an "official language" in order to underscore the need to modify the teaching methods of standard English to children who speak Ebonics at home.

The announcement by the Oakland school board sparked national debate on several fronts.

Is Ebonics a valid language?

Is the use of Ebonics so widespread as to warrant

special instruction for students?

Is this language so different from standard English that it can be considered a "foreign" language?

More important than the question of whether or not Ebonics is a language is the fact that this is debated at all.

There are no legal or constitutional qualifications for the recognition of a language. Nor are there any guidelines to which a language must adhere.

In fact, language is defined in the dictionary as "a system of words . . . used by the people of a particular country or by a group of people with a shared history or set of traditions."

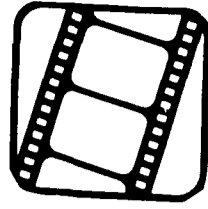
African Americans certainly fit the category of a people with a shared history.

However, simply by giving Ebonics a name, Oakland opened up the doors to a controversy surrounding its validity as a language.

Let's get back to the real issue - the quality of our educational system.

Oakland is on the right track. The debate over whether Ebonics is a language should be put to rest so that we can concentrate on what's really important: how to improve the education our children receive.

Deb Mallek
Humanities/Communications



Move
Reviews:

There's no crying for "Evita"

Christopher R. Stotz
Staff Reporter

"Evita," winner of three Golden Globe Awards, has proven to be the incredible epic film that Hollywood has been hyping up for the past year.

With just a few minor flaws, "Evita," along with its powerful music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and shining stars delivers an emotional and entertaining story about a girl who won Argentina over with her beautiful smile and great taste for Paris fashions.

The film itself is a gorgeous piece of work with the lighting and colors being very intense in nature. Director Alan Parker did a fantastic job bringing "Evita" to the silver screen from the Broadway stage where it began.

The funeral of Eva Peron at both the beginning and end of the film is incredible wit thousands of extras reenacting the historical event.

Parker's past films include "Mississippi Burning" which was nominated for seven Academy Awards including best director. "Evita" has been nominated for five Golden Globes this year including best director.

Other Alan Parker films include "Fame," "Pink Floyd - The Wall" and "The Commitments." None of these films have grabbed the world's attention like his latest effort, "Evita." It's not just Parker and his brilliant eye for directing that have brought "Evita" its well deserved success thus far. The stars also aid in its results.

Madonna's performance as Eva Peron is impressive and convincing. Her Golden Globe Award for

best actress is well deserved. Throughout the film, I wasn't all that surprised with Madonna's portrayal of Eva. Her singing is beautiful and her dancing is phenomenal. And yes, Madonna is glamorous and striking throughout the film. But, we already know that Madonna can do all of those things. That's why she has been so successful for so long.

It wasn't until Madonna's death scenes at the conclusion of the movie where she really let go and proved that she had the talents of acting within her soul. She was absolutely moving and fantastic. I never thought Madonna could be so believable in a film. It's uncanny! Hats off to her. Madonna worked hard for two years on this film and the results reflect her determination.

Antonio Banderas as Che does another incredible job. His singing isn't so bad and he was very emotional and passionate about what he was singing.

Though, Che, in the film version of "Evita" is the narrator and to many audience members that seemed a little unclear at first. Banderas is in just about every scene yet you never get tired of seeing him. He glows and makes you feel what is going on. Through the entire film Antonio Banderas is excellent and his nomination for a Golden Globe for best actor is also well deserved.

Johnathan Pryce as Juan Peron was, in my opinion, the most convincing and striking in the entire film. His facial expressions and eye movements were powerful



photo by David Appleby

Antonio Banderas (left) stars as Che, and Madonna (right) stars as Eva Peron in Hollywood Pictures/Cinergi Pictures "Evita." The film chronicles the brief, but dynamic life of a young Argentine woman (played by Madonna) who rises from humble beginnings to become one of the most powerful women in the world.

and his singing voice was absolutely beautiful. Pryce did a brilliant job and packed this musical with the emotion that Madonna and Antonio Banderas may have not had the capacity to contribute.

Pryce's singing is soft, yet commanding, which is perfect for the character of Juan Peron. It's a shame he was overlooked for a Golden Globe. Hopefully, the Academy Awards won't forget about him. The audience sure won't.

Helping to make this musical a success is the fact that the music was written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and the lyrics by Tim Rice. And, for "Evita," they reunited after decades of being apart to compose a new song for the film, "You Must Love Me," which was an instant hit sung by Madonna. The new song won a Golden Globe for best song in a motion picture.

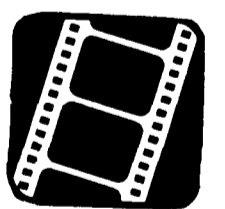
Overall, this movie is definitely worth the price of admission. "Evita" deserves the three Golden Globes it has received including best picture and the Academy Awards look promising. Audiences around the world seem to be ready for the first musical in nearly 20 years.

"Evita" is breaking box office records and is pleasing the toughest of critics. It is a serious musical that will make you laugh and cry and make you want to see it again and again.

Most importantly, "Evita" has Hollywood singing again.

MY GRADE FOR "EVITA" - A.

"Fierce Creatures" provides a comedic version of violent entertainment



Nicole Lynn Meck
Staff Reporter

Willa Weston played by Jamie Lee Curtis is a corporate executive who finally has found her dream job.

Or at least until she discovers Rod McCain has sold the division she was to begin working at.

Meanwhile back the Marwood Zoo, Rollo Lee played the hysterical John Cleese has instituted a "fierce creatures" policy.

The zoo will only have creatures which provide violent entertainment. No soft, cute and cuddly creatures for it.

The zoo keepers revolt. If Rollo will not keep the creatures, then he has to shoot them..... This gives a whole new meaning to multi-

ple sleeping partners. And now the fun begins.

Willa and Vince McCain (Kevin Kline) come to zoo to help run it. Nothing in McCain's Empire is allowed to show a profit margin of less than twenty percent.

Vince has his own ideas about making money at the Marwood zoo.

Curtis is an attractive actress who knows when and how to use what she has. This fact is very evident in Fierce Creatures.

Curtis has played a variety of characters thru the years but Fierce Creatures makes the most of her talents.

Cleese will have you laughing from the time you see him on the screen. He makes the character real. You

could just imagine the zoo manager shooting the animals.

Kline keeps the show on the road by doing the impossible. You begin to wonder if he watched one of your co-workers for inspiration for the role. He is forever trying to get one over.

The rest of the cast in Fierce Creatures is just as entertaining to watch.

Carey Lowell takes a break from the seriousness of Law and Order, to play Cub Felines.

She shows that it possible to be funny, cute and fierce at the same time.

Bugsy Malone (Michael Palin) gives a new meaning to doing what it takes to keep one's job.

See Fierce pg. 6

