

## To the Editor

### International Affairs Association recognizes contribution of Dr. Gilpin

Dear Editor,

International Affairs Association would like to thank Dr. Clem Gilpin for his devoted dedication, perseverance and energy to this organization.

This club would

never have continued to be the strongest club on campus if it was not for Dr. Gilpin.

Recognition for how much Dr. Gilpin contributes to IAA's continued success needs to be made.

As club president,

I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Gilpin and he is a man of dignity, respect and honor.

Thank you.

George Daka  
IAA President

### Alpha Sigma Lambda society honors adult students

Dear Editor,

In your Feb. 13 issue, the promo box above the Capital Times nameplate highlighted an inside feature on Alpha Sigma Lambda. When I turned to page 5, I found the article actually was about Sigma Gamma Rho, a black sorority.

Nevertheless, I want your readers to know there is an Alpha Sigma Lambda. It is the national honor society for adults in continuing higher education and Penn State Harrisburg has the Theta Iota chapter.

This honor society

has existed nationally for 50 years, and this spring we will have this campus's fifth annual induction. Eligible students are those who meet the society's membership requirements and are in the degree programs administered by Continuing Education - the associate degrees in business administration and letters, arts, and sciences, as well as the bachelor of science for registered nurses.

This year's induction will be held May 4 at 2 p.m. in the Gallery Lounge. I would like to invite the whole campus community to attend

this event, to show our support for these adults who balance work, home, and family life, and maintain an exemplary academic record as well.

For further information about the honor society, please call me at extension 6025 at the Student Assistance Center, W-117.

Sincerely,

Charlotte F. Spector  
Student Affairs Assistant  
and National Councilor for  
Alpha Sigma Lambda

### 1996 PSH graduate unaffected by changes to graduation ceremony

Dear Editor,

First of all, congratulations on your impending graduation this May! I hope you enjoy your ceremony as much as I did mine-which brings me to the reason I am corresponding to the Capital Times.

I really felt a need to respond to the article published in the January 23, 1997 issue which I recently received. This item addressed some concerns and criticisms of the December 14, 1996 graduation ceremony held at the Hershey Theater.

I believe some comments I made during an interview with the reporter were indeed used to bolster the argument that this ceremony was substandard.

I would like to perhaps "round out" said article by stating that I thoroughly enjoyed our graduation ceremony and did not really find it lacking in any significant area. Certainly, the jokester in me would have liked to *hurl my mortarboard into the air* at the end of the ceremony. However, my desire to throw away my cap was not the driving force behind my attendance at that ceremony.

For that matter, neither was the desire to participate in a processional. These are but two procedural

traditions which perhaps obscure the true meaning of graduation for me.

My greatest desire was to have my family present as I crossed the stage in front of my peers, mentors, friends and professors, all of whom applauded in acknowledgment of me-the newest graduate of Penn State Harrisburg. This desire was fulfilled.

I would also like to address your editorial wherein you stated that the processional was the "last chance" to display class unity. Maybe I am a cynic (or just a former night student) but how much "class unity" really exists at Penn State Harrisburg?

I did not know 90% of the people I graduated with-I literally only knew 4! Participating in a processional would not have changed how I felt about graduation or my fellow graduates. I was happy for myself and everyone else. We had *finally done it!*

Any sense of unity and camaraderie I felt during the ceremony was developed as we sat there in between speeches and announcements. We joked with each other and pondered the possibility of having to answer nature's call right before walking up the

stairs to the stage.

The PENN STATE FIGHT SONG could be heard down the rows as "someone" triggered a little football toy to chime out this melody ever so quietly. We all giggled. And we all howled during Dr. Barton's phenomenal speech-what an entertainer!

So this is just a long-winded way of saying that I enjoyed my graduation ceremony and would warn all future graduates not to let the absence of a couple of procedural events ruin the day for them.

I certainly did not need to hear a rendition of "Pomp and Circumstance" to realize what I had accomplished. Nor did I need to walk down the aisle with 200 strangers to feel close to them as they shared the moment.

At this level, I think that graduation is no longer about being part of a school or ceremonial traditions.

Indeed, it is about separating from those things and joining the world as an individual armed with self-confidence and renewed esteem. I am certain you will agree on May 18, 1997.

Sincerely,  
Joanne C. Ramirez  
Penn State Grad '96



Movie

Review:

### "Absolute Power" an absolute must

Nicole Lynn Meck  
Staff Reporter

When there are no movie roles for you-make your own. Clint Eastwood does! He stars in "Absolute Power" which happens to be directed and produced by him also.

Eastwood plays Luther Whitney, a professional thief who decides he does not like the view he sees through the looking glass. What he sees is the President's Secret Service men commit murder and then cover it up.

President Richmond (Gene Hackman) vows to catch the killer. Only one problem, he is involved in the murder of his mistress. Umm, what's a President to do when you kill the wife of your biggest supporter?

Judy Davis is Gloria Russell. A no nonsense chief of staff, she takes charge of the cover up. Her days and nights get worse as Whitney decides to toy with those involved.

Detective Seth Frank (Ed Harris) leads the investigation of the bungled burglary. Frank immediately suspects Whitney but he

knows that more than one person has to be involved. Oh, did I mention he is single.

Laura Linney stars as Kate Whitney, Luther's daughter. She is a prosecuting attorney who knows her father is a professional thief. And although he is not in her life, his presence is felt.

"Absolute Power" is a good movie. It starts nice and slow allowing you to capture what is going on.

When the women at the art museum ask Luther "You work with your hands don't you?" you can feel the tension.

And for once, I was glad to see a girl get what she really wants on the couch. And if you ever wondered what was on the other side of the mirror... Oh, did I mention the chair?

The dialogue between the characters is great. When Detective Frank is in his office and starts asking questions you feel right at home with the barbs he gets. The movie has quite a few of excellent quotes.

Luther never gives up hope that his Kate will believe him and love him. He is always there with her. But

the same can not be said about Kate.

The sub-plots for this movie are good. You want to see Seth and Kate live happily ever after. And you just know for once a President is going to get what he deserves, although not quite what you expect.

There are a few more characters not mentioned but they are fantastic.

The secret service men tow the line just like they are expected to do. Gloria, trying to keep control of them and not lose her mind, is comical in the beginning and toward the end, annoying. It does work.

"Absolute Power" just keeps the pace going. It is two hours and ten minutes but it seems about 90.

If you need a reason to go the movies instead of renting, I recommend it. Better yet, rent "In the Line of Fire" on the way home after seeing "Absolute Power."

Score: 3.50 Gloria was just too much for anyone to take dancing.

### PSU Basketball: March Sadness in Happy Valley



Michael Pericci  
Contributor

After starting the season 5-1, the Penn State men's basketball team has since gone on a tailspin.

As of Feb. 26, the Nittany Lions posted a 9-16 record with no hopes of making the NCAA post-season. With that in mind, one must wonder why Penn State hasn't experienced the success that was expected of them upon their arrival in the Big 10 conference.

From my standpoint, Penn State has a very narrow casted view on athletics. Ask any student the sport most associated with Penn State and they will most likely say football.

Plain and simple, Penn State football is the trademark of this university. Joe Paterno, coach of Penn State football, is a legend in his own right. Paterno has been with the university for 31 years, which may be one credential that attracts many recruits.

So why doesn't the basketball team benefit like the football team does? The underlying reason is that basketball hasn't become important enough at Penn State.

Star athletes from Pennsylvania, particularly

the Philadelphia area, are passing up Penn State for bigger-name schools such as North Carolina, Duke, Michigan, etc. Penn State needs to do a better job keeping Pennsylvania players close to home.

Injuries have also plagued the Nittany Lions. Point guard Dan Earl sat out the entire season with a back problem. Freshman Ryan Bailey filled the void for Earl, while sharp-shooter Pete Lisicky handled the off-guard position.

Booth needs to put on at least 40 pounds if he ever hopes to be anything more than a wind chime.

Head coach Jerry Dunn is in his second year with the Lions, yet in that short time he has made many strides to improving the team.

Dunn's no-nonsense approach has gained respect from both the players and other coaches as well.

Moving to the Big 10 seemed like the savior for Penn State basketball, but thus far it has been anything but that. The Lions are currently 10th in the Big 10 with no hopes of moving any higher.

As I stated earlier, recruiting seems to be the downfall for Penn State basketball. Year in and year out Penn State's football program is nationally

ranked in the top five in recruiting (this year they were voted as high as second). The basketball team, however, struggles to bring in star athletes (they are in such need of players that two members of the football team have recently joined the team). With the Bryce Jordan Center built, a big-gear arena is one way that the basketball program has gotten a boost.

Another thing that strikes me is that Penn State continually has its football players drafted by the NFL. On the other hand, how many Penn State basketball players do you see in the NBA? To my knowledge—one!

The point being that Penn State has a history of producing star football players and not many basketball ones.

While 64 men's college basketball teams celebrate March Madness, Penn State will be sitting home wondering what happened this year.

So all they can hope for is that the 1997-98 season will yield better results for them, and that maybe next year they'll receive an invitation to the "Big Dance."