

From Internet pg. 5

"I embrace it."

Twenty-three-year-old Joy Maatman - a 1996 PSH graduate - never thought about "embracing" computer technology. She has always been surrounded by it at home and at school.

Maatman says that one of the reasons that she was offered her research associate position for Greenlee Associates in Harrisburg, Pa., was due to her Internet experience. She says that keeping up with technology is very important to her company because prospective clients typically learn about Greenlee Associates through the company's home page. Additionally, as a lobbying firm, the company requires their employees to spend extensive time obtaining research on the Internet.

She says that she doesn't worry about receiving unequal treatment at work because of her gender, and she does not anticipate that she will be left out of technology training because of her sex.

"In my opinion, my use of the Internet has nothing to do with my being a woman. The Internet is about opportunity. To be successful in today's market, it is important to be on the cutting edge, regardless of your gender."

Dennis says that corporate need for employees that are "net smart" has the potential to help eliminate a great deal of gender inequality in the workplace. She says that many jobs are opening up across the country, but that there are not enough "Web people" out there.

"Employers are looking for people who can build and maintain Web pages," Dennis says. "And, they don't care if you have a penis, warts or whatever."

She adds, that corporations are also going to assume that young people, like Maatman, will be knowledgeable about the technology.

At the age of 47, Dennis laments that she cherishes the era that she grew up in, but also feels cheated that she did not have Internet technolo-

gy as a child. Children today, she says, have no fear of that technology. And girls, she adds, are no longer shut out from computer science. Even if their schools discriminate against them, they have computers at home, she says.

Dennis says that on the Web, she has witnessed a change in gender attitudes. For example, men will come across a female Web page, and they won't use derogatory language, she says.

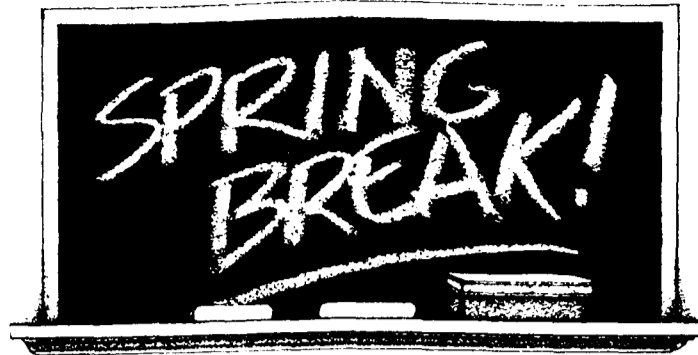
A study of gender communication on the Internet in 1993 by the Simon Fraser University School of Communication in British Columbia supports Dennis' observation. That study found, that men and women were able to communicate far more easily on-line. Additionally, the university discovered that both genders felt that females had more of a "presence" on-line and that it is easier for women to make their voices heard on the Internet than in a face-to-face conversation where their opinions might be dismissed due to physical characteristics.

Don't expect all sexism to disappear when you're on-line, Dennis advises. "The world has bad spots, the Internet has bad spots too."

Dennis adds that women shouldn't waste their energy worrying about the exploitation of women in cyberspace, or anywhere, because, she says, "It's always going to happen in one form or another."

She says that despite the potential problems for women, the overall positive benefits of women utilizing the Internet outweigh the negatives. It offers such a resource for finding support and connecting to other women, that Dennis believes the Internet will not only offer women individual rewards, but will provide a network for women's issues in this country and around the globe.

Thorne says that she believes that it is too early to tell what the Internet will or won't ultimately do for women and their issues. "I am, however, optimistic that women will learn to use this resource well."



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A Mind Is A Terrible Thing To Waste.



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From Thon pg. 3

Quinn agreed that the event - although exhausting - was a life changing experience, because despite how she felt physically, she felt compelled to keep going to encourage the children with cancer, who also attended the dance marathon, to keep going.

"We were just tired. They are in pain. What we felt was nothing compared to what they go through on a daily basis," Quinn said.

The children were the major focus of Thon, but Quinn and McGlennen had other encouragement too.

University President Graham Spanier and Nittany Lions coach Joe Paterno were two of many guests that stopped by in support of the event, Wentzel said. Oprah Winfrey even sent a letter, which was read to the student participants, which conveyed

how proud she was to see college students performing such an unselfish act.

Of the 540 dancers that began the dance marathon that Friday, Quinn and McGlennen were counted in the 534 that successfully completed the 48 hour event.

"I'd do it again tomorrow if I could," said Quinn.

Wentzel said that there is already a "push" for PSH to participate in the Thon event next year and to increase fundraising campaigns so that this campus can beat this year's contribution.

"I believe that anyone that does not experience Thon at least once in their life is missing out on something very, very important," Wentzel said.

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