

To the Editor

Student asks seniors to choose class gift

Dear Editor,

The Senior Class Gift Committee needs the assistance and input of this year's graduating class.

Traditionally each year the Seniors donate a gift to the College on behalf of the graduating senior class. We are asking for gift suggestions within the \$1,500 to \$2,000 range which is traditionally raised each year. Past gifts have included an electronic bulletin board in the lions den, a television set in the student lounge, and last year's gift, permanent picnic tables.

This year we are encouraging a gift for the new library. Other suggestions we have received include new computers for Meade Heights and the dorms, a lion statue for the new library, new desks for the engineering classrooms, and a TV for the upstairs student lounge.

Funds for our gift are derived from both contributions and the donation of all or part of your \$50 general deposit to the University.

The Gift Committee truly wants your suggestions for a class gift as well as a commitment to donate financially to the project. Please

stop in at W-110 and leave your ideas on the "senior gift table." Your support for this project is not just a gift to Penn State Harrisburg, but a gift to future students of our Alma Mater.

The gift will be presented at the May graduation and represents the votes of both Fall and Spring graduating classes.

Thank you for your help and support!

Sincerely,
Stephanie A. Welch
Senior Class Gift committee

Student says: Women's History Month keynote speaker proves you don't always get what you pay for

Deb Mallek
Assistant Editor

PENN STATE HARRISBURG — You don't always get what you pay for. This axiom was proven once again for those who attended Ntozake Shange's keynote presentation last Wednesday.

This was one of the few programs at Penn State Harrisburg that everyone seemed to know about. In fact, so many students expressed an interest in attending this program that Dr. Patricia Johnson decided to bring her class to the program rather than deliver the lecture she has planned for her Western Tradition class.

Event organizers were excited. A memo to Women's Studies staff said, "The good news is that we have been awarded \$6,000 to bring noted African-American feminist and playwright Ntozake Shange to campus as our keynote speaker for Women's History Month."

The excitement was certainly warranted. Forty-eight year-old Shange is an accomplished poet, playwright, novelist, performer, and author. Born Paulette Williams, Shange abandoned her birth name and adopted her Zulu name in 1971 because, "as a feminist it was ridiculous to be named after a boy." She earned her B.A. from Barnard College and her M.A. from the University of Southern California. She taught humanities, women's studies, and Afro-American studies at California

colleges from 1972 to 1975.

In 1975, she achieved widespread notoriety with her theater piece, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf*. *For Colored Girls*, a group of twenty poems about the power of black women to survive in the face of despair, ran for seven months Off-Broadway. The play then moved to Broadway and was produced throughout the United States. *For Colored Girls* was also adapted for television. Shange is one of only two female African-American playwrights whose work has been performed on Broadway.

Shange's discussion, however, did not meet audience expectations. At 3:35, an announcement was made that Shange was on her way for the program that was scheduled to begin at 3:30. At 3:45, Shange staggered into the Gallery Lounge and asked which microphone was turned on. She took off her coat and apologized for being late, blaming her tardiness on the hotel's incompetence in making wake-up calls. It was apparent that the speaker was still not completely awake.

Shange then explained that her manager had booked her for this discussion about "African-American Feminism," despite the fact that she wasn't comfortable with the subject matter. Event organizers had publicized that Shange would speak on "Feminist Issues and Literature."

It was blatantly obvious that Shange was unprepared for

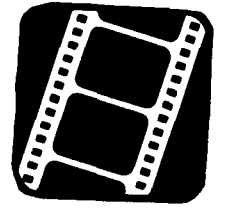
this presentation. The poet finally began her discussion by reading excerpts from Susan Griffith's *Pornography and Silence* and Belle Hooks' *Race, Gender and Politics*, which were barely intelligible because the still sleepy Shange was so slurred. Without any personal interpretation, Shange then opened the floor for discussion. She seemed surprised when there was no immediate response, but she had given the audience nothing to respond to.

The speaker entertained several questions, to which she provided broad, contradictory answers. For example, Shange said she believed in "global feminism" rather than African-American feminism. Then she lauded race restricted female organizations like black sororities for their work in promoting feminism. When asked where she saw herself within the current feminist movement, and where she would like to see the feminist movement in the future, Shange simply responded that the feminist movement had failed in marketing itself, blaming this failure on the male-dominated media. She offered no further explanation nor did she offer any direction for the future of the movement.

Some might argue that we always get what we pay for with campus presentations because they are free to all students. Let's not forget, however, that this presentation, which cost the University \$6,000, was funded entirely by the student activity fee, to which each student contributes.

Movie Review:

"The king of all media" remains undisputed Champ



Stacy Swartz
Contributor

His morning radio show is the number one rated show in syndication. His two autobiographies were immediate best sellers reaching number one within days of their release. His nightly television show on cable's E! Entertainment Television is one of the channel's highest rated programs.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, I am referring to the one and only Howard Stern and I am pleased to announce that in his most recent attempt at conquering the media world, Stern did it again!

"Private Parts," the \$20 million motion picture based on Stern's best-selling autobiography, was released the weekend of March 7. Within two days, it became the number one movie in America demonstrating that Stern truly is the "King of All Media."

While the film manages to include the unpredictable, raunchy spirit that is Stern, Director Ivan Reitman ("Ghostbusters," "Kindergarten Cop," "Twins") does a wonderful job of revealing the real man behind the radio.

The picture revolves around two story lines. One could be interpreted as a love story about his wife, Allison (played by "Murder One's" Mary McCormack), depicting the true love and commitment which surrounds Stern's relationship. The other reveals Stern's struggle in the radio world, the FCC and WNBC's outrageous attempts to erase Stern from radio, and his strong drive and commitment that not only kept him on the air but boosted his ratings to number one. Most importantly, we watch Stern's transformation from the awkward, inexperienced no-name to the confident, outspoken radio personality we know and love today.

The entire film is so cap-

tivating that while you are not laughing hysterically at the humor that surrounds Stern, you find yourself rooting for his achievements, fan or not.

Aside from the entertaining story line, the element which places this film over the edge is its list of actors. The part of Stern is played by none other than himself and no one could play him better. He has put four years of energy and bragging into this film and believe me, every word of it is well deserved.

Stern performs everyday while he is on the air while being taped by E! cameras so it was not exactly unbelievable that he could do the same thing for Reitman's cameras. However, the scenes which involve Stern and his wife demonstrate his true acting ability, for this is something he is definitely not used to performing. The scene where Stern almost breaks into tears after learning that his wife had a miscarriage is very powerful and heart wrenching. He pulled it off with the same ease and confidence that we see and hear everyday.

Mary McCormack delivers a powerful performance as well. In her big screen debut, McCormack is so effective that you no longer find yourself feeling sorry for Allison because you now see the understanding and love that surrounds the Stern marriage.

The part of Robin Quivers, Stern's on-air sidekick and long time friend, is also played by Quivers herself. She is every bit as believable as Stern and you would never guess this was her first acting experience.

Stern allows Quivers to take the blame for an on-air violation of the FCC code which ends up getting her fired. At that point, Quivers lets go and really gives it to Stern and you can see the acting bug has bitten her hard.

Just as on air, Norris rarely speaks during the film. However, his facial expressions

and body movements tell you exactly what he is thinking which demonstrates capabilities you never would have assumed this man possessed. However, he does have it and does a wonderful job at showing it.

I do not believe that this film would be as powerful and entertaining as it proves to be had anyone else been selected for these vital roles. The fact that they are filled by the actual radio show members gives this flick credibility, originality, and a sense of the personal touch that we look forward to receiving from Stern.

A long time Stern fan myself, I have managed to put my bias aside while viewing the film. In all honesty, I came out of the theater satisfied and extremely amazed at the fact there is nothing this man and his team cannot do.

The number one element that proved this film to be an entertaining, attention grabbing picture was the fact that while I as left satisfied at the end, I was still in need of more. I was sad when the movie was over and I actually found myself hesitating to leave my seat thinking that maybe something else would come across the screen.

Stern has spent the past few years using his on-air time to hype his film and brag about the wonderful job he and his team were doing. As Reitman put it, "Howard's humor comes from an exquisite understanding of the truth..." Understanding the truth and speaking nothing but the truth, the self confidence Stern displays was simply a reflection of his understanding of reality. As usual, Stern knew what he was talking about. This film is definitely one for the records.

My grade for "Private Parts" — A+

With release of new CD Fast Eddie will soon be on the fast track

Nicole Lynn Meck
Staff Reporter

Fast Eddie is a local band who is trying for the big time. It started as a hobby and has become an active working group.

It has three members. Josh Thompson, Mike Frenz and David Kierce. Thompson is lead guitar and lead vocals. Frenz does bass. Kierce is the drummer. However, Frenz and Kierce do some vocals also. Kierce said all the members take an active role in Fast Eddie.

Recently, I got to talk to Kierce who is a fellow PSH student. He transferred down from Main due to the band.

Kierce is majoring in Health Psychology and expects to get his degree in December of 1997.

The 27 year old student is working full time at Fiddler's - a candy distribution company - taking 9 credits here, and runs his own business: Bush Doctors Landscaping.

I asked Kierce how he manages to juggle it and he replied, "The band keeps me going."

Fellow band member Frenz goes to Lebanon Valley College. Both he and Thompson work outside of the band. Kierce said balancing every ones schedule, is hard.

Recently, the members of the group got together and

recorded their first CD.

Kierce said it took much work and effort to get the CD down on disc. It was recorded at Holland Sound in Scranton on Sunday, March 16th.

They have titled their CD, Big Perm. It is scheduled to be released on April 12th. Kierce said the CD will be available at Disc Go Round, IMO (Independent Musicians Outlet), their shows and maybe The Wall.

There are seven songs on the CD. All of them are original material. Kierce credits R&B and rock as their primary influences. They are quite fond of Frank Zappa.

As Kierce explained to me, it is hard to get played without a cd. If you want exposure on the air or in clubs, you have to have a CD. Having a tape does not cut it any more.

They will be promoting their CD at the Blue Terrapin on March 27 and again on April 30th. Kierce said they have played there before. They have also

See Fast Eddie pg. 8



Women For Research

Healthy women between the ages of 18 and 45 without diabetes or other serious health problems with 6 or fewer menstrual periods per year may be eligible to participate.

The study will involve diagnostic testing and medical evaluation at no cost. The study is under the direction of Dr. Richard Legro of the Department of OB/GYN.

For more information call:

Sharon Ward, Study Coordinator or
Joann Sieber, R.N., Nurse Coordinator
The General Clinical Research Center
The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
The Pennsylvania State University

717-531-5154 or

1-800-585-9585

This research study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board under FDA regulations at Penn State's Hershey Medical Center.