

# PSH begins drive to improve roads

Ryan Leeds  
Contributor

If you are one of 3,600 students, faculty and staff that drive onto campus each week, it's inevitable that you've experienced campus construction on First Street.

Through an agreement between Penn State Harrisburg and its neighbor, First Industrial, a project began several weeks ago to remove an unused railroad line that crosses campus, Dr. James South, associate provost for administrative operations said.

East Coast Railway is currently in the process of removing steel tracks and paving a black-top walking path which will run from Route 230 and through the campus, South said.

"We thought that building a separate sidewalk from the roadway is a safer alternative to building it directly beside the road," South said.

The project - which companies originally bid about \$29,000 to complete - is being done by East Coast Railway for a \$1, South said.

According to South, the company agreed to the arrangement because they will sell the materials removed from the railroad tracks for a profit.

The paving project, which began last week, will eventually include a protected crosswalk for pedestrians at the campus entrance at Route 230, South said.

Campus reaction to the recent construction on First and Q streets has been mixed.

Communications major Terra Leach said she is concerned about potential damage to her car's paint from gravel which flies up on her car - and to her tires and shocks due to the deep cuts left in the road from the railroad track removal.

"It bothers me that other people are so apathetic about the construction and ride my tail when I drive slowly over the stones. They sure were in a hurry to get the tracks taken out, but they haven't done much to speed the paving process. It's just an inconvenience," Leach said.

Acting Chief of police services Tony Kuklinski said that police patrols are paying particular attention to areas of construction during the morning and afternoon rush hours.

"We have afforded extra controls and we are doing speed checks to make sure that everyone is safe during this construction time," he said.

The Chief said that Physical Plant also contacted First Industrial to have truck drivers slow down to keep the dust down.

South said that despite the inconvenience now, that road safety for students will be much improved by the fall semester.

Beginning May 12, the campus entrance will be widened from 42 feet to 60 feet to make it easier for tractor trailer trucks to enter first street and to eliminate driving hazards due to the narrow entrance, South said.

A traffic light will also be installed at the campus entrance at

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-- Heidi Jones  
marketing major

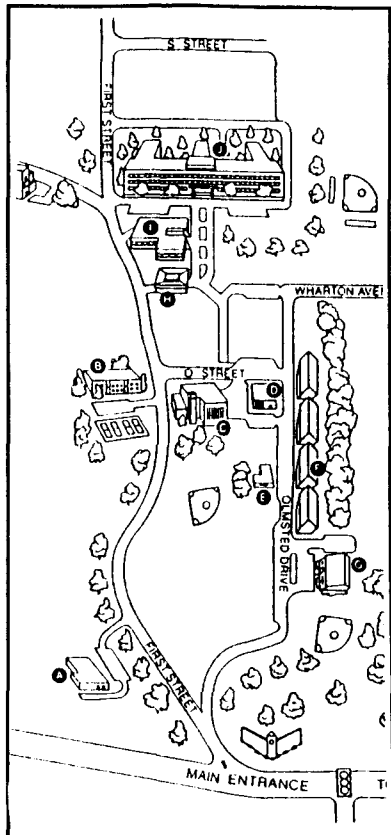
Route 230 over the summer, South said.

First Industrial and funds from the Penn State Harrisburg vehicle registration program will pay for the traffic light, South said.

Marketing major Heidi Jones said she is pleased with the construction project because it will add to other improvements made across the campus.

"I think that it's improving the aesthetics of the campus," she said. "It's not a problem to slow down for the cause of progress."

South said that the paving project should be complete by the end of June.



PSH Student Handbook 1996-97



photo by Jeff Warren

## PSH kicks off Mexican student exchange during Cinco de Mayo celebration

Deb Mallek  
Assistant Editor

Bob Surrige of Penn State Harrisburg's office of special events has been working with Sra. Maria de Marquez of the London School in Pachuca, Hidalgo to finalize plans for Harrisburg's Cinco de Mayo celebration May 5.

The schools, in conjunction with Harrisburg Mayor Steven Reed's office and city council president, will host 40 students from the London School for the event.

Cinco de Mayo is an important date for Mexican communities worldwide. May 5 marks the date in 1862 of the Mexican Army's victory over the French at The Battle of Puebla.

The Batalla de Puebla came to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism. This Mexican national holiday is used in the United States to celebrate Latino culture in general.

Visiting students will stay at the Ramada Inn in downtown Harrisburg. They will arrive at Harrisburg International Airport on Friday, May 2, 1997.

On Saturday, the students will visit area attractions, including

Hershey Park, the State Museum and the Milton Hershey School.

The official Cinco de Mayo program will begin Monday morning at PSH's Capital Union Building.

Students and teachers from the Capital Region are invited to attend a 10:00 a.m. program consisting of three separate forty-five minutes segments: a formal stage presentation; customized classroom sessions tailored to specific teachers' requests; and an optional luncheon.

Mechanicsburg Area Intermediate and East Pennsboro Middle School have already scheduled 196 sixth-grade students and their teachers to participate in the morning program.

Monday evening at 7:00 p.m., members of the Capital Region community at large are invited to attend a free performance at the Capital Union Building at PSH. The show will feature traditional Mexican song and dance, performed by the London School students.

Prior to this performance, PSH will host a VIP reception. Personal invitations will be extended to community leaders and program donors in recognition of their contributions to our evolving educational partnerships and Sister City efforts.

PSH's first university student exchange is also scheduled for this summer. Behavioral Science and Education major Christine Barnes will visit Hidalgo for eight weeks. Barnes will spend the first four weeks of her visit working with the Hidalgo Council for Cultural Arts. She will learn, through the Council, about Mexican art, folklore, and lifestyle.

Barnes will spend the second half of her trip at the Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Hidalgo. She will work with students in the language center, helping them improve their English skills while improving her own Spanish speaking skills.

PSH and Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) are developing an internship program for Mexican students in Harrisburg. The intern will spend time in Harrisburg working at Harrisburg Magazine, under the tutelage of editor Ron Minar. The student will also take classes through PSH and/or HACC during the internship.

For more information about the cooperative exchange programs, contact Bob Surrige, Penn State Harrisburg Office of Special Events, at 948-6475.

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### ATTENTION GRADUATES

If you have a University loan, a Perkins, or NDSL loan - you MUST schedule an exit interview with the Financial Aid Office prior to commencement.

If you have questions or need to schedule an appointment, stop by the Financial Aid Office in Room W-112 of the Olmsted Building or call 948-6307

## Senior athletes gear up for national competition at CUB

Brian Hair  
Contributor

Every Sunday evening athletes from around the midstate come to Penn State Harrisburg to use the athletic facilities to train for a nationwide competition.

They enter the CUB wearing shorts and sweats to train for the next four hours - and they're all athletes over 50 - in training for the 1997 US National Sports Classic, which will be held at Tucson, Ariz. May 21-28.

About 16 seniors come to participate every Sunday evening. Many train for other sports - but each Sunday is dedicated to volleyball.

During the athletes' practice at the Capital Union Building gym, the senior athletes complete serving and spiking drills and incorporate those skills in actual game play.

"We have been training here every Sunday for the last two years. We worked out at other facilities, but none were nearly as nice as here," said Mary Jane Hornung.

This is Hornung's second Senior Sports Classic. The last time the volleyball team played in the Classic in San Antonio, Texas, they were placed in a tough division, she said.

This year, Hornung said she and the rest of the "Keystone Spikers" will be ready.

"We're gonna win this year!" Hornung said.

The athletes will represent Pennsylvania in two different age brackets. The 50-54 and the 55-59 year olds. The two teams will consist of 8 different players.

The sixth Senior Sports Classic - they are held every two years - will be held on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson.

"We are estimating 10,000 athletes from 48 states. On top of that, there should be 15,000 guests," said Shana Hanson, Public Relations director for the games.

The big night will be on May 24 when the torch reaches our version of the Olympic village called the Presido," Hanson said.

The torch is passed from a relay race - just like during the regular Olympics, Hanson said. It will be lit at Pikes Peak, then flown into Phoenix where seniors will either bike or run the 100 miles until it reaches the Presido.

Over 18 events are scheduled for the week long games. Some events include golf, swimming, tennis, and track. "The requirements are best times and top 3 finishers in some competitions," Hanson said.

Metals will be given out for the top finishers in each event.

The mission of the games is to promote healthy lifestyles for seniors through fitness, Hanson said.

"I think the games are wonderful because it health minded," Hornung said. "It's amazing to see someone 100 years old out playing a round of golf," she said.

Many of the seniors lift weights and do aerobics in order to participate in the bi-annual event.

"If a lot more seniors participated in games like these, a lot more would be healthy," Hornung said.