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# The Capital Times

The eyes and ears of the Harrisburg Campus

## No big surprises found in communications survey

### Study will be used to decide communications' direction

By: Dan Zehr

The results of a \$15,500 survey focused on Penn State Harrisburg's communications department were released Tue., Jan. 20. Despite the cost, they simply revealed what many PSH professors already knew—employers rate writing and thinking skills as the two most important skills for success.

The Diagnostic Plus study rated critical and creative thinking skills a 9.6 and writing skills a 9.2 on a 1-10 scale (10 being highest). The business analysis company asked employers what skills they considered most important for success. Communications program alumni from area colleges also rated these skills.

The two groups, however, disagreed on these key issues. For example, technology related skills such

as specific software and computer skills scored high with alumni and low with employers. In other words, employers wanted more basic theoretical skills while alumni felt they needed specific, practical experience.

Those teaching and coordinating PSH Humanities have consistently stressed a theoretical approach. The feedback they have gotten on that approach from employers has been overwhelmingly positive, according to professor Eton Churchill. So why spend that much money on a redundant survey?

One of the report's intentions was to discern what experience to seek when hiring job applicants. The Humanities Department is currently searching for at least two new communications professors. At this time, two positions are definite, and they

are pushing for a third. Any new faculty will be in place for the fall '98 semester.

Presently, three professors are teaching communications. One, Usha Zacharias, is leaving after the spring '98 semester. Another, Jim Parker, is only contracted through the end of the same semester. Churchill alone holds a tenured position in communications. So the hiring of new faculty is essential.

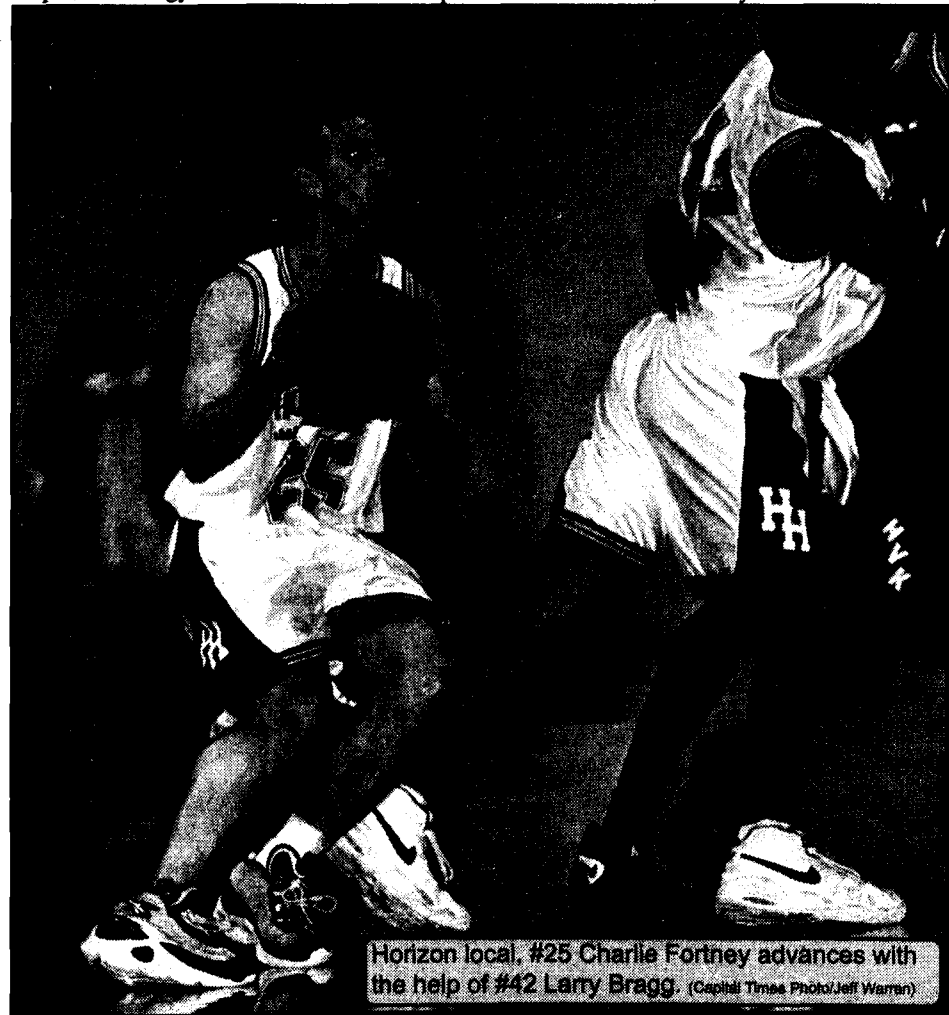
The extra position, if attained, will expand the course of study to include a technological component. Paul Weener, president of Diagnostics Plus and a former Penn State employee, concluded the present curriculum's focus was in "the right spot." The two, definite new hires would continue to support and en

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### COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY SKILLS RESULTS

Entry Level (% mentioning skill)	Employers	Alumni
Writing	42.9%	72.7%
Verbal	34.3	57.6
Computer	31.4	24.2
<b>Career Success (see above)</b>		
Writing	26.5%	24.2%
Technological	23.5	24.2
Flexibility	8.6	27.3
<b>Importance to success (rating on scale of 1-10)</b>		
Crit./Creat. Thinking	9.6	9.2
Writing	9.2	9.4
Computer skills	8.9	8.8
<b>Rating Deficiencies (Employers)</b>		
Critical/Creative Thinking		2.8
Oral Communication		2.5
Writing		2.3
<b>Rating Deficiencies (Students)</b>		
Computer Skills		2.1
Specific software skills		1.6

Source: Diagnostics Plus



Horizon local, #25 Charlie Fortney advances with the help of #42 Larry Bragg. (Capital Times Photo/Jeff Warren)

## Horizon notches win No. 1

### Tops undefeated Hudson Valley, 111-108

By: Matthew Bowman

"The third time is a charm," or so the saying goes.

After two defeats to begin their inaugural season in the Eastern Basketball Alliance, the Harrisburg Horizon (1-2) picked up its first victory last Saturday when they defeated the previously unbeaten Hudson Valley Kings (2-1) by a score of 111-108.

Charlie Fortney, former EBA All-Star and current Horizon team-leader, led all scorers with 39 points, 27 coming in the first-half alone.

As the two teams entered the locker room at halftime, Harrisburg was clinging to a 59-54 lead. The lead would not last in the second-half, however, as Hudson Valley evened the score 80-80 at the end of three-quarters of play. Twelve minutes of play would determine this game's outcome.

The tide began to turn in the middle of the final quarter. Gerald Jarmon, a Horizon guard, drained a 3-pointer on his way to scoring 26 points putting the Horizon on top with a 6 point lead. Two Hudson Valley technical fouls followed, stretching the Horizon lead.

The Horizon continually had an answer for all the charges made by Hudson Valley. Even

with a late run with less than a minute remaining, the Kings could not deny Harrisburg of their first victory. Fortney ended all scoring by making four consecutive free throws putting his team on top for good.

The Harrisburg Horizon will play host to the Lancaster Storm Saturday right here at the Capital Union Building. Starting time is scheduled for 7 p.m. with pre-game activities beginning at 6:05 p.m. Tickets are available for PSH students in the Student Government Office, room 216 at a cost of \$6 per person. For each ticket purchased, one child (14 and younger) gets in free. All proceeds benefit THON and The Four Diamonds Fund.

### Horizon 111, Kings 108

**HUDSON VALLEY (108)**  
Cunningham 0 0-0 0, Hall 5-8 1-3 11, Heyward 2-8 2-3 6, Houston 4-8 7-7 21, Middleton 9-15 6-8 24, Rowe 1-5 4-5 6, Scott 4-6 0-0 8, Taylor 9-14 5-8 23, Wallace 4-9 1-5 9. Totals 38-78 26-39 108.

**HARRISBURG (111)**  
Jarmon 9-11 5-9 26, Franklin 0-0 0-0 0, Bailey 3-7 2-3 8, Hightower 2-4 2-4 6, Fortney 11-19 11-12 39, Shue 1-3 3-3 8, Parker 2-4 1-2 5, Crosby 5-9 1-2 14, Bragg 0-1 0-0 0, Beaden 0-0 2-2 2, Smith 1-1 1-1 3. Totals 34-59 28-38 111.

Hudson Valley .....27 27 26 28--108  
Harrisburg .....27 32 21 31--111  
3-Point Goals - Houston 2; Fortney 2, Jarmon, Shue, Crosby. Attendance - 860.