

Editorial

As the seasons change, so does The Capital Times

Ahh...the changes of spring. The fresh air, the flowers and the world returning to the color green. The beauty of mother earth awakening from her slumber.

Alright, so maybe it is a little early to get out the shorts. There has not even been a significant snowfall yet. But, it is the spring semester and things are changing at The Capital Times office. Despite delusions of grandeur, no one is taking a deep breath of the W341 air.

To continue the metaphor, last semester's paper was deep into autumn. There was little interest in contributing to what was an open page to write on. The chill of apathy was in the air.

Previous editor and current consultant Jeff Warren struggled in vain to break the proverbial ice. That same barrier seemed to keep people from the CapTimes door. The struggle to recruit writers, along with his full time job, made it difficult to consistently produce a quality paper.

Along came the non-issue, what could have been the winter of the paper. Suddenly, a response arose from the school. People appeared who were willing to help put the CapTimes back on its feet.

With some late work and contributions from more students, along with Warren's generous assistance, one last fall issue was released. Could it be the glimmer of spring?

Now, the CapTimes will take spring to summer. Some of the staff who intend to do this can be seen in this issue. Some will appear in upcoming issues. You have an open invitation to meet them all.

Warren will continue to assist the new editors, Matthew Bowman and yours truly. Providing a little consistency to the mix is Christine Downs who will continue as the business manager.

Providing a breath of fresh air in W341 is Dani Church, our entertainment editor. She had previously edited the student paper at the York Campus.

Also returning from last fall is writer Rick Deitz. Many remember the work he did on parking fees and their appropriation. The other writers you will see on the pages of this and upcoming issues of the CapTimes. They are Makito Yurita, Suzanne Rossi, Beverly Johnson, Devin Graham and Jackie Moyer.

Behind the scenes, the supporting staff keeps us afloat. Working the advertising beat is Dave Buono, and the person who laid out the pages you are looking at was Lauren Capitani.

Bolstered by this new (and larger) staff, the paper will head for summer. But this will happen only with continued student support. The CapTimes is always looking for contributors of any sort.

Can't wait to get to the beach.

There is more than just drive-thru

by Makito Yurita

A drive-thru is among the greatest time-saving inventions in the world since it is convenient, quick, and relatively easy for busy people to use. When we are too often in a hurry to eat-in, or maybe too tired to get out of the car, we can just use the drive-thru—it saves time and doesn't require much energy on our part. However, a drive-thru does have one major disadvantage: the lack of face-to-face communication with other human beings. Since we talk through a hamburger-shaped machine full of static, there are bound to be misunderstandings or mix-ups with the person on the other end.

With this in mind, do we really want to use a drive-thru system at Capital College to receive our degrees? Currently, Capital College resembles a fast food drive-thru; instead of a spirited, lively campus filled with lots of interpersonal and intercultural relationships. It has become a place where students just pop in and pop out for classes.

Unfortunately, it is true that there are not many places on campus for students to get together and socialize besides in the classroom. The Lion's Den is a good hang out spot, but it closes very early. Likewise, the front lobby is nice, but it is too small for students to congregate and hang around for a long period of time. Despite the limited areas to socialize on campus, however, there are still many fun, educational, and worthwhile activities that many students are not aware of. There is definitely more to do and more that can

be done besides attending classes and just driving thru. Everyone should contribute to building more of a social community in which we can interact with and learn from each other on a regular basis.

By using a drive-thru approach to school, many do not realize that they are missing out on the chance to take advantage of the rich cultural diversity that exists at PSU Harrisburg. How many of you have noticed that Capital College's international student population, which is currently about 30 students from all over the

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world, hosts events that are open and free of

charge to everyone? The international students frequently organize events in hopes of developing more of a college spirit and community between the international and U.S. students of Penn State Harrisburg. Why not take the time to interact with and learn from each other? Participating in these events will expose you to different cultures, languages, and people, as well as improve intercultural communication and understanding. Not only that, getting involved in the activities organized by the international students would be the perfect opportunity to build more of a college atmosphere at

Capital College.

An example of a weekly event that anyone can take advantage of is the French Conversation Table. Babacar M'baye, a graduate student from Senegal, says, "The French Conversation Table is open to everybody, regardless of their level of French. When the semester ends, they [participants] improve their French conversational skills surprisingly a lot." He also adds, "Everyone [who joins] can learn from each other with lots of fun." Anyone who is interested in joining the French Conversation Table can come to meetings held every Mon. at 5:00 p.m. in the Lion's Den.

Confucius once said, "Wise men are linked through education, then aim to form the perfect virtue through enriching each other by exchanging ideas." The French Conversation Table is only one of the examples that puts this Confucian theory into practice. There are many other events and activities in which we can learn from and influence each other. We should all remember that the University is not just a drive-thru to our degrees. It is a place where all kinds of people gather and can freely exchange ideas and thoughts. It is a place to communicate and learn from each other on a personal and cultural level.

So, why don't we start leaving the cars in the parking lot for a little while and take some time to explore campus life? Chances are the same burger and fries you ordered by drive-thru will be more satisfying when you actually take time to enjoy them.

**The new Capital Times e-mail address is
captimes@psu.edu**

-Do you enjoy sports?

**-Do you currently participate in any
athletics in any manner?**

**-Would you like to see sports
covered in The Capital Times?**

If you could answer yes to any of the previous questions, then The Capital Times is looking for you! We desire to dedicate an entire page each issue to sports and the topics that surround them. This will include intramurals as well as local and national sports. However, there is a need for sports reporters, and this page will only be successful if there are regular contributors. Do not let this opportunity pass you by. Anyone interested should contact Matthew Bowman by stopping by W341 or by calling 948-6440.

The Capital Times

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Editors

The Capital Times is published by the students of Penn State Harrisburg. Opinions expressed are solely those of the author and are not representative of the college administration, faculty or student body. Concerns regarding the content of any issue should be directed to the editors.

The Capital Times welcomes signed letters from readers. No unsigned submission will be reprinted, however, a writer's name may be withheld upon request and by approval of the editors.

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