



the Capital Times

The eyes and ears of the Harrisburg Campus

PSH, PennDOT, Conrail have signals crossed

by Devin Graham

There is an accident waiting to happen at Penn State Harrisburg. Between cars flying by and impatient students waiting to start home, the entrance to the school is dangerous at best. Unfortunately the seemingly simple task of putting up a traffic light has taken up more time and energy than some college careers.

For years the school has been trying to get a light put in at the intersection of Route 230 and College Avenue. Some time ago Penn State hired a consulting firm to determine if a traffic light was actually needed. The firm ran a number of tests and concluded that a traffic control device was indeed warranted. Our neighbors at the Capitol Business Center were so thrilled with this news that they offered to split the installation cost with the school.

Plans were drawn up and submitted to the township. This was done because route 230 is a township road. The township, after careful consideration, was in agreement with PSH and supported the installation of the light. Finally the plans were submitted to the de-

partment of transportation. This happened last fall.

Penn DOT's brainchild then launched their own fact finding mission and came up with the same results that Penn State, the consulting firm and even unskilled students had come up with months earlier. We need a light at the main entrance of the school. But there was a catch.

The problem lies with a section of railroad track that crosses route 230. If this section of track is left in place, several expensive pieces of safety equipment will need to be installed. This should not sound unreasonable except that the track is no longer in use. If this section were removed, the installation costs would decrease dramatically.

Conrail and the owners of the said section of track are currently in negotiations. However, deliberations have taken quite awhile. Penn State has already removed the track on its property so the last section is not vital to the rail road industry.

Once a decision is made, the light will be installed. When that will be, no one seems to know.

Scheduling problems raised

Faculty Senate, Academic Council pass on action

by Dan Zehr

Despite problems encountered by many students, the Capital Campus Faculty Senate and the Academic Council decided not to take action on scheduling concerns at their joint meeting, Wed., Feb. 18.

However, Dr. John Bruhn, Capital Campus provost and dean, suggested department heads avoid scheduling 75 minute class periods Monday and Friday. "We are here to serve the students," he said. It is a matter of professionalism, Bruhn added.

He continued: "I strongly endorse the Monday, Wednesday, Friday (M/W/F), 50 minute schedule. I will keep an eye on this." The faculty and staff should address any problems the students have.

John Segnor, a Student Government Association representative, raised the issue at the Feb. 4 faculty senate meeting after surveys and students alike revealed problems with class scheduling. Many students are unable to take certain electives because of the extended 75 minute length. Four students even transferred to other schools so they could complete their education on schedule, according to Segnor.

A Noel-Levitz report confirmed schedul-

ing is a problematic area. The fall '97 report listed, "I am able to register for classes I need with few conflicts," as one of the 10 worst deficiencies at PSH. The satisfaction gap was 1.54. Anything more than 1.50 indicated an item with which the institution was not meeting expectations, the study reported.

"This is a serious problem for a lot of students," Segnor said. "Some students can't graduate on time because they can't schedule a class they need."

Some have found "creative" ways around this problem. Devin Graham, a humanities major, summed up his approach: "I have classes scheduled like that. I leave one seven and a half minutes early and get to the other seven and a half minutes late."

Guidelines were set to avoid such "solutions" when PSH converted to the current semester format in the fall of 1983. The plan was to set M/W/F day periods at 50 minutes. "No policy has been introduced since to repeal or change that guideline," said Segnor.

However, these are only guidelines designed to provide a framework for sched-

Please see Schedules on page 4.

Racism found on campus, investigation is underway

Two Black Student Union fliers defaced

by Dan Zehr

Two Black Student Union signs were found defaced at Penn State Harrisburg Sunday, Feb. 15, and Monday, Feb. 16.

A member of the BSU found a paper listing their meeting hours with the "f-word" written on it outside the elevator on the third floor. The next day, another member discovered one of their posters marred with the "n-word" on the bulletin board outside E258. The picture was also defiled.

The students removed the material and reported the incidents to Felicia Brown-Haywood, manager of the Student Assistance Center. She immediately began working on a report for the Environmental Response Team.

Normally the ERT, a leg of the Educational Equity and Diversity Committee, would do an immediate investigation of the incident. In this case, however, Brown-Haywood chose to first interview and discuss the matter with the students who found the material.

Those students who she talked with expressed some concern for their safety, she explained. They are also "enlisting other groups to write a statement against this act."

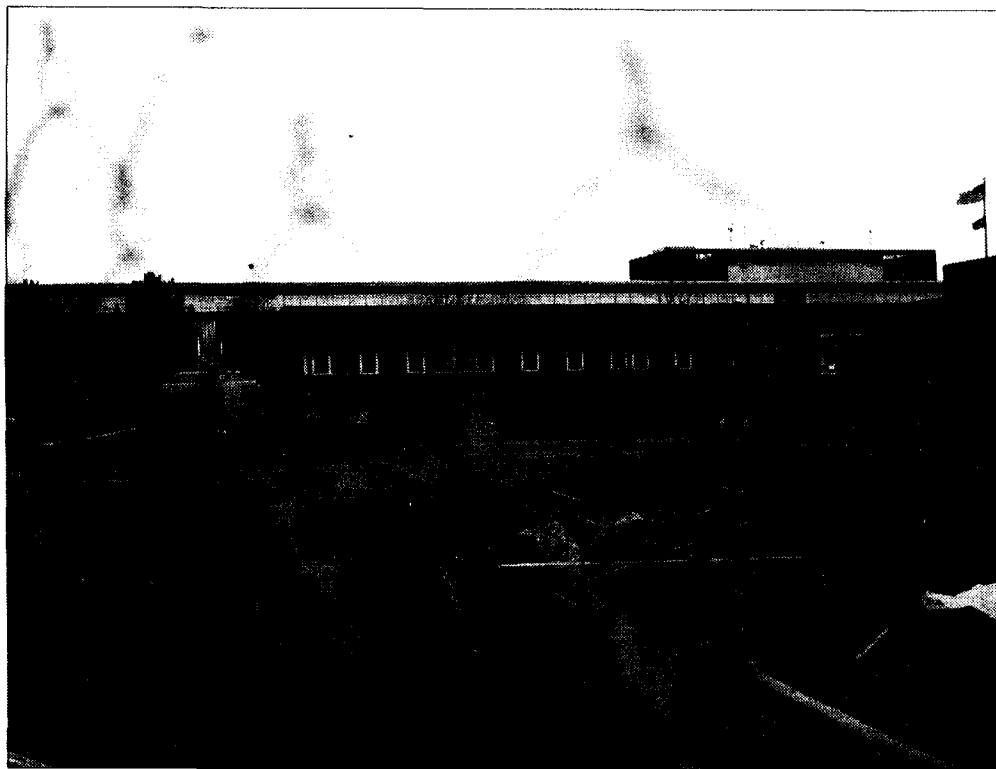
After the report on the interviews was finished, it was forwarded to the rest of the team, Brown-Haywood said. The other members of the team are Don Holtzman, Steve Hevner, George Young, Steve Backles, Dorothy Guy and Kevin Stoehr.

They will turn in a final report to John Bruhn, Capital Campus provost and dean, after an intensive, 24-hour investigation, according to Brown-Haywood. However, at press time they had no leads, she reported.

The Olmsted Building is a public building, she explained, and it is hard to know who comes in and out. Bruhn confirmed the doors are locked from midnight to 6 a.m. But during the rest of the day there is open access.

Bruhn said he strongly supports diversity at the school, and the committee will have his "full ear." If any PSH student or employee is found guilty of any discrimination, they will be "dismissed immediately," he warned.

Please see "Diversity" on page 4.



This semester marked the beginning of the construction to the Science and Technology Building at PSH (above). The new wing, which is being funded solely by outside donations, will accommodate the environmental engineering community, offering new, state-of-the-art technologies to Capital College students.