

Ah Spring, what a great season for sports.
Is that March Madness I smell?

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Don't just lie there you deadbeat.
Sartwell gives the morgue a new mission.

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The education department adopts an
expanded curriculum - and a 43 page syllabus.

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the Capital Times

The eyes and ears of the Harrisburg Campus

March 23, 1998

Volume XXXVIII, Number 3

SGA elections, constitutional ratification postponed

Student court, government square off

A heated, ongoing debate over amendments proposed by the Student Government Association will delay this semester's elections at least one week, possibly longer.

After an argument nearing one hour at their March 17 meeting, the senate approved a motion to postpone the elections and ratification to discuss the issue.

The sometimes heated discussion arose from grievances filed by the Student Court.

The justices of the court strongly opposed to new provisions added to the SGA constitution. Those changes, recommended by the Constitutional Revisions Committee, would begin incorporating the current judicial constitution into SGA's.

The court currently runs under its own constitution, while being partially ruled by SGA's. The recent proposals have the court concerned about the balance of power. So

concerned, the justices have threatened to shut the senate down.

A four-page document listing seven separate SGA violations was delivered just before the senate's meeting. In the summary, the court ruled that all SGA functions should cease for three days. During that time frame, the court would investigate and rule on the constitutional breaches.

Also in that time, SGA would have to recruit more candidates for the elections. At this point, only five people are on the ballot:

Bob Woehr; Marcus Richey; Daneen Williams; Sean Linric and Mike Woodford.

However, the whole process was temporarily avoided when the two sides agreed to discuss the proposed changes further.

Compounding the problem behind these decisions has been time. All revisions to the constitution must be approved by a student vote. Thus the decision to postpone election dates. Originally scheduled for Mar. 23-25, the booths are scheduled to open on Mar. 30 to April 1. But even those dates remain shaky.



Stacie Wentzel (left) and Tami Pardue, the THON contingent from PSH, flank Kirsten Werme, Four Diamonds Coordinator for Hershey Medical Center, at this year's marathon. The PSH dancers raised \$4, 977 toward THON's grand total of over \$2 million.

Engineering cuts draw fire

by Dan Zehr

Despite protests by students, faculty and alumni, four engineering professors will not have their contracts renewed next semester.

Dr. John Bruhn, provost and dean, and Dr. John Welsh, engineering department head, told a packed room 211 crowd that declining enrollment in engineering forced the cuts. In mechanical engineering alone, the number of students has been steadily dropping from 151 in 1992 to 80 this semester.

The drop has cost four adjunct and part-time professors their positions. They are Mitchell Haller (MET), Ganesh Bal (MET), Cheryl Ebel (EET) and Linford Harley (SDCET).

Students and faculty were particularly displeased with the decision. While recognizing that some changes need to be made, many

were upset these professors, Bal and Haller especially, would be the ones to go.

"It's obvious which professors are good and bad," said Gwen Coble, a senior MET major, "but they are letting the wrong ones go."

In a letter to the administration, 1996 MET graduate Jack Staconis agreed writing these professors' release, "will degrade the integrity of the Engineering program at PSU Harrisburg."

William Aungst, another MET professor, worried the better instructors were being fired. By letting go of those without tenure, the administration was taking "the easy way out."

He challenged the administration to release other professors despite the tenure problems that would arise. "They need to make the tough decisions," he said.

The weapon that heals

THON's effects last much longer than 48 hours

by Dan Zehr

A sword is displayed there. It is perched on the wall just a short walk from the intersection of Telethon Avenue and Marathon Road. A longsword, brightly polished; the kind of weapon King Arthur's knights wielded in days of yore.

It is a symbol of the fight against cancer, and it hangs near two of the pediatric care wings at Hershey Medical Center — one supported by The Children's Miracle Network telethon, the other supported by Penn State University's dance marathon.

It is a weapon made for battle.

A short walk away, bright pinks and yellows adorn the doorways. Glow-in-the-dark stars pasted on the walls wait for the overhead lights to go dark so they can glow. Boxes of toys, children's books and games are stacked in each room.

This place exudes joy.

But all is not happiness. The battle is raging here too.

In the pediatric oncology units, innocent smiles of children are set face-to-face against cancer. There, Janiece Crovella is a sword bearer and playmate. She is one of two child life specialists employed by Hershey Medical Center.

The hospital employs two child life specialists — one inpatient and one outpatient. Both are funded solely by the Four Diamonds Fund for which Penn State University holds its annual 48-hour dance marathon. Both are mediators between smiles and swords. And both provide support for children with cancer and their families.

Crovella, the outpatient unit's specialist explained she helps address concerns, questions or fears that may arise. "I try to mini-

mize the trauma," she said, "I try to make the medical experience a positive one."

Since moving here from California in 1994, she has been helping do just that in a variety of ways. Her tasks range anywhere from comforting the kids themselves to answering questions from their families. Her solutions are just as varied.

For the children, a variety of what Crovella calls "tools" are used. Stories, photo albums and anatomically correct dolls give the patients and families a chance to understand the procedures they are going through. For example, the dolls are used for medical play. She explained that the kids can do to the dolls what the doctors are doing to them.

"I also try to present them with relaxation techniques," Crovella said. To help the patients feel more comfortable during a spinal tap or marrow abstraction, "We might use music and deep breathing exercises," she explained.

Crovella also comforts the patients' families by providing information. "They know how to talk to their own kids," she said, "but they don't always know what to say or they need to know the right information."

While she tries to let the parents know they can handle this, she also lets them know people are there to help. But such help often is not needed after long. "Most of our parents are amazing," she said.

Equally amazing are the attitudes of the kids. In the midst of their battles against cancer, they still are the stars, Crovella said. "They have jokes to tell, hugs to give," she said. "They have smiles in the worst of times."

Like any battle, this one has its share of
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