

A little surprise waits for those who didn't go to the "transition sessions."

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Jesse Gutierrez "files" the first installment of his fictional series.

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Barbara Roy suggests some places to spend some time when off campus.

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The eyes and ears of the Harrisburg Campus

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\$1 million grant puts engineering on cutting edge

By Ken Lopez

Software industry giant Hewlett Packard recently donated 12 computer software packages worth over \$1 million to Penn State Harrisburg's Electrical Engineering program, enabling students to test and measure the performances of their designs, campus officials announced.

The equipment is currently being installed and should be ready to use by the end of the

month.

The packages, which cost up to \$90,000 each, are components of a communication design package that deals with the sending and receiving of sounds, associate professor of Electrical Engineering Ali Bahagi said. The package consists of several smaller parts (fiber optics, wireless local area networks, radar, radio dispatch, etc.) that operate like a cellular phone. As a voice is transmitted through the phone it is digitized, which al-

lows the receiver to hear that sound.

"The combination of analog and digital circuits can be called revolutionary," Bahagi said of the new software he believes is the industry's solution for designing "extremely complex microwave integrated circuits."

Bahagi's previous classes have been limited to working with separate analog and digital systems. The implementation of the latest software allows students to work on both simultaneously.

"This software is much more efficient and the most up to date. It can handle both the analog and digital capabilities of any system," Bahagi said. "There is really no limit to the kind of circuits now."

The software will be integrated into the course curriculum, enabling senior and graduate-level engineering students to design, simulate, optimize and create microstrip cir-

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Photo by Kim Glass

Like residents, cars pack into the space left in Meade Heights. A move to new housing has temporarily put all on-campus students in the townhouse development.

Residents begin to settle in

New housing plans force adjustments to tighter quarters

By Hiran Ratnayake

Have you ever wondered why scores of students have been crowding a once sparse Meade Heights community? This is because the housing area became the substitute for the dorms after they were vacated.

The managers of the Housing and Food office, Joanne Coleman and Greg Schiavoni, talked recently about the adjustment. When asked why the revisions were being made, Coleman stated, "Right now our campus is in a transitional period. We are building new facilities and apartment-style housing. Many of our assessments have shown that students prefer single rooms. Our goal is to get 100% occupancy on the campus."

Schiavoni added, "It's a real plus side for our school.

Not only is our campus enlarged, but it gives us more of a university setting."

The completion date for the new housing is projected between the year 2000 and 2001. Along with the apartments, town houses are being constructed for couples and families complete with Internet access, refrigerators, even washers and dryers.

Coleman finished by saying, "We have done a lot of relocations to make things more accessible for everyone."

Mike Freed who didn't want his last name printed, lived in the dorms last year. I asked him to compare that to his present living arrangements. "It's definitely

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Audio thefts anger students as police search for answers

By Matthew Bowman

Crime Alert!

Penn State Harrisburg was hit hard last Friday, when the news broke of several forcible entries into student vehicles on campus during daylight hours.

The motive behind each and every break-in has been the same: audio equipment like cd players, speakers and radios which can have excellent resell value.

With a total of nine students reporting thefts and break-ins to their cars over a three week time span, the campus community is now back on its heels after what was to be a good start to a new school year.

Kevin J. Stoehr, director of Safety and Police Services said the PSH campus is not alone as the Middletown area is also suffering from recent reports of similar crimes. "We have increased patrols and visibility," Stoehr said, and at this point "we want everyone in the community to be aware that these events have taken place and to take the necessary precautions."

Police Services is in the process of increasing its patrol staff as well from three officers to six, and it is also working directly with the Middletown and Lower Swatara



Photo by Kim Glass

The remnants of a dashboard left by a recent rash of radio thefts.

Police in order to get as much information as possible on the thefts. As of now, there are no definite leads or suspects, and any information that may be useful in these cases should be directed to Safety and Police Services immediately.

Seven of the nine thefts took place last week; five of which were in the main parking lot behind the Olmsted building. The other two occurred in the lot located between the Olmsted building and the CUB.

Jesse Gutierrez, owner of one of

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