

Editorial

Smells like school spirit

OK! OK! Turn off the damn lights and take the tape off our eyelids! For the love of God, put away the truth serum, we'll talk! Have you no mercy?!?

We admit it. Things are looking up at PSH (well, accept for the bees that keep flying around are heads and the spine-tingling-sounds-like-nails-across-the-chalkboard noise of the locust trees scraping against our windows).

Hey, you didn't expect us to stop complaining overnight, did you?

But, for the first time in awhile, it's beginning to seem as if people actually enjoy being here. In fact, producing this paper is becoming enjoyable. Which, frankly, makes us a little suspicious.

More people have been in the CapTimes office within the past week than the last two semesters combined. A group of people got together and realized that the gym across the way is there for their use, so now it's possible to play some basketball over the lunch hour. The photo lab door is mysteriously always open now, when finding a photographer last semester was like asking to borrow someone's kidney. And WPSH, the campus radio station is actually having a staff meeting this week.

A short aside: We can vouch for the existence of radio equipment in room W343. Being directly next door, we've heard it. Unfortunately, the station's speakers aren't quite loud enough to send those thumpin' beats to Meade Heights. Or another room down the hall for that matter.

A second aside: We even overheard a student giving a soccer mom directions to the school's athletic fields for her son's afternoon practice not long ago. Yes, we actually have athletic fields. We were shocked students even knew because, unfortunately, none are playing on them. At least we can't see them. Maybe there is a whole "Field of Dreams" thing happening over there, and students are appearing from out of the CUB. The fields were built, but it seems nobody came.

Back to it: We actually heard people laughing outside the Olmsted Building the other day. Not just once, but many times; as if holding a long conversation. It couldn't be. After all the complaining we heard (and yes, we wrote) last semester. Is PSH becoming more than a commuter campus?

But don't think everything's just peachy yet. We still have radios missing from cars while police ticket pizza-delivery drivers for parking in front of Olmsted for three minutes. We still have plenty of apathetic, "drive-in" students. Those that order their degree with a side of fries. And yes, smokers must still make sure their vile stench doesn't invade the healthy halls of PSH.

More and more, though, it seems people actually care.

Which brings us to the question of why this is happening. One theory, and it doesn't seem completely implausible, is that John Bruhn, our provost and dean, is pumping some mind-altering drugs through the air ducts.

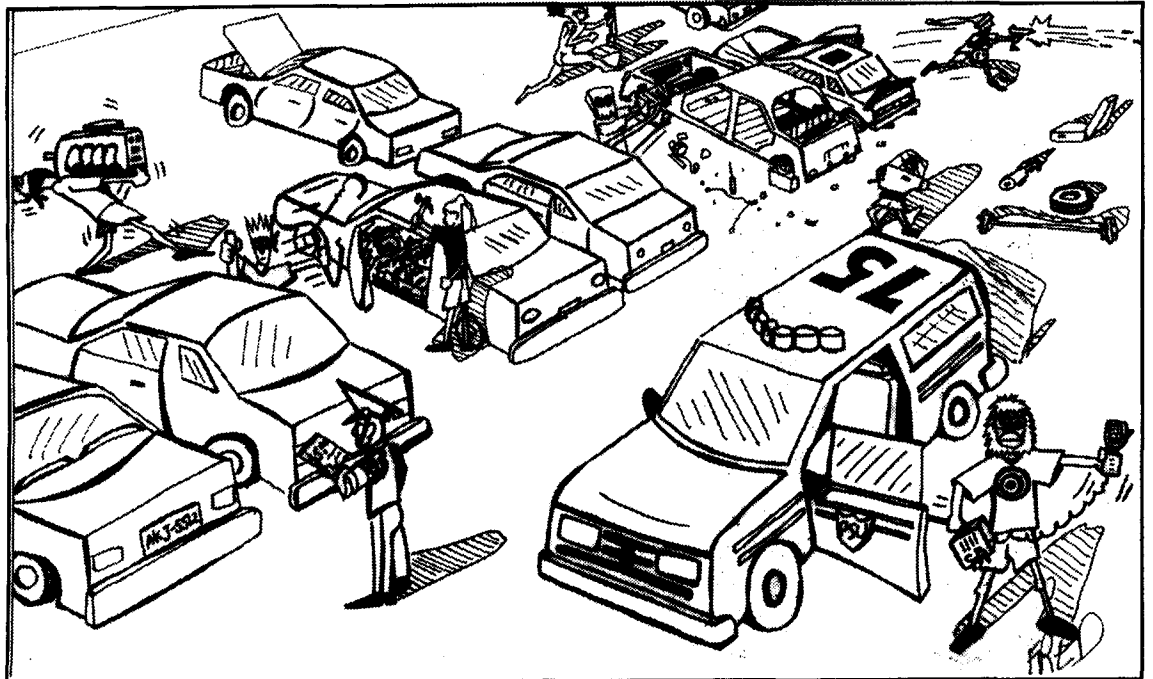
Of course, who knows what else is in there. Can't be anything much healthier than cigarette smoke at a few parts per million.

Maybe it's just the 5-year-old Snickers bars found in one of WPSH's cabinets.

Or maybe we simply shouldn't care why it's happening. Maybe we should just enjoy it while it lasts — and hope it lasts a good while longer.

Besides, the room's starting to spin. What does happen to sugar after five years anyway?

Cartoons by FRED



Letters

I am writing this letter as a concerned student of Penn State Harrisburg. I feel the students, administration and faculty deserve to know what's going on with the Student Government Association here. In order to function properly, the SGA has a Constitution by which the student body is to be governed. Below are a few areas in which SGA is not adhering to its Constitution or areas which create questions of conflict of interest, unconstitutionality or self interest. I was under the impression, as per the SGA constitution, the main purpose of SGA is to promote the welfare of students and direct activities of student organizations in the best interest of the student body. My question is how are we serving the students best interest with these decisions? Another area that I would like addressed: how ethical is it to allow 3 of the 5 members of the Finance Committee to be from the same club/organization.

-To resign from office, a resignation shall be presented in writing before the Senate and shall become effective when recorded as such in the minutes (Article VII, Section 5).

The resignation letter of Audrey Rose (Chief Justice) was never presented to the Senate in writing, therefore, she still retains that position and Jim Cushing cannot be appointed to that position.

-The President shall approve all members of standing, ad hoc, and campus committees (Article III, Section 2G).

Currently 3 of the 5 members of the Finance Committee are Chi Gamma Iota (XGI) members. Was this approved by the SGA President?

-The Treasurer shall submit a statement to each active and registered student organization within the first three weeks of each se-

mester as to the financial status of those organizations (Article III, Section 4H).

This was only completed as of 9/21/98

-A Constitution Revision Committee must review all amendments to the Constitution, as well as the bylaws. The Chairperson shall be the Vice President. The member will consist of two Justices, chosen by the Chief Justice, two Senators, one Junior and one Senior chosen by the President, and the Chair of the Meeting (Article X).

Currently there is a copy of new proposed bylaws outside of the SGA office. Was the Vice President, Justices, or Senators involved in this process?

-According to the current SGA Bylaws (revised 3/26/98). The elections for the open positions of senators and officers of the SGA shall be held no later than the fourth week following or proceeding a semester on a date designated by the Senate.

Elections are currently being held Sept. 29 - 30, this is the 5th week of the semester.

-According to the current SGA Bylaws (revised 3/26/98). A voting member viewed as having a conflict of interest concerning a motion on the floor shall be asked to abstain by the President.

Does this also apply to the decisions the Finance Committee makes concerning club/organization budget allocations? Or if a member of the Finance Committee is also a member of another club/organization are they asked to abstain from voting on their own budget?

Sincerely,
Stacie Wentzel

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