

Students Contribute to Sexual Fantasy Research

By John Yagocic

The "Sexual Fantasy Study" signs that adorn the campus have sparked many questions and some imaginative conversations in the Lion's Den.

Dr. Michael Becker, Assistant Professor of Psychology, assures curious students, "It's no joke; there really is a study."

The study, which began on this campus last November is scheduled to resume the week of Feb. 20.

"Sexual fantasy," said Becker, "is an important type of human behavior."

"The scientific study of sexuality was inhibited until relatively recently," Becker said.

"Because of that inhibition, I think we know very little about sexual behavior, especially considering how important sex is to human beings."

Becker plans to use the information gathered to study sexual fantasy and obtain a better understanding of what fantasy is.

"I think we'll get a bigger picture of what fantasies are all about and what they represent," Becker said.

Since its initiation at Penn State Harrisburg, 65 students have participated in the study.

"Ideally, we'd like between 350 and 400 participants," said Becker.

As an incentive Becker is offering \$10 to all participating volunteers.

"We don't have a formal means of getting research participants. At larger universities, students in introductory psychology courses are often required to participate in a number of research studies," said Becker.

"We don't have that luxury here; we really do rely on volunteers," Becker said.

Student volunteers are asked to write out in detail the most common sexual fantasy they have experienced in the past three months. The participant then answers a series of questions about the fantasy.

"Students who participate can count on complete anonymity," Becker stated.

Males and females complete the study at different times with a research assistant of the same sex.

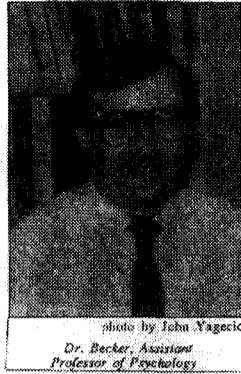


photo by John Yagocic
Dr. Becker, Assistant Professor of Psychology

"We'd like all different majors," Becker said, "this way we'll have a good representation of all college students."

Students who have already participated found the study to be a positive experience.

"It was great," said public policy major Peg Leight. "It was the easiest ten dollars I ever made."

"From a stand point of researching human behavior, it is a very practical and worthy cause, not to mention getting some beer money for the weekend," said finance major Brian Steinhilber.

The study was financed by the Capital Research Fund.

Becker and his research assistants Tom Thorpe and Flossy Wolf are already planning to present their study at the American Psychological Association and Eastern Region of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality meetings in Boston this March.

"We would expect that we would be able to get many convention papers and formal research reports from this project," said Becker, "the data is really quite extensive."

Students interested in participating can sign up in the Behavioral Science Office, room W-157 of the Olmsted building.



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A. Every college kid's dream: getting paid to describe his/her sexual fantasies, February 1989. B. An editorial cartoon originally published Oct. 4, 1989. C. Renovations to the Olmsted Building, summer 1990. D. The Olmsted elevator on the fritz, March, 1990. E. The campus just wasn't big enough for the two of them and Dr. Audi packed it in, January 1989. F. The Downtown Center celebrated its 10th anniversary earlier this year.

PSH GETS FACELIFT



Rebo and the "Bismark Superstar"

PHOTO BY JANET NEDOFF

Victoria Cascino
Capital Times Editor

Penn State Harrisburg renovated the Olmsted lobby during summer break and implemented a new telephone system on August 8, 1990.

PSH maintenance worked all summer in the lobby to create a conversation and waiting area for students. Many students stay in the lobby to wait for friends, so we wanted to create a convenient area as a meeting place, said Dr. James South, Associate Provost for Administrative Operations.

The renovations included a new sofa unit, carpeting, better lighting, woodwork and a higher ceiling. "Because that is the way most of our visitors enter the college, we feel that should be a quality place," South said.

To facilitate the lobby renovations, the records office lost some of their space. Therefore, we tried to make the records office a "warmer place" and more efficient, South said. By opening the corridors, the lobby has a "different feel...because it is more open."

The telephone project consisted of replacing all the instruments on campus, and a complete rewiring inside and from one building to another -- a \$1,400,000 project.

The new telephone system "will give us several capacities we have not had previously," South said. This includes voice mail, which makes some people work more efficiently and will release secretaries from their telephones so they can be more productive by performing their actual duties.

PSH was "out of capacity" with the old system and there were no more telephone lines available with the old technology, South said.

Students living in the dorms have telephones in their rooms this year -- no more waiting for hall phones!

The money for these projects came from a variety of sources. Some of it came from student tuition, state appropriation, gifts to the college, and from savings in other areas of the budget.

Dr. South stressed the importance of taking care of our current facilities to maintain an environment where students can learn and professors can teach. His self-imposed goal is to see PSH completely renovated by 1991. It is already over 50% finished.

SEE RENOVATIONS on 2

PSU Opens City Center

By Nathan Lee Gadsden

The Penn State University Downtown Center will strengthen PSU's presence in the area by bringing the entire system closer to state government, according to the center's coordinator.

One of the primary goals of the center is to "enhance the PSU working relationship with lawmakers and state agencies," said Nancy Kartik. She added that the center's location across the street from the capitol will make that task easier.

The center will provide many services, including the following: masters and doctoral classes in public administration; information about PSU programs; and meeting and working space for PSU faculty, staff and students.

Classes are scheduled for Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights with three classes being held each night.

"Currently we have only one class per night; two masters and one doctoral," Kartik said. She added that a total of 50 students are enrolled in the classes which began Feb. 3.

PSU interns in state government will also benefit from the center's location. Kartik said space is available for interns to work if they need to get away from their offices for a while. (Continued on page 2)

Disgruntled Professor Resigns

By Lucille Corto-Palmer

Complaining of harassment from his department chairman, an engineering technology professor resigned two weeks into the semester, leaving the division to cover his classes.

Dr. Mahmoud S. Audi said he left on Jan. 17 because Mr. William Augst, chairman of the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program in which Audi taught "harassed me continuously and I couldn't bear to work around him any longer."

Augst denied harassing Audi but admitted requesting him to do his job.

"I treated him as I would have treated anyone else who wasn't doing their job," Augst said.

Augst admitted his animosity towards Audi.

"It's best for the university that he is gone," Augst said. "If it were up to me, Dr. Audi would have been gone long ago."

The differences between the two professors go back a long way.

"When Dr. Audi came on board five years ago, he ran into problems with Mr. Augst," said Dr. William A. Welsh, head of the Engineering Technology Division.

Professional differences compounded the personality conflict, Welsh said.

The two men could not avoid each other because they taught a series of interrelated courses in mechanical engineering. They had major problems working together on programs, Welsh said.



file photo
Dr. Mahmoud Audi, former engineering technology professor



file photo
Mr. William Augst, Chairman of MET Dept.

"Augst felt strongly that multiple-sectioned courses should have standardized tests and books but Dr. Audi wanted creative and professional freedom in teaching," Welsh said.

Audi's professional performance appears to have been satisfactory. He had passed his fourth-year review in the tenure process, Welsh said, adding, "he was a difficult person to work with."

The department worked hard to retain Audi "because he had a lot to offer," Welsh said, but he "felt that his working conditions under Mr. Augst were intolerable."

"The chaos won't be missed, but his contributions will."

With Audi gone, Welsh swiftly found new instructors for Audi's two classes, Computer Aided Designs, and Thermodynamics. Students missed only one class from the Design course.

Assistant Professor Donald L. Miller has taken over Computer Aided Designs, a course which he has not taught before.

"It's tough and will take awhile. This semester will be experimental until I get a feel for what the students can do in CAD," he said.

Masoud Tabatabai, assistant professor, is instructing in the Computer Aided Design lab along with Miller.

Augst is taking over Thermodynamics, which he has taught before.

"It just adds to my workload," he said.

Students from these two classes appear to be adapting but with some discomfort.

Don McCue, an engineering student in the Thermodynamics class said he was "surprised and upset" when Dr. Audi just left and feels "a difference in teaching styles that is taking a while to adjust to."

Audi's position as chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee with the Faculty Council has not been filled. Dr. Murat K. Yurtseven, chairman of the Council, is in the process of finding a replacement.

Audi said he is looking for a new position in teaching or consulting.

Audi received his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Syracuse University in 1974. He taught and researched in his field for over 9 years before coming to Penn State. He is currently the treasurer of the local chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineering, and has published many works with both ASME and the American Society of Engineering Education.

Class Trapped in Elevator

Victoria Cascino
Capital Times Staff

The Olmsted elevator malfunctioned on Tuesday, March 27, trapping 12 passengers inside for half an hour and broke down again on Saturday, March 31--a record of 6 breakdowns since school began in August.

Officials could not explain the cause of either incident.

Professor Richard Ammon and eleven members of his Child and Adolescent Literature class remained trapped in the elevator on the 27th until a PSH student manually operated the electrical circuits in the penthouse area of Olmsted to open the elevator door.

"I would really like to know what happened," said Ammon. "I held the door open button until everyone got on, pushed third floor and we went up about 6 inches and stopped."

Ammon said the trapped passengers talked through the doorway to other students and told them to call Campus Police. "We sat around and told jokes," Ammon said.

On the 31st, a Campus Police officer reset the elevator by manually operating the circuit breakers in the penthouse area at 8:40 p.m., making this the second time in 4 days that the elevator malfunctioned. No one was inside when the doors opened, and Campus Police said the alarm rang for about an hour according to the person who called.

"It is probably a malfunction in the electrical system," said Officer Phil Negrete, who tripped the breaker to reset the elevator on the 31st.

The elevator also stopped in the same

manner and trapped a technical service person from Maintenance during the third week of March--1 week before the other incidents.

Steve Swanson, a mechanical engineering student, manually operated the circuit breakers on the 27th to open the elevator door. Swanson first broke the glass of the emergency box that houses the key to open the elevator door, but found the box empty.

Charles Alesky, Chief of Campus Police, said a Middletown fireman, Mike Krupulis, initially requested access to the penthouse area of Olmsted to check the main circuits for any shorts that could result in a fire. Officer Beard, of PSH Campus Police, opened the penthouse door for the Middletown fireman but denied Swanson access to the area. Swanson entered the penthouse with Lower Swatara Firemen after his initial request for access was denied.

Alesky said Officer Beard called the rescue unit because she thought the elevator doors were jammed and could not be opened with the emergency key. "The main concern was to get the people out right away in case of fire," said Alesky.

Officials differed in their reports of who released the entrapped passengers.

Officer Beard's police report states that rescue personnel released the passengers and initially told Chief Alesky that the fireman operated the circuit breakers. Her report does not indicate that Swanson entered the penthouse area with the firemen and operated the breakers to open the elevator

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