

Is it the right one, baby?

Candy Franks
Capital Times Staff

Penn State recently said "uh-huh" to a ten year, \$14 million partnership with Pepsi.

Six million dollars will be appropriated to building the new Academic/Athletic Convocation and Events Center at University Park. University libraries will be allocated \$1 million; \$500,000 will expand the HUB/Robeson Cultural Center; and the 21 branch campuses will divide \$500,000 among them over a 10-year period.

Remaining dollars will aid scholarship funds, University housing and food service vending operation activities, and help fund a new scoreboard for Beaver Stadium.

"We are very pleased about this welcome news for Penn State," said University President Josh Thomas. "We will have new and unexpected help for the University libraries and other Penn State campuses across the Commonwealth."

The partnership came about as an attempt to procure athletic sponsorship for the new Convocation Center, said Roger Williams, director of university relations. "It grew into a much larger package than we anticipated. As a result, there is unexpected money for programs other than University Park."

It isn't definite when other campuses will receive the unexpected money or even how much each campus will receive, but according to Williams a decision will be made "before too many months."

The University will receive \$1.4 million per year over the ten-year life of the partnership.

In return, Pepsi gained exclusive rights to place its logo on the main scoreboard at Beaver Stadium, and will be the primary corporate sponsor on the scoreboard in the Convocation Center. Pepsi also gained

exclusive rights for managing vending services at University Park and marketing its products on the 21 branch campuses.

"Pepsi is equally excited about this partnership," said Andy Cross, Pepsi's vice president for on-premise sales. "It's a classic win-win situation, and it gives Pepsi an array of marketing opportunities in connection with one of America's most prestigious universities."

Although Pepsi controls Penn State's soft-drink market, there hasn't been a "huge outpouring of criticism," according to Williams. "Some people voiced concerns of over-commercialization and freedom of choice, but (students, faculty, and staff) do have a choice if they go off campus and buy a Coke." This is exactly how some Penn State Harrisburg students, faculty and staff are dealing with the change.

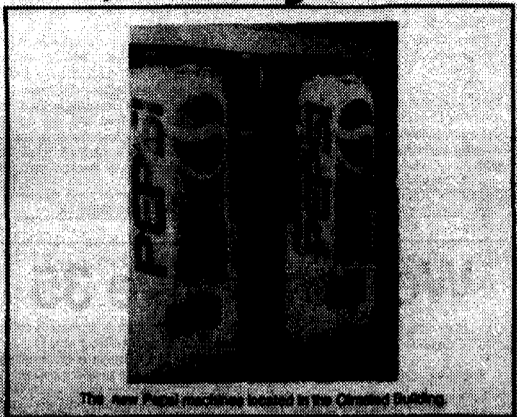
"I can't stand Pepsi. If I was a soda, I'd usually bring it with me," said Joe Harkness, a member of the student body. "I don't know how much more we can drink with Coke. It's seriously heavy."

"In a Coke store, I just either use," said Dr. Michael Heron, president of the student union. "I have friends who think Coke is what's best."

But for some students like Diane DeGroot, an elementary education major, "It doesn't really matter."

And for others it isn't the Pepsi, but the partnership, that leaves a bad taste in their mouths.

"It's a shame that Penn State has to rely on its money from a corporation," said Tom Flanagan, a senior engineering major. "It's common knowledge that PSH needs a new library. I suggest that PSH install in the dorms, coffee house, and the Offshoot building, coin-operated brew masters. Just imagine the revenue that a bidding war between the major brewers could elicit."



The new Pepsi machines located in the Offshoot Building.

"Maybe one we'll drink a deal with Goodyear and have all the maintenance vehicles only using Goodyear tires," Heron said.

Although a number of students, faculty and staff don't agree with the corporate partnership, University President Thomas said the deal will help to provide for critically-needed and renovated facilities at the University.

"Our students and faculty, our alumni and others in the Penn State family will benefit for years to come," he said.

A. The Pepsi-controlled domination of PSH's eating and drinking habits goes into effect, Sept. 1992. B. Things get a little out of hand after the cops ruin a good time in Meade Heights, Oct. 23, 1992. C. Our fair campus' silver anniversary celebration, Oct. 4-5, 1991. D. If you had any idea how frustrated the staff at WPSH are right now, you'd find this article very funny. E. Maybe Vartan will cough up \$4 million and get the library named after him. Heck, he gave us this money back in 1991. F. Somehow it's justice when a guy rips off more than \$36,000 but is only required to repay less than \$21,000 of it.

A

F

Witmer pleads guilty in PSH theft

Eln Marcel
Capital Times Staff

A former manager of facilities and maintenance operations at Penn State Harrisburg has pleaded guilty to stealing \$36,613 in tools and building materials from the university.

Kenneth E. Witmer, 42, was sentenced to a \$1000 fine, \$20,834 in restitution to Penn State, two years probation and community service.

Dauphin County Chief District Attorney William T. Tully told the Patriot-News his office agreed to stand silent at the sentencing and to merge 14 counts of theft by deception into one count in exchange for Witmer's plea.

In addition to restitution, court papers say Witmer has returned approximately \$14,000 in tools and unused materials to Penn State.

According to court papers, Witmer used

purchase orders to buy \$1519 in clothing and gifts from the Penn State Harrisburg Bookstore, and materials from local merchants, including a lawnmower, a ladder, building and roofing materials, tools, and a \$138 Redspire pear tree.

Witmer used some of the materials to put an addition on his Elizabethtown residence, improve his summer home in Rehoboth Beach, Del., and build a home on Chesnut Road in Conewago Twp., which he and his brother later sold for \$98,200, court papers also say.

James D. South II, associate provost for administrative operations, said the university scrutinized purchasing procedures following the theft. Officials found it was possible for someone to make a purchase and approve payment of the bill.

To prevent the problem from happening again, South said the university has reduced the number of standing

purchase orders, reduced and restricted the number of people authorized to deal with standing purchase order vendors, and will pay closer attention to matching purchase orders with a particular activity.

Edward Dankanich, Witmer's successor, said "It's highly unlikely that this type of action could happen again, based on all these checks and balances."

South agreed, but added, "Systems are fallible. If someone wants to cheat, eventually someone will figure out a way to do that."

According to court papers, the problem surfaced in October 1990. One of Witmer's staff, Work Management Coordinator Jay Michael Ray, said he noticed irregularities while matching purchase orders with paid invoices.

South said the theft was discovered in December 1990, but declined to discuss



Kenneth E. Witmer

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Vartan contributes \$2.7 million to school

Pat Byers
Capital Times Staff

Penn State Harrisburg recently received \$2.7 million from Harrisburg entrepreneur and Penn State alumnus John Vartan.

According to the Patriot News, the gift is the largest in the history of the campus, and one of many previous gifts made by Vartan to the school. It is the first part of a \$5 million donation expected by the Vartan family.

Penn State President Josh Thomas told the Patriot that he is delighted to receive "this impressive voice of confidence from the Vartan family." He said that the gift will create an endowment at Penn State Harrisburg. He said the entire amount will be invested with the interest used to support various selected projects and programs.

Penn State Harrisburg Dean and Provost Ruth Leventhal called Vartan "a primary patron of this institution," and noted that he has been a crucial figure in the growth of the campus during the 1980s.

Vartan is chairman of Vartan Enterprises Inc. of Harrisburg and chairman of the board of directors of Dauphin National Bank.

He is a founding member of the Penn State Harrisburg Board of Advisors, a

leader in campus fund raising and a member of the alumni society. Vartan received his master's degree in engineering from Penn State Harrisburg in 1973.

Charles A. Cole, chairman of the graduate program in environmental pollution control knew Vartan as both a student and co-worker. Cole said Vartan was one of the first graduate students he ever taught and was a "very focused person who knew where to go and set about a plan to do it."

Cole worked with Vartan on consulting jobs in the mid 1970s and called the future entrepreneur "hard working and very determined at both school and work." Cole said that following graduation Vartan started his own environmental engineering company and expanded his interests in properties, real estate and construction.

Vartan was named Alumni Fellow at Penn State Harrisburg in 1987, and is an esteemed member of the Mount Nittany Society, which recognizes the highest level of philanthropy to Penn State.

Vartan, who could not be reached for comment, was responsible for donating \$194,000 for the Center of Technology, \$61,000 to the major gifts campaign, a \$250,000 gift to the Penn State Harrisburg Downtown Center, and \$10,000 to the Renaissance Scholarship Fund.

E

D

New audio equipment improves radio station

WPSH, the voice of Penn State Harrisburg, is ready for another year of bringing the student body great music and information. According to Terry Wolf, the station's new general manager, this year's "mind-set" is slightly different from that of previous years.

"We want to be here FOR the student body. We want to get people involved by letting them know what is going on," Wolf said. "We're going to wage a war against student apathy, and we don't like to lose."

WPSH has a new weapon to aid them in their battle, DJ equipment. The recently purchased equipment includes two Yamaha speaker cabinets, two Sony compact disc players, a 400-watt Peavy amp, a Sony stereo cassette deck, a Technics auto turntable, various sound cords, mikes and accessories.

They will be trying to round up clubs interested in holding dances as a means of fund raising. The staff plans to make things easier on the clubs by

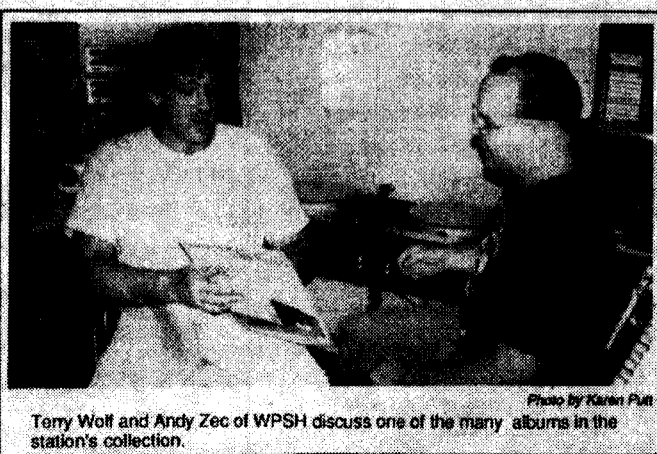


Photo by Karen Fatt

Terry Wolf and Andy Zec of WPSH discuss one of the many albums in the station's collection.

asking for a small percentage of ticket sales rather than a flat fee. "We feel this will take some pressure off the clubs," Wolf said. "They won't

Story Update:

Eight students charged with disorderly conduct after raid

Stacey Simmers
Capital Times Staff

Eight Penn State Harrisburg students face charges of disorderly conduct and one student a charge of public drunkenness after police raided two parties in Meade Heights on Oct. 23.

Supervisor of Safety and Police Services Charles Aleksey said that each of the charges carries a maximum fine of \$300.

Charged with disorderly conduct are Crystal Amand, Karl Miller, Scott Kepper, Steven Betards, Ryan Crouthamel, William Price and Erica Michener. Kurt Relish faces public drunkenness charges, Aleksey said.

Three people who are not students here were also charged with disorderly conduct. Allison Rhodes, Kelly Harman and Albert Kelly, all of Harrisburg, could have been charged with underage drinking, Aleksey said.

These penalties are a result of a six-police department raid of two parties involving more than 100 students.

While police checked IDs, someone slashed a tire and smashed a window on a Middletown police car. Penn State Police Services are investigating to determine who did it. Aleksey said they have no information so far.

Everyone caught at the party had to provide proper identification before being released. Those charged were involved in the collection of money from guests for entry or serving the beer.

People cited for disorderly conduct could have been charged with violation of liquor control laws that make it illegal to

sell alcohol without a license and to serve alcohol to minors. Penalties for this misdemeanor could include a 5-year jail sentence and/or fines of about \$2000, Aleksey said.

"Since everyone cooperated, we decided to go with the lighter sentence," Aleksey said.

The amount of each fine will be set by District Justice Robert Yanich once the pleas are made.

Student allegations have been filed for violations of the University Code of Conduct.

Because of privacy policies, information regarding specific cases cannot be released to the public, said Don Holtzman, director of student affairs.

A student violation of the code of conduct could result in a disciplinary warning, loss of housing contracts, suspension from class or in the extreme-expulsion from the University, Holtzman said.

These actions may be supplemented with educational programs, Holtzman said. For example, students cited for alcohol law violations could be required to attend alcohol awareness classes.

"Our discipline system is geared toward education rather than punishment," Holtzman said.

Police confiscated the \$183 that was collected for admission to the parties. The district attorney told Aleksey that the money could be put into student programs.

"I put it in a Student Government account for the sole purpose of alcohol awareness programs," Aleksey said.

PSH celebrates 25th anniversary

Eln Marcel
Capital Times Staff

Students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered at Penn State Harrisburg as the college celebrated its 25th Anniversary Oct. 4-5 with speeches, dances, sports events and ceremonies.

With clouds and an occasional glaze in the skies over Penn State Harrisburg, the Convocation Ceremony began Saturday, Oct. 5 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sculpture Garden.

The ceremony, which featured keynote speakers Josh Thomas, President of Penn State University, and Ruth Leventhal, Provost and Dean of Penn State Harrisburg, drew a crowd of about 600.

Trinity Brass, a brass ensemble, provided background music as a procession of about 35 faculty members moved to full academic regalia opened the event.

Thomas, whose speech was punctuated

future ain't what it used to be."

Thomas quoted baseball mogul Yogi Berra, who said "It's dangerous to make predictions, especially about the future."

Despite Berra's warning, Thomas predicted change in higher education. According to Thomas, profound innovations will occur in the classroom over the next ten years.

Thomas suggested that teachers and students will communicate by telecommunications systems both during and outside of class, changing the role of teachers.

"It is important for all of us to dream about the future," Thomas said. "Don't be afraid to establish high goals."

Thomas stressed the importance of quality in the future of Penn State.

"The future of the campus depends on the quality of leadership and the quality of faculty and students," Thomas said.

Thomas urged listeners to recognize the

Make the whole greater than the sum

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