

Two assaults occur on campus; Unrelated incidents revive concerns of campus safety

Cathy Nolan
Staff Reporter

Two Penn State Harrisburg students have been assaulted on campus this semester in unrelated incidents, according to Police Services.

On Nov. 19, at approximately 2:30 A.M., a resident senior marketing major in Meade Heights reported she was changing for bed, when she heard a noise at her bedroom window.

When the student went outside to investigate, she said she saw a man, who claimed he had a gun.

The student then ran back inside her house, and called Police Services.

The assailant is described as a white man in his thirties, with short, dark hair and a moustache. He is approximately 5'7" tall, with a medium build. He was wearing a grey pullover sweatshirt and a dark jacket. The student said she saw no gun.

The student, who spoke with *The Capital Times* on condition of anonymity, said that, initially, she was told by Police Services to simply call back if the assailant returned.

The student then called some friends to pick her up. After she left, her roommate called 911. The Lower Swatara Twp. police and Police Services then responded, coming to the house to take a police report on the incident.

The student said that, even though Police Services was courteous when they arrived, she found it ridiculous that they were not going to come out to investigate the incident, until the Lower Swatara Police were involved in the incident.

University police Chief Charles Aleksey disagreed with the student's version of events. While he agreed most points coincided with the official police version, he disputed her claim that Police Services did not respond to her call immediately.

"They may have told her to call right away if anything else happened, while at her house," Aleksey said.

Aleksey said Police Services arrived at the same time Lower Swatara Twp. police. Police Services checked the grounds around the house, and continued spot sweeps throughout the night, he said. A composite picture will also be made, and surrounding municipalities have already been informed of the incident, Aleksey said.

Director of Public Information Steve Hevner said he was not informed of the incidents until contacted by *The Capital Times*, and will discuss the situation with Police Chief Aleksey. Hevner said that, in the past, Police Services and the Public Relations departments haven't worked closely, and that that practice must change.

"I am concerned and I will pursue this," Hevner said. "I'm as in the dark as anybody. If I'm to respond to concerns about incidents on campus, I need to be informed of what is happening."

The other incident on campus occurred on Nov. 1, according to a letter sent to campus residents by Residence Life Coordinator George Young. In the letter, Young stated

that a female resident of Church Hall reported to Police Services that she was sexually assaulted on two occasions in October by an invited guest.

After an investigation and consultation with the Dauphin County district Attorney's Office, the male was charged with aggravated indecent

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A. Scary stuff from 1994.

B. The apex of apathy, snubbing the provost, March 1994.

C. Discontent by the Humanities Department, Fall 1993.

D. The Electrical Engineering program got a sweet boost from Hewlett Packard last year.

E. You know, cool things actually do happen on this campus. Fuel was here in January 1997 as was Mr. Green Genes. Interestingly enough, the Psychology Club of all groups sponsored Mr. Green Genes. Anybody out there interested in trying to do something similarly cool?



Despite wind chill factors of minus 20 degrees, Penn State Harrisburg (PSH) students and members of the local community stayed warm by dancing to music of the Harrisburg-based band Fuel last Thursday. Fuel's performance, which was held in the Capital Union Building gymnasium (CUB), featured popular alternative music including the group's own songs from their recently released compact disc "Porcelain." The concert was the first of several events planned by the campus Thon committee to raise money for the Four Diamonds Fund. A second concert is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 24 at 9 p.m. at the CUB, and will feature alternative rock band Mr. Green Genes. Friday's concert is sponsored by the Psychology Club. Admission is \$5; \$3 with student I.D. The proceeds from both events will benefit the Four Diamonds Fund.

\$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.

Provost luncheon boycotted Ill feelings slated for poor turnout

Jen Brandt
Capital Times Reporter

Students at Penn State Harrisburg boycotted the Provost Ruth Leventhal's luncheon held March 2 because of ill feelings toward her administrative role.

"Why go when nothing gets done," asked John Braxenwanis, senior Electronic Engineering Technology (EET) student.

"In general, we are all getting fed up with the administration," he said.

Braxenwanis is a non-traditional student who sees the administration through the eyes of an experienced adult.

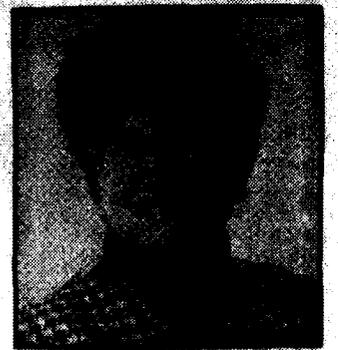
"Money should be spent more on education rather than the administration," added Braxenwanis.

"It should go toward the students' benefit, not plushy offices."

"Administrators must realize that we are the reason that they have their jobs," said Chris Augustine, senior EET student.

"I didn't go to the luncheon. It's useless to try to do anything at this campus, because nothing ever comes of it," said Augustine.

"It shocked me that the Provost was having a sit-down lunch," said Lara Bruner, senior humanities student. "She usually stands up in



Staff photo
Leventhal's luncheon was boycotted

front of students far removed."

Students explained that they wanted to be respected by the administration. Part of this respect is seen as caring for the student body's well-being before it comes into jeopardy. References to last semester's rapes emerged.

"When we had two rapes last semester the administration didn't do anything," explains a frustrated senior EET student.

"I didn't go to the luncheon because what is said goes in one ear and out the other."

Senior literature student, Gina Krall sums the feelings held across campus.

"I think she's doing too much, too late."

Tenure policy questioned by faculty: Humanities boycott committee

Susan Jones-Yurkiewicz
Capital Times Reporter

In a highly unusual action, the Humanities Division faculty has voted not to form a tenure and promotion committee until disputes with the administration over tenure decisions are resolved.

The September faculty vote is a protest of the tenure denial of Dr. Peter Parisi last spring, which triggered concern among faculty and students. The denial brought to a head long-standing conflicts between the faculty and Provost and Dean Ruth Leventhal over interpretation of tenure requirements, administrative management and collegial review.

At the same time, the Student Government Association has brought the issue to the forefront by listing it as the main topic of the Humanities Open Forum on Oct. 7 in the Gallery Lounge at 12:30 p.m.

"It is an assertion of a genuine desire for a real collegian exchange," Dr. Theodora Graham, associate humanities professor, said of the division vote.

The discontent is not limited to Penn State Harrisburg, said Graham, who serves on the University Faculty Senate. At the September meeting, tenure requirements were a significant topic.

The vote is uncommon for PSH faculty, according to William Aungst, associate professor of science, engineering and technology.

"Faculty members are intimidated," Aungst said. "They know the mentality of the administration doesn't like anyone rocking the boat."

According to faculty sources, the administration met with the Faculty Affairs Committee to hear complaints about the lack of collegiality on campus. The institutional atmosphere is causing low morale among the faculty, faculty sources said.

Union representatives will be on campus late this month to assess the atmosphere among the faculty, said a faculty member who declined to be identified. Faculty members voiced an overwhelming interest to Faculty Affairs Committee members about meeting the representatives.

Dr. Troy Thomas, associate professor of humanities and a member of the division tenure committee for six years, said the vote served as a catalyst to open discussions between the two sides.

"We voted not to form a tenure and promotion committee until she comes to us to explain what her criteria are," Thomas said.

The meeting with the provost is scheduled for October 7, the same day as

the SGA meeting.

Consensus on interpretation of tenure requirements is essential for current tenure candidates, who go through long discussions with their colleagues attempting to meet those requirements.

"We all have a stake in it," Thomas said. "There are those who aren't tenured who need to understand."

In Parisi's case, the administration viewed his record of academic record differently than the division and college committees.

Even though Parisi's teaching record was excellent, Dr. Ernest Dishner, associate provost and dean of faculty, said his academic publishing record wasn't sufficient. Dishner said Parisi needed more articles published in "journals of the first rank."

"The administration thought my publishing was not heavy enough," Parisi said. "But, in the eyes of my colleagues, it was enough."

Publication is a problem involving the quality of the journal and the quantity, Dishner said. Even the rate of article acceptance by a journal is considered. A journal that publishes 95 percent of its submissions would not especially be considered as an academic achievement.

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