

Student Leadership Workshop Focuses on Diversity

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that "changing mindsets is an incredibly difficult thing to do," and that a one-day workshop can only plant seeds in the hopes of beginning a change in thinking.

Dr. Norma Mateer added the perspective of a public school administrator in discussing the challenges of recruiting a school staff reflective of the diversity of the community.

One danger she identified was the tendency to believe "that the best person for the job is the person most like me."

Mateer reports that Steelton-Highspire School District actively recruits teachers through Pittsburgh and Philadelphia colleges which tend to enroll a more diverse student population than central Pennsylvania colleges.

The third speaker, Sharon Reed, recently accepted the position of Diversity Consultant for Hershey Foods Corp.

Hershey Foods' diversity council is responsible for "fostering a diversity friendly environment," Reed said.

The council sponsors educational activities to help employees value differences in the workplace and suggests women and minority causes worthy of corporate contributions.

According to Reed, corporations like Hershey Foods have decided that addressing diversity is "not just the right thing to do, but the smart thing to do."

Echoing that sentiment, Dr. Terrell Jones concluded by discussing Penn State's diversity mission and reminding the group that the most successful corporate diversity programs "hook their diversity effort to the bottom line."

He also added a somber warning that "[diversity] is a tough thing and people will run around



Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser
Panelist Dr. W. Terrell Jones

it if they get the chance."

At 11 a.m., the workshop moved to the auditorium to experience a performance by Metamorphosis, a performing company focusing on societal issues.

Matt Davis, PSH senior in Applied Behavioral Science, found the company's performance of "Strange Like Me" to carry the most impact of the day's activities.

The opening scene was a disturbing monologue of angry, hateful slurs delivered in first person and aimed directly at the audience.

"The discussion after the skits helped me reevaluate my own opinion," Davis said.

The skit concerning a gay college roommate withholding information about his sexual orientation "outraged" Davis at first. But, the discussion helped Davis "think about it more critically."

Davis' career plans include a Master's Degree in either counseling or education. He feels the workshop was useful.

"The exercises stimulated mental growth. They were . . . a mind altering experience helping us define diversity and look into ourselves."

Leadership workshops are scheduled each semester. According to Widoff, workshop themes vary and are designed to cover current issues of importance to students as they assume leadership roles in the community.

28th Model United Nations Conference

The model United Nations will be held Feb. 17 to 19 at various campus locations.

Over 85 delegations from 22 area high schools are scheduled to attend. The opening ceremony will be held Feb. 17 in the Student Center at 6 p.m.

The keynote address will be delivered by Amb. R. Grant Smith who is a staff member in

the U.S. Army Peacekeeping Institute, Center for Strategic Leadership, U.S. Army War College.

The times and locations of selected topics will be posted around campus.

For more information, contact Dr. Clem Gilpin at 948-6066. All the events are open to the public.

CAMPUS POLICE REPORT

By Matthew McKeown

Capital Times Editor

January 28, 2000

3:38 a.m.: A report of loud music and a party on Mars Drive. A warning was given to the residents and the party was disbursed. An investigation is continuing as to underage drinking violations.

January 29, 2000

2:15 p.m.: A verbal warning was given to sled riders. The group disbursed.

January 30, 2000

1:50 p.m.: A verbal warning was given to sled riders. The group disbursed.

4 p.m.: A verbal warning was given to sled riders. The group disbursed.

January 31, 2000

7:11 a.m.: An ambulance was requested by a complainant in the Olmsted Building for an alleged throat poison. The person was transported to Hershey Medical Center.

7:50 a.m.: A minor non-reportable vehicle accident occurred on College Ave. There were no injuries.

11:48 a.m.: An ambulance was dispatched to E244 Olmsted for an unconscious student. The person was transported to Hershey Medical Center.

2:05 p.m.: A student fell down the stairs in the Olmsted Building. The student suffered a minor injury to the lower back. A university accident report was completed.

2:40 p.m.: A verbal warning was given to sled riders. The group disbursed.

February 1, 2000

6 p.m.: Assisted Lower Swatara Police on Lake Drive for an active break-in. Upon arrival, everything was OK.

9:50 p.m.: Advised of vehicle being repossessed on Weaver Avenue.

February 2, 2000

9:15 a.m.: An employee was hurt tripping over a floor runner. A university employee accident report was completed.

10:25 a.m.: An employee slipped and fell on ice Feb. 1. A university accident report was completed.

February 3, 2000

12:05 p.m.: There is a recurring problem with waste being discarded on the floor of a bathroom in the Educational Activities Building.

12:45 p.m.: A deliveryman slipped on ice and twisted his back at the Capital Union Building. A university non-employee accident form was completed.

4:21 p.m.: A customer was yelling and being disruptive over a book return at the bookstore. The situation was resolved and a verbal warning was given.

February 4, 2000

12 p.m.: A citation was issued for a speed-related moving violation on Weaver Avenue.

February 5, 2000

9 a.m.: A verbal warning was given to sled riders. The group disbursed.

10:42 a.m.: A verbal warning was given to sled riders. The group disbursed.

2:47 p.m.: Responded to a request by H.I.A. Police to assist

with a traffic stop on Route 230 at the entrance to the campus.

February 6, 2000

8:20 a.m.: An employee fell on ice. A university accident report was completed.

12:26 p.m.: A verbal warning was given to sled riders. The group disbursed.

1:50 p.m.: A verbal warning was given to sled riders. The group disbursed.

6 p.m.: A verbal warning was given to sled riders. The group disbursed.

February 7, 2000

12:30 p.m.: A citation was issued for a speed-related moving violation on College Avenue.

February 8, 2000

8:45 a.m.: A report of a car parked on Flickinger Street bearing an expired registration and inspection sticker. Contacted the student to remove vehicle.

February 9, 2000

9:43 a.m.: An employee slipped and fell on ice. A university accident report was completed.

9:10 p.m.: A report of very minor damage to a vehicle that may have been caused while parked on university property.

February 10, 2000

4:15 a.m.: An ambulance was dispatched for an individual experiencing labor pains on Kirtland Avenue. The person was transported to the hospital.

9:13 a.m.: A citation was issued for speed-related moving violation on College Avenue.

9:55 a.m.: The constable was contacted to serve a university police warrant in Harrisburg.

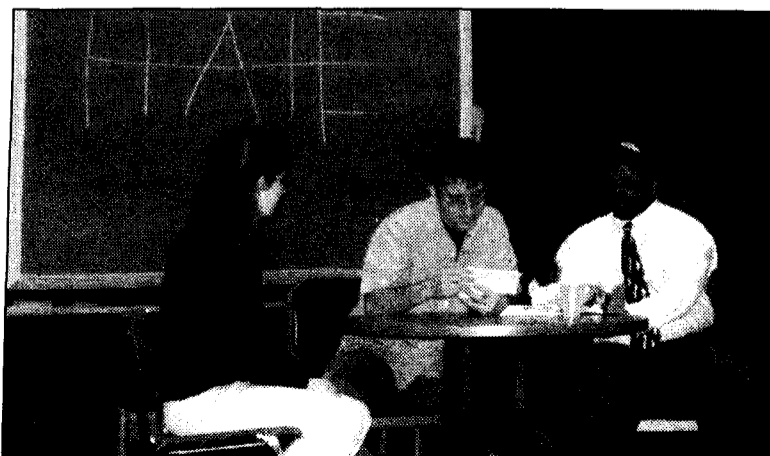


Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser

Metamorphosis performs during the Student Leadership Workshop.