

## SGA News Update

By Matthew McKeown

Capital Times Editor

The Student Government Association has been busy recently in its attempt to provide better services to the campus community.

Within the last few weeks, SGA has convinced both the Lion's Den and the Capital Union Building (CUB) to extend their hours to better accommodate students' needs.

In addition, a copy machine has been installed in 216 Olmsted for student use.

SGA President Roderick Lee said students who take night classes were dismayed that the Lion's Den closed at 7 p.m.

"Night classes usually break between 7 and 7:20," Lee said. "The problem [was] there wasn't another place to grab a quick snack during this break," Lee continued.

The Lion's Den extended its hours and now closes at 7:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday. It still closes at 2 p.m. on Fridays.

To accommodate early risers, the CUB now opens at 8 a.m. Monday through Friday. It used to open at 10 a.m.

Lee said the reason for the extended hours is that "students have expressed their concern that they would like to work-out early in the morning, prior to class."

Lee is quick to point out, however, that these longer hours for the Lion's Den and the CUB are not necessarily permanent. If students don't take advantage of the services, the hours may be reduced.

Since the new library opened last month, students have also found they could not easily make copies. The copiers most often used were in the former Heindel Library.

Lee said a new copier has been set up in room 216 Olmsted. The copier is different from those in the library, as the copier in

room 216 will not accept the debit card the copiers in the library accept. This copier accepts coins only. Each copy is 10 cents.

Students will be able to use the copier from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

Lee said SGA is still working on securing a fax machine for student use in the Olmsted Building.

Lee said, "Currently one has to go all the way to the State Data Center which is located in Church Hall. Once there, the student has to pay \$2 per page to send a fax."

Lee reported the SGA carnation sale was a success. He said 210 carnations were sold and raised \$157.50. Lee said most sales were made to faculty and staff.

All the net profits of the sale will equally be split to benefit a memorial to Franq Wyman, the Lion's Den grill cook who died last month, and to the Michael Herner Memorial Fund.

SGA, along with Student Activities, will move into the old Heindel Library within the next couple weeks, Lee reported. Eventually, all student clubs and organizations, including The Capital Times, will be relocated there.

Additionally, a food court will share space with the clubs. The completed renovation is not anticipated until next year.

Lee also wants to remind students about the upcoming SGA election. An information session about the election process will be held on Feb. 22 at noon in the Gallery Lounge. Lunch will be provided, Lee said. The elections will be held on March 28, 29 and 30.

## Visiting Russian Scholar Shares Her Views

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Russian elections are scheduled for March. Shvedova is encouraged by what she described as "hopeful signs of democracy in Russia."

These signs include the fact that their constitution is based on democracy, human rights and a market economy. An additional sign is the new generation dedicated to making things work.

At the same time, Russians are gaining experience in surviving in a market economy.

"I really believe in the intellect, generosity and energy of the people of Russia," Shvedova said.

Shvedova was also impressed by resigning President Boris Yeltsin's apology to the Russian people.

"For Yeltsin to beg pardon from the Russian people was an unprecedented and moving touch," Shvedova said.

In addition to her more formal lectures, Shvedova met informally with members

of the Feminist Thought Class and joined a small group of students for lunch at the Lamp Post Inn on Feb. 7.

Shvedova, Senior Scholar at the USA/Canada Institute of the Russian Academy of Science in Moscow, is a long-time professional colleague of PSH Professor Carol Nechemias.

Nechemias learned that Shvedova was scheduled to spend January teaching a class on *Woman in Russia* at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

Nechemias suggested a flight through Washington, D.C., with a one-week lay-over, as a means to include a low-cost stop at PSH to Shvedova's itinerary.

Shvedova's visit was co-sponsored by the Office of International Programs, the Women's Studies Program and a Student Activity Fee Grant.

When people cease to complain, they cease to think. - Napoleon

## Pa. College Students Can File State Taxes Via Internet

Pa. Secretary of Revenue Robert A. Judge Sr. announced Feb. 4 that college students from across Pennsylvania may be eligible to file their state tax returns via the Internet with pa.direct.file.

"This new service is great for college students — it's free, it's on the Internet, and it's available 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Judge.

Pa.direct.file is a fully electronic, paperless service available from any Internet-accessible computer.

Pa.direct.file completes all math calculations, thus preventing errors that can delay a refund.

Plus, refunds can be directly deposited into a taxpayer's bank account within two to three weeks.

If tax is owed, payments can be transferred electronically through ACH debit with a delay of payment option available (up to April 17).

Pa.direct.file is a secure method of filing state tax information. A taxpayer enters the system with his or her Social Security Number and the five-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) provided by the department.

Secure Sockets Layer (SSL), the industry standard to protect web communications, then encrypts all of the information being sent directly to the Department of Revenue to ensure privacy.

After the tax information is filed, a confirmation number is given. With the confirmation number, the taxpayer has peace of mind in knowing that the department has received the information securely and on time.

Pa.direct.file can be accessed through the Pennsylvania homepage at [www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us) or directly by going to the Department of Revenue's homepage at [www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us) and clicking on the pa.direct.file logo.

Hyperlinks are available on pa.direct.file for additional assistance while navigating the site.

Tax assistance also is available at [pavev@revenue.state.pa.us](mailto:pavev@revenue.state.pa.us).

Only persons who have previously filed a Pennsylvania tax return are eligible to use pa.direct.file.

The Department of Revenue also encourages other paperless filing options such as TeleFile and e-file.

TeleFile is a free tax filing service available by touch-tone phone for simple returns and includes the direct deposit option for those receiving a refund.

E-file is a service available to file federal and state returns together through authorized tax professionals or purchased software.

## Relationships Research

A PSH student is conducting research on relationships between non-custodial fathers, their ex-wives and their children.

If you are a non-custodial divorced father and want to participate in this research, contact Denise at 367-2840.

Volunteer anonymity will be assured. Time involved is about one hour.

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