

New Light Eases Traffic Hassles

By Paula Marinak

Capital Times Staff Writer

Students and faculty can now breathe a little easier behind the wheel as they enter or leave campus because of the new traffic light that was recently installed at the entrance to PSH. The signal, which marks the intersection of Route 230 (Harrisburg Pike) and College Avenue (First Street), has helped drivers endure congestion and negotiate the tricky turns since the middle of last month. Workers installed the light on flash mode on Feb. 16; the regular cycle began Feb. 23 after drivers adjusted to the new traffic patterns.

"The campus has a big interest in promoting safety. This light has been something we've wanted for a long time," said Kevin Stoehr, director of safety and

police services at PSH.

Before the light existed, drivers often experienced a lot of difficulty getting on and off campus during the morning and evening rush hours when traffic flow peaked.

Stoehr said his office had received several complaints prior to the intersection's improvements. Many motorists had also reported close calls. But, the new light has alleviated much of that tension. "It's much easier to make turns, especially a left turn. The light makes it easier to navigate the intersection, especially when leaving the property after day and evening classes," Stoehr said.

The increased safety and security carried a substantial price

tag, however. The \$85,000 bill for the light was divided between PSH and Industrial Warehouse, located behind the campus complex. The warehouse covered half the cost since its facility's trucks frequently use College Avenue. The school contributed the remaining money from vehicle registration fees.

The light was strictly a Penn State project even though the university and the intersection are part of Lower Swatara Township. "We didn't really have much to do with this at all. Our main responsibility is to maintain the light and pay the electric bill," said Ronald Paul, township manager. "We weren't involved in any phase of the design, construction or inspection. That was all handled by the university's construction firm, and the permit came from PennDOT."

Although the township played a very limited role in this enter-

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Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser

The long anticipated traffic light is now in operation at the campus entrance.

Library Hours Expanding

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Funding is in place to expand the hours of operation at the new PSH library by more than 10 hours per week.

According to Library Director Dr. Harold Shill, employment ads for part-time staff to cover the additional hours will run after spring break.

The approved plan is for the library to open at 7:45 a.m. Monday through Friday, remain open until 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and open at noon on

Sunday.

Currently, the library opens at 8 a.m. during the week, is open until 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and opens at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Shill is optimistic that the extra 15 minutes on weekday mornings will help students wishing to use the library prior to 8 a.m. classes. He is also pleased to offer students the

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Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser

The former home of Heindel Library waits for construction to begin on food court and student organization offices.

Big Changes Brewing in Old Library

By Cathie McCormick Musser

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PSH's next big change is happening right now behind the closed doors of the former Heindel Library.

Over the coming months, the new campus eatery and home for student clubs will be built in the area of Olmsted vacated by the old library.

According to Director of Student Affairs Dr. Donald Holtzman, the food court and Town Square should be completed by the end of the spring 2001 semester.

Things are moving quickly. The concept has been approved,

the architects have been hired and the team working on the plan is holding their breath waiting for the first draft of an architectural plan to arrive sometime this month.

According to Holtzman, former Provost and Dean Dr. John Bruhn sought proposals for the use of the old library space from the campus community once the new library was officially approved.

Of the 12 to 14 proposals reviewed, two rose to the top of the pile and were approved.

One of those proposals was

from Housing and Food Services. They proposed relocating all campus food services to the first floor of Olmsted and changing the overall design from cafeteria to food court style. According to Manager of Housing and Food Services JoAnn Coleman, many college campuses have adopted a food court style of food service.

While the actual design is far from complete, the concept is to have different stands for different types of food, like the food

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