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Hispanic Symposium Sends Message of Empowerment

By Paula Marinak
Capital Times Staff Writer

Benjamin Franklin once said an educated populace held the key to a strong democracy. Earlier this month, several members of the PSH community discovered the truth of these words.

On April 5, a group of 30 to 40 students and faculty gathered in the Gallery Lounge for an animated discussion with three prominent representatives from the local Latino community about the impact of the Hispanic vote in the upcoming presidential elections.

The Latino Student Union and the Black Student Union co-sponsored the event in an effort to promote understanding among all members of the PSH community.

Hispanics represent one of the fastest growing segments of the national population.

In one decade, they will surpass blacks as the largest minority in the United States, according to Esmeralda Ybarra Moore, a local business woman and board of directors member for Latino/Spanish dance and art organization, Danzante.

With the steady growth of the middle class, which now accounts for 48 percent of the total population, Hispanics could wield significant clout at the polls this year.

"Politicians and business people know the numbers are increasing, even at the local level," said Pedro Cortes, executive director of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs.

Pennsylvania's Hispanic population currently numbers 315,000. The majority of the Latino population resides in the southeastern section of the state, from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, with some pockets in the north-west and western regions.

"Latinos want to be a part of the political process," Cortes

said. "We must all try to be agents of change so that can happen."

"We're here and we do care," added Loida Esbri, who has served for two years as the executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission for Women. "We want to empower ourselves."

The panelists agreed that education will translate to empowerment for members of the Latino community. But empowerment must start in the local schools and universities by expanding curricula to include multicultural studies.

Several students attending the discussion also expressed concern over the lack of Hispanics who want to attend college, and the small number of Hispanic college students earning teaching degrees.

With few role models, they feared young Latinos would

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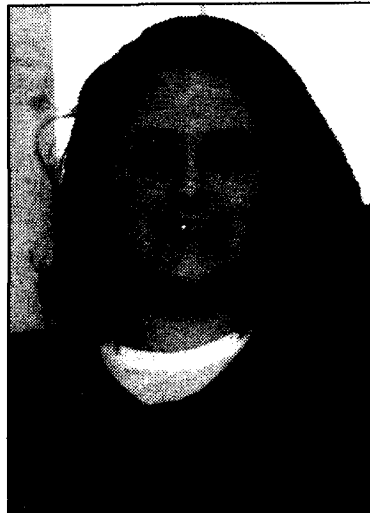


Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser
SGA President-Elect
Carissa Herwig



Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser
SGA Vice President-Elect
Joe Werner

Herwig & Co. Elected to SGA Posts with Low Voter Participation

By Cathie McCormick Musser
Capital Times Staff Writer

Penn State Harrisburg's Student Government Association held spring executive board and senior senator elections March 28, 29 and 30.

Open executive committee positions included president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, committee secretary and board chair.

Two nominees, Sophorn Choup and Denak DeProsperio, ran for the position of committee secretary. All other candidates ran unopposed. There were no nominees for secretary and board chair; these positions remain open.

Carissa Herwig, a public policy major, has been elected SGA president. Joe Werner, also a public policy major, will serve as vice president.

Krista Austin will fill the position of treasurer and Sophorn Choup has been elected to the position of committee secretary.

The ballot for senior senators was equally small. All candidates ran unopposed, though write-ins were encouraged. Open positions include senators in Science, Engineering, and Technology and graduate senator-at-large.

Newly elected senior senators are Pamea Pelekanos for Behavioral Sciences and Education, Elliott Peyton for Business Administration, Ronald Stegall for Humanities and Kendra Pfautz for Public Affairs.

Herwig, a former student of West Chester and Dickinson, has been a PSH student since the fall 1999 semester.

She served as SGA senator for the spring 2000 semester and was asked to run for president by current SGA President Roderick Lee.

"I've always wanted to be president of SGA," Herwig said.

She decided to run even though she is a relative newcomer to campus. She remembered thinking, "If I don't do it, I'll

regret it for the rest of my life."

Herwig received her first taste of student government as a freshman at West Chester where she served on the Curriculum and Academics Policy Council.

She was one of three students who worked closely with the provost and faculty on changes

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Retraction and Apology

The article about Patrice Gaines written by Ken Lopez in the March 29, 2000 issue contained numerous factual errors including the following: Patrice Gaines' team of journalists were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize, but did not win it.

Ms. Gaines did not use heroin while she was in high school. She was not pregnant at her graduation. She was never sentenced to five years in prison, but rather to probation.

Her parents died much later than the article indicated and she did not contemplate using drugs at that time.

She is working on a story for *The Washington Post* on a murder and is not writing a book about it.

The Capital Times regrets these errors and apologizes to Ms. Gaines.

The Capital Times also extends its apologies to our readers. Producing a newspaper that is informative and accurate is our highest priority.

It is for this reason that a story about Mary Daly's recent lecture on campus will not be printed. The story was written by Lopez and, with his agreement, was pulled from publication.

Matthew McKeown
Editor

They're At It Again!



Photo by Nicole Burkholder

To announce the publication of the 2000 *Tarnhelm*, the literary magazine's staff posted two new ads. Above is one of the posters with the slogan "Tarnhelm 2000 is Coming Out" and a photo of co-editors Katie Eye and Patsy Bauer embracing. "Disgusting!" was scrawled across it with a supporter of the poster writing "not." Eye and Bauer added: "Hello children, Please grow up, embrace the arts!! We do have a mailbox if you'd like to communicate in an adult manner! Katie & Patsy."