

Power Point fails to impress

By Amy Kurtz
For The Capital Times

The use of Power Point as a teaching tool received low grades at the Open Forum held March 20.

The Open Forum is a meeting that takes place once a semester in the school of business administration in the Olmsted building. The forum is open to all business students and allows students to express any concerns they may have. Once the students have discussed any issues, the school addresses the problems.

However, this semester's forum was a quiet one. There was no yelling or loud conversation and there were even a few moments of total silence.

Dr. Jacob De Rooy brought up a question that stirred up discussion for a while. He asked, "What do you think the effectiveness is of new technology?" Initially, both faculty and students were silent. Then a few people timidly chimed in about the use of e-mail and its effectiveness for Penn State students to communicate with each other.

After a few moments, the issue of Microsoft Power Point was raised. Some students felt it is helpful when professors use Power Point, but many students said they did not like professors to use Power Point slides.

Lori Mitchell, treasurer-elect of the SGA said, "I am not in favor of Power Point slides when they take place of the lecture. I've seen them take place of the lecture and that put a bad taste in my mouth."

Tramaine Harrison, SGA president-elect, had a similar point of view. "Professors are here to breakdown information for us so that we can understand it," she said. "There has to be a balance."

Some other students agreed that they do not like it when professors substitute Power Point for a lecture. They felt they could read the slides by themselves outside of class and would rather have a good explanation of the material in class.

A comment was made that when Power Point is used too much, it gives students a reason to not go to class.

Dr. Steve Schappe, director of undergraduate programs, responded to these comments, noting, "it's not the technology itself but how it's used."

The faculty at the forum voiced their disappointment at the poor student turnout and quietness of the forum. It was pointed out that the forum is provided to help students, and yet very few students showed up and those who did were very quiet. About 31 people attended the forum and 12 of them were faculty.

It seems that lack of involvement is a problem around campus. Clubs are lacking members, free tutoring is offered and no one shows up, and recruiters are waiting with job opportunities only to be stood up by the students.

These problems turned the discussion from Power Point and technology to why these problems exist and what can be done about them. It was mentioned that students are often too busy to attend events such as the forum or they do not know about them. Many students who attend Penn State Harrisburg also have jobs, family obligations and other things going on in their lives that make attending an event at the last minute a problem.

While no one came up with a definite solution to the problem, there was talk of installing a message board in the Lion's Den and an idea was proposed that may help with turnout and last-minute cancellations. It was suggested that an agenda of activities occurring throughout the semester should be given to students at the beginning of the semester, ensuring that students are aware of the forums and can build their schedules around the events.

"What do you think the effectiveness is of new technology?"

On Our Hill

By Joe Marsicano

Senators-elect Erickson and Orie, Republican candidates in two state Senate special elections, emerged victorious on March 20 in hotly contested campaigns at opposite ends of the state.

Delaware County executive Ted Erickson defeated democratic attorney Melissa Maxman in Delaware County to

Pennsylvania Supreme Court toss out most of the new laws as inconsistent with the court's own rules. It apparently never occurred to the court that its rules were inconsistent with the will of the folks elected to represent - of all things - the people.

State Senator Stewart Greenleaf has

succeed former GOP floor leader Joe Loeper. In suburban Pittsburgh, republican state representative Jane Orie won the Senate seat over Jim Rooney, son of Pittsburgh Steelers' owner Dan Rooney.

It's reported that both victorious GOP candidates were significantly outspent by their democratic rivals. The Senate will return to its previous 30-20 margin of republican control. Of

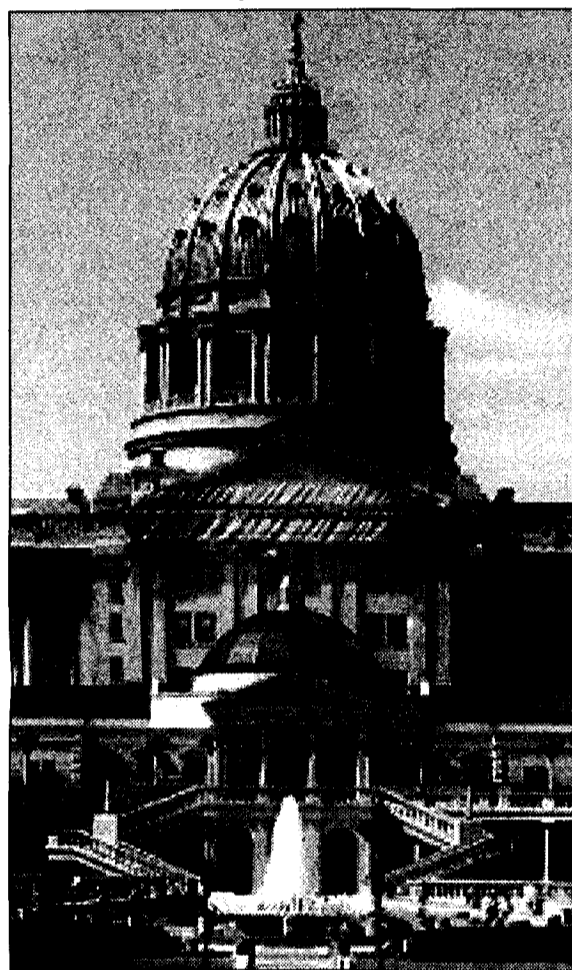
course, the Orie victory means a House vacancy that will be filled by another special election.

The Med Mal Insurance Crisis: There is no question a huge problem exists in the medical community as it attempts to deal with out-of-control malpractice lawsuits resulting in insurance premium increases.

In 1996, the legislature passed malpractice litigation reforms only to see the

proposed a Senate-House resolution to "urge the court to reinstate" the reforms enacted in 1996. This comes under the "fat chance" department. Greenleaf also wants the legislature to allow physicians with a limited, low-risk practice to "opt" out of the state mandate that they carry \$1,200,000 malpractice insurance in order to preserve their license to practice in Pennsylvania.

Mind Games: Movie star Arnold



Still a lovely view of Pennsylvania's capitol building on a fine autumn day in the warm sunshine.

Schwarzenegger said last week that he would not seek the GOP nomination for governor of California. Then his PR person indicated that was a "maybe." Now, left coast republicans are lobbying "the Terminator" to get into the race. Joe Kennedy had been viewed as a likely democratic candidate for governor of Massachusetts next year, but he's rejected the idea and opened the door for a big democratic primary.

SGA meeting reflects recent tension

By Molly Blouch
For The Capital Times

The SGA meeting on March 27 went relatively smoothly. Everything on the agenda was handled in an orderly fashion. The members of the SGA tackled the issues that were brought up, including their upcoming awards ceremony, the Rights of Spring event and the AIDS quilt that will be on display at PSH from April 10 to April 12.

Yet, there was obvious distraction

among members of the group. Everyone seemed preoccupied. Maybe it was the ongoing election. Members were taking turns manning the polls and intermittently switched positions so everyone could sit in on some portion of the meeting. Maybe it was the recent tension building with the Graduate Student Association. Whatever it was, there was definitely something on the minds of the members of the Student Government Association at their most recent meeting.

Vice President Joe Werner was the first person to mention the problems that have surfaced between the SGA and the GSA. Werner attended a recent GSA meeting trying to resolve the tension. "We are the governing body of the school," Werner said, "they (GSA) understand that." Werner gave the impression that the overall reaction to the central issue between the GSA and SGA — concerning the election being held between March 27-29 — was handled in a calm manner.

When asked how she felt about the tension between the SGA and the GSA, Kim Ontanka, a junior communications major, stated, "I was unaware of this seemingly big problem, but I feel that graduate students shouldn't be allowed to run for SGA. There should be rules allowing only undergraduates to run for SGA and only graduate students to run for GSA. I believe that SGA students and GSA students have different views and they should be kept separate."