



Dear Stacy,

First of all, hats off for a well-done publication. I was a member of the Cap Times staff 10 years ago, and while I thought we did a good job back then, I must say the paper is much better than it was and it gets better every month.

I have worked as the news editor of a national news magazine and as a general assignment reporter for both a newspaper and a radio station, so I can relate to the frustration you are feeling. You didn't need to say you were feeling stress; it was evident in your editorial.

I would like, however, to offer a few words of advise. Please take these words as coming from someone who cares about the paper, has a little experience in these matters, and wants to help.

First of all, never, ever, air your dirty laundry in the OpEd page. You should never even acknowledge that a staff member quit in print, much less put it in your editorial. There's an old newspaper adage – "the only thing that's not newsworthy is what happens at the newspaper." You were not "boring" readers by presenting this information, but you are right to assume your readers don't care. They don't care about staff issues. They don't care about deadlines or production issues. They simply don't want to hear about it.

Second, and even more important, you never, ever, ever attack a letter to the editor – leave that to other letter writers. I realize you are not professionals, but for an editor to attack a letter to the editor is unprofessional. If you are willing to accept letters, and you are willing to "withhold the name upon request," then you can never, ever complain that someone took advantage of that policy. Attacking letters to the editor can only do two things: keep folks from writing you letters and hurt the paper's credibility. Credibility is all a newspaper has to offer. Lose that, and you have nothing.

Remember, however, that the decision to print a letter is YOURS. Someone complaining about something as insignificant as a few typos doesn't deserve to take up space in your paper. Just because a reader has the right to pen a letter doesn't mean they have a right to see it in print. The ONLY thing I saw in the letter "Ms. Name Withheld" that was worthy of print was the point about the cover photo. That certainly is fodder for a letter to the editor. The rest is nitpicking at best. EVERY newspaper, magazine, newsletter, brochure, and restaurant menu is likely to have a typo if you look hard enough. As much as editors might try to proof every page and eliminate mistakes, we are only human. As long as humans are part of the equation, there will be mistakes. Not everything will be "caught if a team of editors proofed the copy prior to print." If a few typos are the worst thing readers notice, then you're doing pretty good.

The only time an editor should write about a typo is to correct an accuracy issue. Any other typos need to be ignored. If you want to apologize to the writer, do it at the next staff meeting. Remember, the letter from "Ms. Name Withheld" did say the mistakes she found were "common editorial and proofreading errors." Why do you think they're common? Maybe it's because they **HAPPEN ALL THE TIME**.

As to what the paper looks like, I think it looks good and you should use whatever fonts you like. Do whatever you like with bylines, headlines, etc. I saw one publication that never put headlines in the same font twice. It was a style decision, and it worked. It's difficult for the paper not to be "busy," considering how much stuff is going on at PSH. You're the editor, do what you think is best from an aesthetic standpoint and don't worry about it. That's not to say that what the paper looks like isn't important, but your number one concern should be accuracy of information, not whether the font on page four is consistent with page six...that's very minor in the grand scheme of things.

Finally, you need to take a deep breath and relax. You do a good job presenting all the info here at PSH...and there really is a lot of stuff going on. You can't please everybody. Ignore letters that just nitpick without offering any constructive criticism. "Reading up on the rules of layout and design" (whatever that means) isn't going to help you not miss typos. You just need a few more eyes looking at the copy. If "Ms. Name Withheld" wants to complain about typos, ask her to come down next Sunday and help proof. She did say she was an editor, right?

Sincerely,

Terry Wolf  
Communications/SecEd English

## In the next issue of the Capital Times:

- Feature story on student voting
- Penn State vs. Indiana
- CD Review: Reel Big Fish
- Movie Review: Eminem's "8 Mile"
- Whatever else we feel like putting in

## CONTENTS

### FEATURES

Afghan Woman <i>by Rachel Shepherd</i>	4
PSU vs. Illinois <i>by Peter Strella</i>	5
International Lunch <i>by Cathie McCormick</i>	6
Fall Fest Photos <i>by Steve Standridge</i>	6
Homecoming Photos <i>by Dan Storm</i>	7
Tarnhelm <i>by Sarah Elkalban</i>	9

### DEPARTMENTS

#### Around Campus

The SGA Report <i>by Stacy De Angelo</i>	2
Student Speak Out <i>by Amy Shur</i>	4
PSH Police Report <i>by Rachel Sheperd</i>	10
Campus Calendar <i>by Sarah Elkalban</i>	11

#### Entertainment

Concert Reviews <i>by Brian Seaman and Pete Strella</i>	8
--	---

*Please tell our advertisers  
that you saw It In  
the Capital Times!*

Cover Photo by: Dan Storm  
Cover Design by: Stacy De Angelo

Cover Photo:  
During the Penn State's Homecoming game against the Northwestern Wildcats, the Nittany Lion starts seeing double when an Alumni's "cubs" show that they are Penn State proud.