

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DID

Faculty Advisor
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POLICIES

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COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

By STACY DE ANGELO

Ok, there is a whole lot going on that needs to be talked about.

First you may have noticed that this issue is a bit thicker than the last five issues. This would be the semester's first 16-page issue. This is due in part to a good deal of ads and an unusually large amount of letters to the editor (which I will address shortly).

As some of you may have noticed, canning has begun for THON, the 48-hour dance marathon to help kids with cancer. So far The *Capital Times* has raised little over \$1,000 for THON through T-shirt sales from last semester into this one. We are hoping to continue with the shirt sale this semester and next. As of now we are scheduled to have a table in the main lobby of Olmsted during finals week (December 16 to 19). We currently are selling the remaining shirts from last semester. These consist of 2 different styles of Captimes themed shirts in 2 different colors each (limited sizes available), WPSH radio club shirts in sizes ranging from medium to XXX-large, long and short sleeve School of Humanities polos (sizes limited), and one of a kind PSH caps. We are presently working on a design for long sleeve THON T-shirts, which we hope to have in time for this semester's sale. The plan is to donate at least \$5 from every purchase to Four Diamonds.

In the past, Penn State Harrisburg has been near the bottom of the THON totem pole with smaller campuses raising far more than we have. Let's show that the students of PSH really do care about the kids. For more information or to get a t-shirt contact *The Capital Times* by stopping in W341, calling 948-6440, or e-mailing captimes@psu.edu. For more information on THON contact Chrissy Meck at cmm373@psu.edu. *The Capital Times* is collecting pledges (don't worry, you don't need to have the money up front, you will get billed between Feb. and Apr.) in W341.

Now for the letters to the editor and the comments I have heard here and there. First some people were all in favor of the advice column so we're going to see how that will work for the next couple of issues and stick with it if the overall response is good. Now I would like to respond to the letters on pages 3 and 4. Two of the letters I received (as you will notice) are from past members of staff and it is always nice to see that they still pay close attention to the paper.

We love it when students bring things to our attention that we were unaware of. So in response to Akua Techie-Mensah's letter about the library closing early, there wasn't much we could find out in such short notice, but we are determined to look into that. As students we do give a good deal of money to this University and the resources we are paying for need to be, well, resourceful. A closed library and/or computer lab do us no good. We pay for these facilities and they should be open and available when it is convenient for the students. I know there have been problems in the past with the computer labs closing early (see the October 1, 2001 issue vol. 42, no 4). I think now that more students will be aware of this, there may be a petition or protest against the shortened hours. When we spoke to one library employee, they stated that they weren't at liberty to speak of the matter. Our investigation will continue.

On the same note, Matt Davies' letter addressing lack of publicity is something that we here at *The Capital Times* have been trying to find an answer for. Often, when press releases are sent from our campus to outside papers, such as *The Patriot News*, *The Capital Times* is often left out of the loop. It ruffles our feathers when we have to read about campus happenings in *The Patriot News*, when by all rights we should have known already. We are students and only know what the rest of the student body is told. The information we get for the calendar often comes from bulletin boards, This Week, e-mail announcements and occasionally, from hearsay around campus. We don't have the luxury of knowing things first. We would have loved to cover the debate; it would have tied in nicely with the voting stories in this issue. But, alas, we were as in the dark as you. Who ever is sponsoring the event is in charge of its publicity. As a matter of fact, I work in the CUB and I had no idea that the event was being held there. To help remedy the problem, we have contacted several offices on campus requesting press releases to be sent to us when they are sent to other papers, and to try to keep us informed.

In regards to Rebecca Swab-Hudson's letter, thank you for letting people know how even the smallest things can be the biggest help. Also, thank you for showing that commitment is an asset that never goes unappreciated.

Mitch Bentley's letter was especially moving, being as he was in the same position I am last year. I was honored that he took the time to offer his feedback. He had a lot to say about what goes on in the paper and has the first-hand insight into what this job demands. I would like to thank him for not just offering compliments but also constructive criticism. Its one thing for people who have never been in your shoes to tell you what you did wrong, or right, but I am in his shoes and they are awfully hard to fill.

I think that just about covers it all. If anyone has any information to add iregarding this issue's letters or the issue in general, drop us a line.



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