

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DID

Faculty Advisor  
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**COMMENTS FROM THE EDITORS**

By STACY DE ANGELO AND PETE STRELLA



Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a great first week of the semester. Here at *The Capital Times* we've been quite busy making adjustments in staff positions and schedules. We also have some new sections we are going to try out. Maybe not in this issue, but in the next couple. We have an advice column in the works that can help you work out some of the extra stuff on your mind that may be interfering with your studies. Also in the works and making its debut in this issue is *The Devil's*

*Advocate*, a column designed to generate reader response/ reaction. *The Devil's Advocate* will help students share their opinions on issues that affect PSH and the Penn State system as a whole. I must warn that the feelings expressed by *The Devil's Advocate* are not those of *The Capital Times* or of Penn State. Keep in mind that "We are the Student Voice of Penn State Harrisburg" and I am sure some of you would like to hear some new voices or let others hear yours.

I would like also to announce *The Capital Times* T-shirt sale to benefit THON is going on January 20 to 23 in the main Lobby of Olmsted. So far in our efforts to raise money for Four Diamonds and kids with cancer, we have raised over \$1,300 since May 2002. In our sale during finals week last semester, which was a really bad time to be trying to get money off of people, we raised \$216. We hope to raise much more than that this semester. Show your support for THON by buying a T-shirt, dropping some money in a donation can, or even writing a letter of support for this year's PSH dancers. Let the dancers know that, even though you can't be there physically to support them, you are there in spirit. Representing PSH this year will be SGA President Parul Luthra and SGA Junior Senator at Large Lee Cutchall. If any of you have any money left over from buying your books, I highly recommend showing your support and supporting THON however you can. And don't think that I am pushing our T-shirts so that *Cap Times* can benefit. All we get from this, besides the warm fuzzy feeling of helping the kids, is enough money to pay for the production of the T-shirts. At least half of what is raised is for charity, for the kids.

Also, Clubfest is coming up on January 29 and 30. Check it out in the main lobby from noon to 2 p.m. and again from 4 to 6 p.m. Get involved! There is bound to be a club that strikes your fancy. Whether it is a club that pertains to your major such as the Psychology Club, Engineering Clubs, or a club that relates to a hobby such as the Boxing club, Ski club, or Photography club, there's something for everyone. And these are just a handful of the clubs that PSH has to offer.

Now for more important issues. I am sure many of you have been contacted in regards to your Meningitis vaccination. I know we all love to get shots and most of us try to avoid them as much as possible, but as our parents say, it's for our own good. Well, some students didn't get their Meningitis shots and Housing and Food Services is cracking down on those students that didn't get the shot and live in the housing. As some of you may have seen in the Patriot News last week, 300 students at Penn State University Park were locked out of their dorms as a result of not being vaccinated. Similar strategies were threatened to be enforced here. Students who had not gotten their shots received phone calls from Housing claiming that they would change the locks on the students' apartments if they did not get the vaccine. But hold the phone. There is a easy out for this that makes no sense to me. After being told that they would be locked out in the cold if they didn't get the shot, students were informed that they could sign a waiver excusing them from the shot completely. How is that effective? If the shot is so important that 300 students were locked out and countless others threatened by the same, why would they offer a waiver? Any student faced with being locked out would gladly sign a piece of paper. So why make the shot mandatory in the first place? Just give them the option at the beginning of the year. However, I can see the need for the shot. Meningitis is not a disease that one would want to get and it is easily contracted. Lets say for instance you have 2 students sharing an apartment who signed the waiver excusing them from getting the shot and one of them contracts meningitis and then passes it to his/her roommate. That is where the trouble of a waiver lies. I feel that they should have stuck to their guns and made students get the shot unless the student could produce some medical or other equally relevant excuse not to get it. That's just my opinion.

And now I will turn it over to Pete.

Another semester is here. but this one will be a little bit better than usual. I just took a tour of the new Towne Square and it's going to look incredible when it's done. Whether they hit the target date or not, we should definitely see it by the end of the semester.

The new food court is definitely much-needed and the complex as a whole will enhance the atmosphere on campus a good deal.

I took a bunch of students on a tour. I chose the ones I did because I knew they had a very critical eye. Yet there were virtually no complaints from them of any kind (accept for the fact that it's not done yet). I am confident that many other students will feel the same way.

In other relevant news, if you're like me, you're already wondering what days we have off from school this semester. Unfortunately there's little good news. The only days off are for Spring Break, which is March 10-14. No Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, or Easter. May 10 is the last day of finals, but until then, we will pretty much be going straight through. Summer vacation can't come soon enough. Peace.