

nday, March 3, 2003

the capital times News Magazine



Dear Capital Times:

I am a senior at Penn State Harrisburg and I love many things about 'my' university. I currently have found a new thing to love, the Devil's Advocate in the Cap Times. After this recent addition, I heard a little anonymous grumbling about the controversy generated by the article's blatant unpopular stances. I, however, want to commend the Advocate. While I have my own thoughts about this article on Black History Month (and hopefully I will see them in print), I think the college students on this campus have spent too much time being led, like cattle, through the administrative shuttles of bureaucracy and political correctness. The majority of us seem to follow wherever the herd is leading and seldom stop to take time to decide for ourselves how we feel about controversial subjects. I heard once that this type of journalism does not belong in a college paper. I would like to ask then, where does it belong? We are the next generation of leaders in this country. Do we have a voice? Are we afraid to use it?

I would like to see more students responding to the Advocate. Regardless of the opinion, I would just like to know that my fellow students have one. I would caution anyone who gets upset at the 'radical' views of the Advocate. First, that is the point of the article: to elicit emotion and make you think and express those thoughts. Secondly, I would remind you all, that our country was founded on radical ideas. I mean, you heard of the American Revolution, right? We have all been granted the freedom of speech. I think a college newspaper is the exact place to explore that freedom.

Linnaya Kenyon Psychology

Lunch and Learn

i **5 in the** Gallery

alth Services and the CCLC will diment in the Lunch and Learn series featuring the latest research on skin cancer. The average lifetime risk of developing melanoma in the white population is about 1 in 70 while the average risk in the African American population is slightly lower. Door prizes, free samples, and a healthy lunch will be available.

Dear Capital Times,

Black Americans are just one amongst numerous other minority groups in the U.S. that have dedicated a month to celebrating their culture and bringing awareness to ALL Americans. Other such months are National Hispanic Heritage Month, Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, and National American Indian Heritage Month.

Contrary to some myths, the celebration is not just for Black Americans but it is for ALL Americans. If some choose not to take part in this celebration then that is their choice. However, we should be careful about labeling anything as counterproductive because of our individual choices.

Being counterproductive by definition is working in the opposite direction of one's intended goals (Merriam-Webster). I would strongly urge anyone who would make such a strong claim about Black History Month to first look at the intended goals and purposes of the celebration and make assessments accordingly. I am confident that when one takes a closer look at this, in my opinion, great month that one will find that the month is not counterproductive at all. Commentaries and debates that result are opportunities for education and help advance the goal of awareness.

Sincerely, Sakari Sanders

