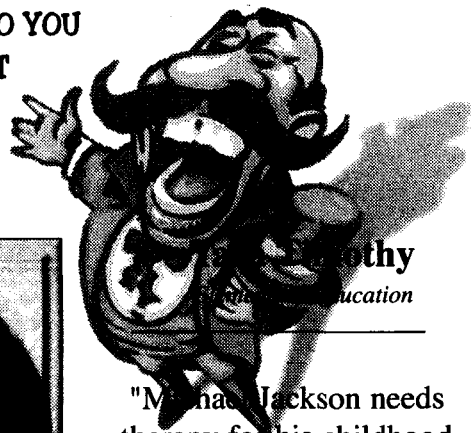




"WHAT DO YOU
THINK ABOUT
MICHAEL
JACKSON?"



Joey Toth
Education

"Michael Jackson needs therapy for his childhood to help resolve his issues as an adult."

John Fluellen
Communications

"Michael is just being Michael. He always has to be in the public eye. No matter what, every year he gives everyone something to talk about."

Brooke Jumbelick
Communications

"Strange, very strange. Very rich, but still very strange."

Ryan Sweeney
Communications

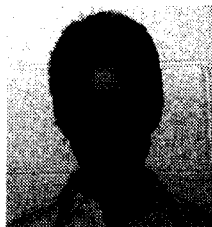
"Mike is misunderstood. Besides, he can be as strange as he wants. The man's got money!"

Sara Cottrell
Experimental Psychology

"Jacko is wacko!"

Community service widespread among Central P.A. colleges

BY RACHEL SHEPHERD
Capital Times Staff Reporter



What's new on college campuses this year? If you say anything related to partying or loud music, you have largely underestimated the students of the new millennium. In fact, local college students, including Penn State are volunteering their time to the needs of the community.

From helping students within the campus to reaching out to those in the community, college students have taken their former role as slackers and reconstructed themselves to create a promising look for the future.

At Widener University, students are volunteering as *Widener Big Friends*, an after school program in conjunction with St. Paul AME Church. "The undergrads work with area middle schoolers on homework and activities," says Karen Toth, director of public and media relations. While most of the interactions take place on the Chester campus, students at the Harrisburg branch also work with local children on their schoolwork.

Widener also works with Swarthmore College and Bethany Baptist Church to provide tutoring services for children up through grade 8 at the Chester YMCA. Children participate in four-day enrichment activities such as book writing and computer workshops as well.

Community service is also the theme for students who participate in Circle K International. Shippensburg, Penn State Harrisburg, and HACC all take part in this collegiate-level service organization sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. Students assist in such charities as Habitat for Humanity, cooking meals for Ronald McDonald House, visiting the children's hospital at Penn State Milton Hershey Center, volunteering at Messiah Village Nursing home as well as any other community service or college campus service that needs assistance.

HACC Circle K President Ashley Fisher says she became involved in Circle K because of the people and the feeling of self-worth when helping others. "When an individual, either a child who just turned nine or a senior citizen who turned 99, gives you admiration and love, it makes you feel needed," she explains. "It is a feeling of self-worth that reminds me that so many others need the same attention that I have just given them."

The Lion Ambassadors of Penn State Harrisburg are similar to Circle K, offering community and campus service as needed. The club does service projects such as giving tours to prospective students, raising money for the children's hospital, volunteering at the Middletown home, participating in the American Walk for Diabetes, holding Easter egg hunts for children, working hand-in-hand with the Alumni Association, participating in

canned food drives as well as assisting with mentor programs.

"I love the community service," says Jessica Schally, president. "I enjoy getting to know people on campus and interacting with the younger crowd, since I am a non-traditional student."

The uniqueness of both Circle K and the Lion Ambassadors is their existence outside of campus life. "We are active but we are representing PSU outside [of the campus], not just here," explains Valerie Crown, treasurer of the Lion Ambassadors.

Dickinson College established a "Treehouse" as their community effort at envi-

"When an individual, either a child who just turned nine or a senior citizen who turned 99, gives you admiration and love, it makes you feel needed."
-Ashley Fisher
President of Circle K

ronmental awareness. This treehouse represents the college's center for sustainable living. The students who live at the house promise to conserve natural resources and protect the environment. The members of the house educate each other and the college community about environmental issues and sustainability. They act as a liaison between the students of the college and the Carlisle community for issues concerning sustainability and environmental student activism.

Over spring break, Elizabethtown College and Widener University will continue to work with Habitat for Humanity. Ed Novak, Director of College Relations at Elizabethtown, says their motto is "Educate for Service." He says they typically have a couple of groups doing Habitat for Humanity-type of work over spring break, but is uncertain what the group plans to do yet. Widener University is organizing their 6th Annual Alternative Spring Break, where students will travel to Miami and work as part of the Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge program. Twenty-five students this year are participating in Alternative Spring Break, according to Dan DiPrinzio, public relations head at the university.

If you thought college students were just going along for the ride, think again. These students are dedicated to meeting the needs of their schools as well as their community.