

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DID

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COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

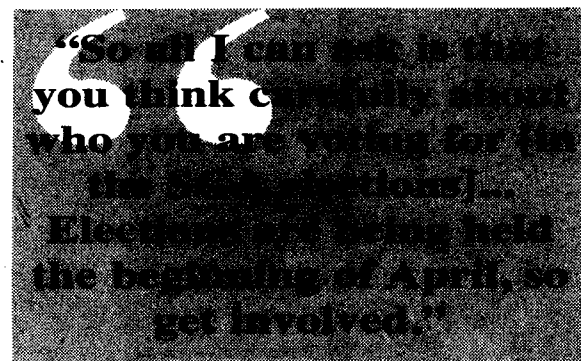
By STACY DE ANGELO, EDITOR IN CHIEF



It is half way through the semester and midterms have come and gone. For some of us it means we are only weeks away from graduation and for others just weeks away from summer break. Some events coming up in these last few weeks are the usual lectures, workshops, dinners, bands, a luau, spring fling and numerous other activities. One important event that is coming up is the Fall 2003 SGA elections. The upcoming elections are brought to our attention in a recent letter to the editor, page 3. I would like to stress the importance of knowing who the candi-

dates are and what their platforms are. The SGA is an essential part of each Penn State campus and represents their campus in most college wide events and committees such as CCSG (Commonwealth College Student Government). They are fundamentally the leaders of their campuses. So all I can ask is that you all think carefully about who you are voting for and if you think you can make a difference in the Student Government, then go to Student Activities and tell them you want to run. Elections are being held the beginning of April, so get involved.

Aside from elections, something I would like to address is *The Capital Times* letters to the editor policy. At the Cap Times we do our best to apply standard Associated Press and other journalistic techniques and regulations. Keep in mind that most of us are still in the process of earning our communications degrees and are not yet professionals. Our mission statement on page 2, above the staff and contents, states that we do not print unsigned letters to the editor and have the right to choose not to print anything that we feel is not relevant to *The Capital Times* or Penn State Harrisburg. If you chose to submit a letter to the editor, you must sign it and provide a phone number or e-mail address so that we can verify that you are indeed the one who wrote it and that we do in fact have permission to print. Names can be withheld upon request. We often receive e-mails and letters that are not to be put in print and are just friendly compliments or constructive criticism.



In defense of the THON article (issue 12, March 3) that is mentioned in one letter to the editor, one must understand the condition in which the dancers were interviewed. I was present at THON and witnessed the interviews. Cutchall and Luthra were approached after being up for little over 24 hours and were only asked about 3 questions each and not even the same questions. For the Cap Times article, both dancers were e-mailed the same set of about 10 to 15 questions and had at least 3 days to get their answers e-mailed back or called in. When they were given the questions it was a few days after THON when they had the opportunity to rest up and seriously think about the message they wanted to put forth. It is true that Cutchall's answers were consistent in both articles and displayed the same attitude. Luthra was asked different questions by the *Patriot News* reporter and her answers adequately answered the questions put to her. I am not saying this to defend Luthra, but to put to rest any discrepancies between *The Patriot News* article and *The Capital Times* article. Read any two newspapers and you will find different quotes and attitudes on the same topic in both papers, it's all in what and how questions are asked and the writer's commitment and attitude towards the issue being covered.

SUBMISSIONS

You may reach *The Capital Times* at Penn State Harrisburg Campus, W341 Olmsted Building, 777 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057. Phone us at: (717) 948-6440, or e-mail: captimes@psu.edu

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