

OUT WITH THE OLD

THE FALL OF MEADE HEIGHTS

By KATHRYN HERR

Staff Reporter

Alas, our beloved Meade Heights is becoming dust in the wind.

The buildings are half-demolished already because the College allowed them to be used in emergency training drills. The drills involved blasting holes in the roofs and walls and shattering windows, which made the houses unlivable. They are now considered a safety hazard, which is why the College is trying to tear them down quickly.

The demolition began October 6 and the school hopes it will be completed before the weather becomes too cold. Demolition is expected to take at least three months and the College estimates that it will be completed sometime in late November.

Upon completion, the only visible remains of Meade Heights will be the cement slabs that served as flooring. The demolition team is doing its best to recycle as much material as possible.

Even though the College owns the land Meade Heights is built on, there are no plans for the remaining area. Some ideas are under consideration but will not be acted upon for at least a year, after all other campus renovations and additions are completed.

One possibility is to sell the land to the trucking company behind Olmsted. If the trucking company purchases some of the land, they will have an alternate road to their buildings. This will keep the trucks away from College Avenue, the main road of the Penn State Harrisburg campus.

Meade Heights had a capacity of 450 students as compared to the Village apartments, which can currently hold only 292 students. However, the Village has room for six more buildings, which would increase its capacity to 500.

While students enjoyed the rural community atmosphere at Meade Heights, they also like the new dorm-like housing area. The walking distance is much shorter and students are more likely to spend time on campus at activities or in the library.

The ranch style houses were built in 1955 on twenty-five acres of land now owned by the College. They once served as officer's quarters for those working on the Olmsted Air Force base.



The old dormitories have been vacant for only one year.



Whose turn was it to wash the dishes?



This building used to be the resident life office

Photos by Jennifer Kauffman

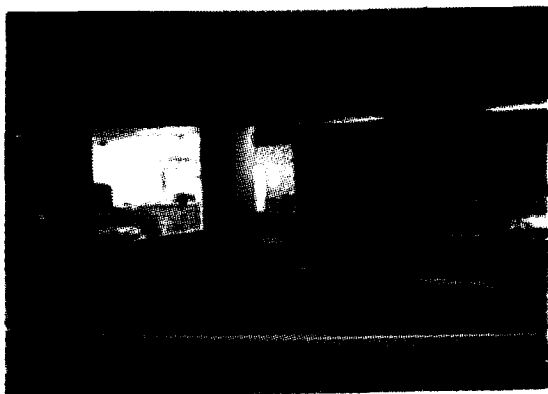
DESERTED LION'S DEN WAITING FOR NEW PURPOSE

By KATHRYN HERR

Staff Reporter

The new food court has been a great addition to the campus, however, one question remains: What is going to become of the Lion's Den? The leftover space that once housed a food establishment is large enough to be considered for many uses.

Robert Brinkley, ITT director, and Ed Dankanich, director of Business Services, have been working closely to decide how to best utilize the space. Currently, the



The old Lion's Den will be renovated into offices and classrooms.

need for more technology classrooms is top priority at Penn State Harrisburg. While an absolute design is not complete, a tentative plan for four new technology enhanced classrooms will eventually occupy what used to be the Lion's Den. Two of these rooms will become student technology enhanced classrooms (STEC). One will be equipped with 29 student computer workstations and

the other will house 30-45 computer for students to use. The remaining two rooms will become instructor technology enhanced classrooms (ITEC), each containing one instructor computer workstation each.

All four of the new rooms will be outfitted with audio-visual equipment and mobility ports on the instructional podiums. The rooms will have the newest equipment and a modern appearance for an optimal learning experience for students. One new technology invention allows the instructor to plug their own laptop into a mobility port and then, with the touch of a button, display the contents of the monitor onto the screen through a projector. All rooms will have this option available upon completion.

The new rooms will make use of existing computers from other labs. The old labs can then be converted for additional use at a later date.

Due to the use of existing computers the majority of the project's cost will be the construction of the new environment. Demolition and renovation is expected to begin sometime this winter and an estimated completion time is set for sometime in late spring to early summer 2004.

Students, faculty, and staff of Harrisburg and Schuylkill campuses will use the new rooms. Students majoring in engineering, computer science, and primary education will likely have class in the new classrooms. The addition will also increase the number of technology enhanced classrooms in the Olmsted Building, which will decrease the amount of walking distance for students. Administrators hope to have the new rooms ready for use by fall 2004.