

Faculty Advisor
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COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

By PETER STRELLA, EDITOR IN CHIEF

Sometimes, the Penn State directory is a great thing. Because of its existence, I can contact a classmate the night before a group project is due and throw it together at the last minute. Or I can track down a Penn State faculty member when I need an interview right before a deadline. To me, the directory promotes procrastination and I'm all for it.

But there's one problem. Not only does the directory provide its users with e-mail addresses and middle names, but phone numbers and even addresses. That means if someone really "likes" you, not only can they repeatedly call you, but, if they're psychotic enough, they can come to your house.

I know the creators of the directory never intended for it to be used in this way, but this is bad. I knew a girl last semester who was freaked out when an anonymous person kept emailing her. She didn't know who he was, but he wouldn't stop and there was nothing she could do about it. He eventually stopped, but it could have been a lot worse if he started calling her or randomly showing up at her house.

Phone numbers and addresses need to be taken out of the directory unless a student gives his or her permission for them to be there. Some students don't even know this information is available to the Penn State public. I feel it is the school's responsibility to inform students of this as they are getting their student ID cards. This way, the problem is addressed immediately.

The directory is good in that it promotes students working together, but only providing e-mail addresses would be adequate.

There is a way to get this information taken off the directory, but, because of my chronic procrastination problem, I have failed to find out exactly how this is done. If you are a student at Penn State and you want your address and phone number to be taken out of the directory, the Office of University Relations will probably be able to help you. The directory lists them as the department in charge of its content.

There is another problem that has been brought to my attention. Housing and Food Services has told me that too many students are throwing away the plastic food baskets in the cafeteria. It's become so bad that they are considering using foam for all food products, not just pizza. They are asking that students not throw away the baskets because they cut costs. The baskets are reusable and Penn State's trash pick-up has been nearly cut in half because of them.

I would like to take up this remaining space by thanking my dedicated staff for what they've done for this publication. They were reliable, dedicated and efficient, and it made my lousy no-paying job (that I ironically enjoy a lot) much easier. This is the best staff I've ever had and they've been fun to work with. They deserve a lot of the credit, especially for working into the early morning hours on many occasions. That's all for now. See you next year.



"Phone numbers and addresses need to be taken out of the directory unless a student gives his or her permission for them to be there."

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