

PSH library adds diverse resources to assist students in their studies

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selection, as well as local publications. If newspapers aren't your thing, try reading a magazine such as Popular Mechanics or Sports Illustrated. There is also a microforms office available to view older issues of newspapers. If students are looking for a paper citing a winning Philadelphia sports team (they'd probably have to go back a thousand years or more), it can be found here.

A library wouldn't be complete without an area for quiet study and reading. The floor plan is comfortable, with generously spaced bookshelves and seat-

ing areas. It also doesn't hurt that the furniture throughout the building is probably the most comfortable that has ever been invented. Andrew Meyers, a 3rd year Computer Science major, enjoys relaxing and reading a book while looking out at the Vartan Plaza on the third floor balcony area. "For me, this is probably the best place on campus," Meyers said. "It's an easy going place where I can just relax and read a book or study for an exam."

The third floor houses a hidden gem that is not well known among the campus community. The Special Collections room is home to the Alice Marshall

Women's History Collection. This collection is one of the largest privately compiled research collections in the country and is housed here in the PSH library. More than 7,000 books, one of which dates back to 1684, pamphlets and other very rare items such as letters, broadsides, posters and advertisements complete the collection. These items are stored in a climate-controlled room for best possible preservation.

Martha Sachs is the curator of this collection and is responsible for the care and organization of the materials. "We don't have many students that even know about the collection, but there is a lot of useful information here," Sachs said. "If women's studies is your field of study or if you are just interested in history, this collection is something worth checking out."

The special collections room also features old newspapers dating back to the early 1800's and an extensive section of materials relating to the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant. Sachs said that although none of the materials are available for checkout, students are always welcome to browse.

With everything this library has to offer, why do students sometimes feel overwhelmed when trying to write a paper or do research? Jason Jones, graduate student and employee at

the library, said that students probably do not know that assistance is available if they are unsure where to begin researching. "I honestly don't know why students are scared because there is a lot of helpful information that students can get about the library itself, and there are always people here to help with any problems they may have," Jones said.

Gregory Crawford, head of public services, is one of five reference librarians at the library. Each librarian specializes in a specific area of study within PSH majors. Jones said students should feel good about this concentration of diverse subject matter. "I myself specialize in the school of Humanities so students in the school of Humanities can come to me if they have specific questions about research," Crawford said.

The librarians are willing to give unscheduled tours of the library if students feel uncomfortable. "Students can set up appointments if they like or if a reference librarian is not busy, we could possibly do a quick tour," Crawford said.

There are workshops available for interested students throughout the semester. The next workshop is scheduled for October 4th from 12:30-5:30 p.m. inside room 106 in the library. For more information on policies for the library, visit

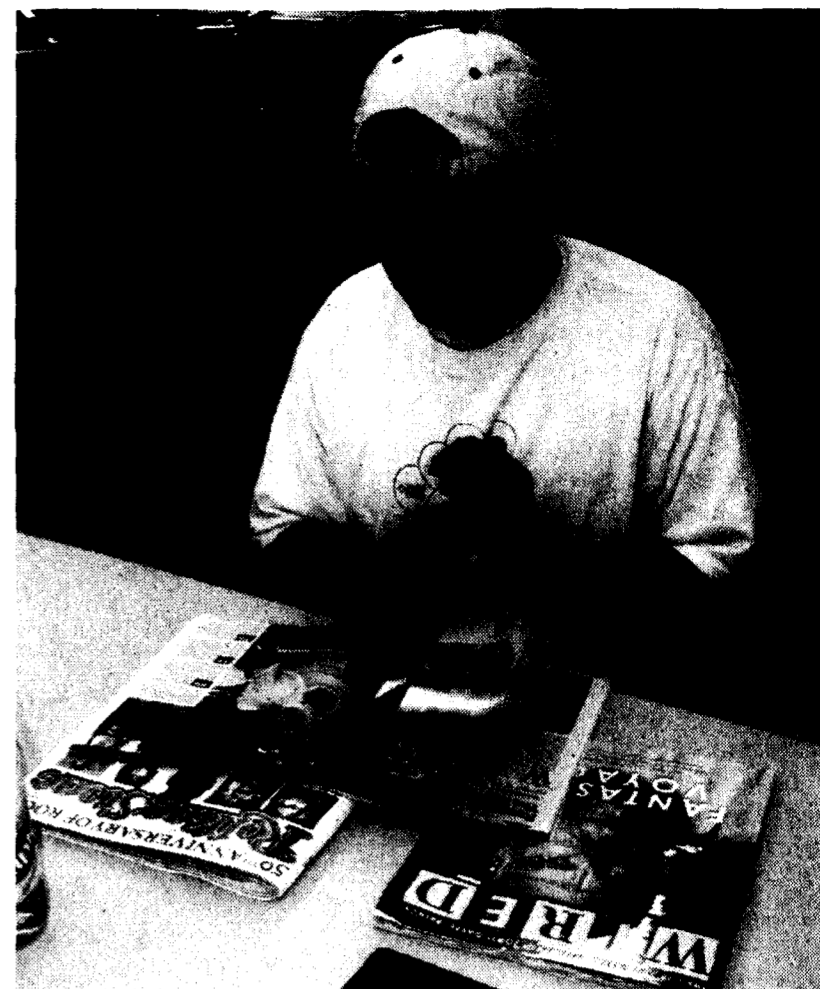


Photo by Jennifer Kauffman

Dinesh Asnani, a junior Electrical Engineering major flips through the magazine collection during a break from studying in the library. Titles include Rolling Stone, National Geographic and Popular Mechanic.

the PSH library website at www.hbg.psu.edu/library/index.html or visit the library itself.

Regular hours for the Fall semester are Monday-Thursday 7:45 a.m. - 10:30 p.m., Friday 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., and Sunday noon - 10:30 p.m. CyberCafé will remain open 24 hours. These hours are subject to change without notice. Please call (717) 948-6070 to confirm times.



Photo by Kathryn Herr

Ryan Goss, Finance major, and Nancy Gimbanco, a Finance and Marketing major study together at a small table in the study friendly CyberCafe in the library.

PSH students get their hands on sewage

By Mike Green
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While most classes at Penn State Harrisburg are held in the Olmsted building, and with all of the student amenities elsewhere, the Science and Technology building is often overlooked.

However, in one of the labs in the Technology building, Shannon Irvin is busy working on a project that most students would not consider: the treatment of sewage.

Irvin's research is designed around the treatment of sewage, or more precisely, the removal of nutrients from sewage. While the discussion of sewage is usually reserved for humor, the treatment and disposal of sewage is a major environmental concern in Pennsylvania. Everyday, millions of gallons of wastewater are generated by normal daily activities by the roughly 14 million people who call the commonwealth home.

Almost all of this wastewater will end up in our streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans.

While the exact composition of the wastewater is best left to the reader's imagination, most of this wastewater is actually generated by such things as cooking and bathing. Only a small portion is what most people think of as sewage.

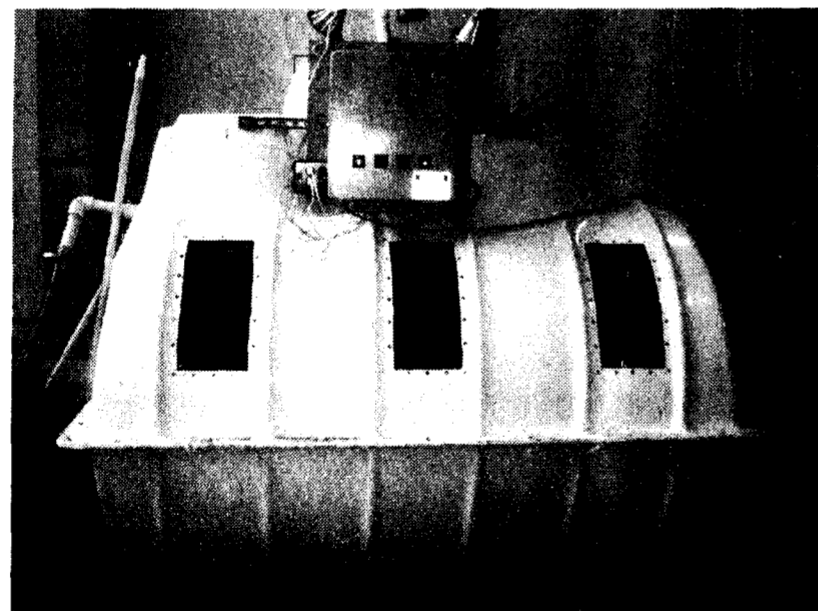


Photo by Michael Green

While most people in this region are on some sort of sewage system, many people live too far from a sewage system for economical use. These people often will hook up a

small septic tank to their house and discharge the contents into a local body of water. While harmful bacteria and contaminants can and are eliminated by disinfectants such as chlorine, the nutrients in the water are still present and can still

harm the environment. This will cause the nutrient levels to build up in the local bodies of water and contaminate water all the way down to the Chesapeake Bay and into

the Atlantic Ocean.

The buildup of nutrients in the water causes algae and other undesirable organisms to build up in water, and those organisms' waste products poison the water to the point that fish and other desired organisms are driven out of the water.

The appearance of nutrient-rich water is often cloudy, overly green, and generally unpleasant to see, smell, or touch. To avoid this, some sort of means must be found to remove the nutrients.

Therefore, Irvin is attempting to remove these nutrients from the wastewater before it is discharged. Her solution is to introduce the treated sewage (after sanitizing) to what is referred to as a "reaction tank," where bacteria will convert the nutrients into a short lasting bacteria growth which can be easily and safely disposed of. In the Science and Technology building, a "small" 500-gallon tank of simulated sewage sits, and Irvin attempts to locate a "sweet spot" of conditions for these helpful bacteria to grow. Since trucking several thousand gallons of raw sewage

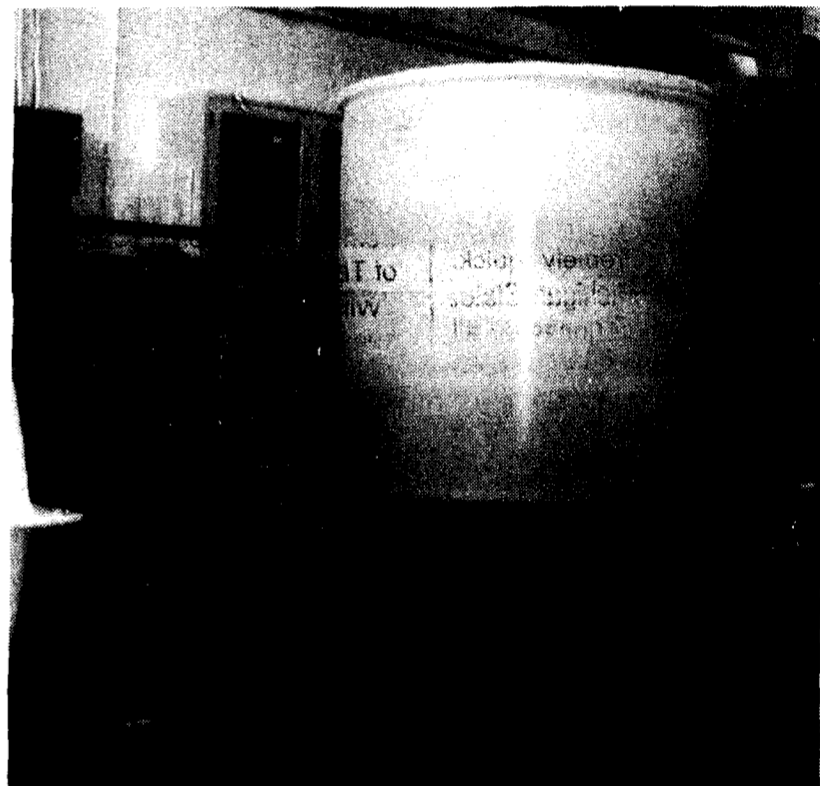


Photo by Michael Green

onto campus would be difficult, as well as offensive to most student's senses, a substitute material is used, powdered milk.

Ironically, powdered milk is chemically very close to raw sewage, and is used as a standard simulated substance for research, as is dog food. Since the process does require a small amount of raw sewage to begin the growing process, Irvin often has the task of unloading a barrel of live sewage from the local sewer system, and pouring the items

into the reaction tank. "One time, I poured it onto my shoes, just a little bit. The shoes were fine a few months later," said Irvin.

The basic concept of producing sewage-eating bacteria is the same as brewing beer, through most persons would prefer that you found a new reaction tank. A larger version of the sewage system is used in the United States Embassy in Baghdad, and the tanks are sold locally in Harrisburg. It is not recommended that one go out to buy sewage.

Napster takes a bite out of crime

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Kathleen Nycz, 21, Education. "It keeps telling me that I am getting an error message, so I went back to Kazaa." Nycz is quick to add that her computer is not exactly a top of the line computer either, but regardless, her experiences with Napster have been unpleasant.

Haldeman mentioned that in order to get the service to work properly, students should have a fast connection speed, such as DSL or cable

modems, and that wireless connections, such as the one available on campus, work fine, but download speeds could be slower than high speed access.

One other drawback is that downloading from Napster is restricted in the PSH library. Users may download songs at home or elsewhere on campus, and save them to a play list and load the play list. However new songs may not be purchased or downloaded in the library.

Haldeman hopes the service, along with being used for entertainment purposes, will

also act as an educational mechanism.

"Another reason is definitely to educate students on legal, moral and ethical practices when doing file sharing," he said.

Services such as iMesh and Kazaa are still in use, however Haldeman feels the best asset Napster provides for students is the quality of the music they will download.

"When you find a song you want, you are getting the song you want. There is no skipping, because you get the real track," he said.

FAST. SAFE. LEGAL.



www.napster.psu.edu