

## Editor's Comments

By Sharon Furfaro  
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Sharon Furfaro, assistant editor

There has been quite a buzz on campus for the break from schoolwork, but I would like to divert our attention to the upcoming holiday season. In the public sector, it is taboo to say anything other than a generic, safe, "Happy holidays!" for fear of offending someone who does not believe in or celebrate your holiday. What about people who are offended by the word holiday? Maybe America should cut it down to "Happy day!"

Just kidding.

But seriously, the personal significance of the upcoming various holidays has been, in my opinion, diluted. Offices, malls, schools - around the nation, people walk on eggshells when it comes to decorating. "Is this nativity offensive because it is specific to Christmas? Is this menorah offensive because it is specific to Hanukkah? Is this kinara offensive because it is specific to Kwanzaa?"

The holidays mentioned above are only three of many religious, spiritual, ethnic or reflective times celebrated by millions of people. For many, these "holidays" are more than an excuse to receive presents, they are rooted in deeply held beliefs.

If someone wished me a "Happy Hanukkah," I know I would not be offended, even though I do not celebrate this holiday. In fact, I would be honored that someone is sharing the spirit of his or her holiday with me.

Often, people forget that these holidays are not in competition with each other. Kwanzaa does not have the potential to "replace" Christmas, nor does Christmas have the potential to "replace" Kwanzaa. So why - instead of seeing each holiday as a separate entity - do we as a society deem them to be threatening? By lumping all into one big "season's greetings," we have started to destroy the significance of each holiday.

I do not think the best way to be tolerant of someone else's holiday is to forget the meaning of your own.

To everyone on campus, as these holidays rapidly approach, take the time to discover why a holiday - or holidays - are special to YOU; do not let politics water down anything important to you or your family.

Now I am going to say something very politically incorrect. Please realize that what I am about to say is not from The Capital Times, but from me. I say this in respect and love: as we approach the break, I'd like to wish everyone a "Merry Christmas!" Whew! Now, that wasn't so hard. I should not feel a need to apologize for celebrating Christmas. It is a time when I reflect on the birth of my Savior. I realize that many do not share the same belief, but I am not forcing my religion on anyone. I should not ever feel ashamed of my religion - and neither should anyone else.

If you want to send a holiday-specific card to someone you love, you should be able to do so without guilt. Tolerance should mean respect. Respect others' religions, customs, and ethnicities, but don't forget to respect your own, and respect yourself. I hope all who have a special holiday truly have a very warm, happy, joyful, merry, cheery, wonderful one!

### Submissions:

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## Director gives inside look at Hollywood

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each of the three directors brought something unique to the film industry that makes them stand out.

"Schumacher is more of an ensemble director who makes films about particular groups of people. Cameron is more of a visual director who wants the specific look and feel of a particular person," said Finn, "and Curtis Hanson is a director who is engaged in the look and feel of the particular film. He directs dense films with lots of atmosphere to them."

Finally Finn was asked about his favorite and least favorite films to his credit that he cast. "Wonder Boys. I loved Michael [Douglas] and Toby [Maguire] and Robert Downey, Jr.," said Finn. "Now the least favorite, it's got to be Super Mario Bros. There was so much potential in the original script, and when they went to 'soften it up' totally lost any potential the film originally had," said Finn.

Finn concluded the interview laughing about an audition for Super Mario Bros. that was held by Father Guido Sarducci of Saturday Night Live fame. "He stood there reciting a scene, and then went on this long tangent



Photo by Thomas LeClair/Capital Times

Don Finn has cast a variety of movies, such as *The Matrix*, *Batman Forever* and *Flatliners*. He recently gave a workshop at PSH.

which had nothing to do with the scene. It was absolutely hilarious," said Finn.

In his spare time, Finn tries to devote a few weeks each year to sailing on Lake Michigan. In addition, when he is in Los Angeles, he makes it a point to attend a weekly acting class, despite the high level of recognition he has already achieved.

A key part of being a casting director, said Finn, is knowing who can and cannot act. Much of

this acting is learned at acting school. However, each acting school is different, he said. For example, said Finn, the University of Southern California and the University of California at Los Angeles both teach the technical aspects of filmmaking but do not include acting as part of their curriculums.

Anyone, regardless of their knowledge of films and the film industry would have enjoyed the inside look at Hollywood offered at Finn's workshop. A close look at what it takes to survive in the business and the do's and don'ts of auditioning are important to learn for up and coming actors. Mr. Finn gave a tremendous workshop and it was an absolute pleasure to meet and talk with him.



Photo courtesy of Google Images

Wonder Boys, starring Tobey McGuire and Michael Douglas, is one of the many movies cast by Finn.

### Films cast by Mali Finn Casting Associates:

The Client  
LA Confidential  
The Matrix trilogy  
Flatliners  
True Lies  
Titanic  
Batman Forever  
Terminator 2  
Super Mario Bros.  
Wonderboys  
8-Mile

## Accounting prof. breaks the mold

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ed to the position of program coordinator for PSH's accounting program and also serves as internship coordinator. Buttross participates in the faculty college senate at PSH and is the senate liaison to the International and Intercultural Affairs Commission.

Buttross was born in Natchez, Miss. and educated in the southern states. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Mississippi State University. After entering the accounting field, Buttross found that it was not what he had expected it to be. He decided to return to school for his Master's Degree at Louisiana State University in the hopes of finding a more suitable field. During these years, he accidentally discovered his passion for teaching when a friend asked him to cover one of his classes. As Buttross stood in front of the class, he realized that was where he was meant to be.

His educational path later

brought him back to Mississippi for his Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi. His Ph.D. allowed him to pursue his love of teaching.

During his undergraduate studies Buttross met a professor and advisor, Bill Cross, who was very influential to him in his life.

In addition to his domestic teaching positions, Buttross has also had the unique opportunity to teach abroad. Over the course of two summers he has taught English in Peking and Chinese in Beijing. Buttross said these experiences were very difficult but rewarding.

Additionally, he is an avid international traveler and has been to places such as Mexico, Beijing, Hong Kong and Canada. While backpacking in Europe, Buttross visited 13 countries and 39 cities in only 40 days. South America and Alaska are among the other locations he would still like to visit.

During one of his adventures, he met his future wife Nancy, who was a Vietnamese refugee.

They have now been married for two years. Although the couple has no children, they still have strong ties to their large families. Buttross considers his grandfather to be a great influence on his life.

Of all of his achievements, said Buttross, he is most proud of three. He takes pride in his certification as a Public Accountant, his Ph.D. and his marriage.

Outside of accounting, Buttross enjoys a wide variety of interests, including gardening and learning to cook. Buttross' wife's Vietnamese heritage turned him on to Vietnamese cuisine, which he has enjoyed since they met. He has also learned to speak Vietnamese.

Buttross said he sometimes enjoys an occasional rum and diet coke or Bourbon and diet coke as his favorite drinks. He also takes pleasure in listening to music; country singer Anne Murray's album is currently spinning in his CD player. Special thanks to Dan Berger for his assistance with this article.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Buttross' Web site

Dr. Thomas Buttross is an assistant professor of accounting at Penn State Harrisburg.

## Film industry files lawsuits

By Gary Gentile  
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES - Following the lead of record companies who curtailed rampant Internet piracy by targeting even small-time file swappers, Hollywood studios have launched a first wave of lawsuits against people who allegedly downloaded recent films such as "Spider-Man 2" and "Troy."

The seven major studios filed the lawsuits for federal copyright infringement on Tuesday in Denver, New York City, San Francisco and St. Louis. Lawsuits may have been filed in other cities, but the Motion Picture Association of America, which represents the studios, declined to say how many were filed and where.

"It's not important," said John Malcolm, senior vice president and director of worldwide anti-piracy operations for the MPAA. "It doesn't matter if it's 10 lawsuits or 500 lawsuits. The idea here is that there is no safe harbor."

Three lawsuits, obtained by The Associated Press, were filed in federal courts in Denver and St. Louis. Two lawsuits were filed in Denver against 22 defendants, while the one in St. Louis targets 18 individuals.

The St. Louis lawsuit is brought against "John Doe" defendants, including four people who are allegedly in possession of one pirated film each. Some of the Internet addresses for the defendants can be traced to high-speed Internet connections made available by Charter Communications, a cable television company based in St. Louis.

The defendants are accused of offering the movies over peer-to-peer file-sharing programs.

Like similar lawsuits filed by the record industry against downloaders of music files, the studios say they will be able to identify the individual defendants later.

Each of the lawsuits lists only a handful of films allegedly offered for downloading online, including "Troy," from Warner Bros., "Spider-Man 2," from Columbia Pictures and "Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen," from The Walt Disney Co.

The lawsuits seek injunctions against the defendants. Copyright law also provides for penalties of up to \$30,000 for each motion picture traded over the Internet, and up to \$150,000 if such infringement is shown to be willful.

Malcolm said more lawsuits would be filed in additional cities if the current legal action does not stem illegal downloading.

The MPAA is running the risk of being seen as too heavy-handed, especially by suing people who have downloaded a single movie, said Wendy Seltzer, a staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

"We don't think for any industry that suing its fans is the best approach to new technologies," Seltzer said.

As part of its larger effort to combat piracy, the MPAA also said it would step up its educational campaign and offer a free computer program that sniffs out movie and music files on a user's computer as well as any installed file-sharing programs.

The MPAA said the program is expected to be available for download within a week.

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