

## Editor's Comments

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### A NEW MEANING TO "POTTY MOUTH"?

It's the humming murmur in the back of the class that buzzes just above a barely audible level. Maybe you've heard it. Maybe you've caused it. Either way, I'm ready to do away with it.

What is it? It's the guy or girl with chronic diarrhea of the mouth. He or she has an uncontrollable need to chat about nothing to their bud in the next seat during the entire class. You know who I'm talking about. I'm listening to the "diarrhea-mouth" in my class as I write these comments. I'd like to turn around and give her some verbal Pepto-Bismol, but I'll continue writing instead.

In my last editor's comments, which were published quite a few months back, I hinted at my apprehensiveness to graduate college and enter the real world. Let's just say that things have changed for me since then—and it's partly thanks to you, diarrhea-mouth girl.

The DM guy or girl talks through class and then later complains to the teacher that she doesn't understand the assignment. The DM girl in my life likes to constantly complain that our teacher expects too much work from us. Let me assure you, diarrhea-mouth girl, that the energy you exert running your mouth could complete twice the work our teacher assigns us in half the time.

We've all been guilty of being talkative in class now and again, but I don't understand the DM guys and girls. And I'm sure they don't understand me. I don't think they understand that they might learn something if they close their mouth for a few minutes. I don't think they understand that their future bosses will likely expect more from them than many professors do. And I definitely don't think they get that complaining about every



little thing that appears to be a challenge will get them nowhere fast.

I often wonder how these DM's function when they're thrust into reality after college (and talking all the way there). How do they get jobs? Do they self-destruct when they realize they should have paid attention during all those hours of class?

In the end, I guess I've learned a lot about school and about life from the diarrhea-mouths of the past four years. So to you, oh diarrhea-mouth girl, I say the following: thank you for letting me know in your own special way that I'll be OK after college.

I guess soon I'll be off to deal with the diarrhea-mouths of the working world...

### Submissions

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All correspondence with editors will be considered for publication unless otherwise specified.

## Corrections

Please note the following corrections to the last issue's article entitled "Spring Break in Spain":

1. The originally proposed fee for the trip was approximately \$1,200.
2. SPAN 296 is not a nine-day entire course. By taking SPAN 130 (Spanish Civilization History), students are entitled to take SPAN 296, a nine-day study abroad course.

We apologize for any inconvenience the incorrect information might have caused.

## SGA update

By Maruja Rosario  
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After a few weeks of non-voting activity, SGA took care of serious business on their March 31 meeting.

One issue that finally got resolved was the new SGA constitution. The Constitutional Convention, which centered around the efforts of Robert Kikola, senior senator of public affairs, and President Rodney Horton, presented the new SGA constitution for ratification by the Senate. After Kikola gave a brief overview of

what the constitution said, it was unanimously adopted.

The past election was also an issue. Horton first expressed how extremely pleased he was with how the elections turned out. He was pleased with all the campaigning that he saw, which included word of mouth, flyers and strategic advertising. The time and energy spent on election awareness paid off, resulting in the increased voter turnout. The amount of this year's election votes dwarfed last year's by 1000 percent – going from 0.05 percent of the PSH student body voting to 10.55 percent.

## Tax proposed on parking fees

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have the money."

If approved, PSH students would pay an additional \$4 on top of the usual \$40 per semester parking fee. Herr said this is a tough pill to swallow, especially since she did not have to pay for parking while she attended Penn State York.

"In my opinion, PSH should pick up the tab," instead of the students, Herr said.

Hevner said the university might take longer to review the proposal because it was advertised during Penn State's spring break.

Middletown Area High School students would see the smallest increase. They would pay an additional 10 cents over their \$1 per year parking fee.

The tax would take effect on June 1 if approved by the school board on April 25.

Utley said the state share of revenues for MASD has dropped from approximately 50 percent in 1992 to less than 35 percent in 2002. Utley said that educational costs have climbed in part because of the federal government's No Child Left Behind law.

The district has pursued grant money to help offset the property tax burden on residents, Utley

said. A Project 720 grant raised \$50,000 for programs at the high school. Utley said another grant brought in \$12,000 for Feaser Middle School.

The district hopes the tax will

A press release from the school district said the new tax resolution is based on a similar tax upheld by the Commonwealth Court in 1996. Howard L. Kelin, the school district's attorney with Kegel, Kelin,

"Quite frankly, the college and the university need time to review the proposal and its effect on faculty, staff and students."

-Steve Hevner,  
PSH spokesperson

raise \$400,000 annually, though Utley said it needs information from the various parking authorities to make accurate revenue projections.

Utley said the \$400,000 figure is based on information received from those authorities in 2001, when MASD tried to impose a similar tax.

That tax was approved, but not enforced after SARAA objected. The proposed parking tax, Utley said, was rewritten to update the old tax.

Almy & Grimm of Lancaster, said in the release that similar taxes are already collected at airports in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and the Lehigh Valley.

"We're not talking about a novel idea," Utley said.

Utley said she did not think the proposed tax would keep students from attending PSH or travelers from using HIA.

"I would hope that our neighbors... would understand our needs," Utley said.

## XGI aims to re-name Post Office

XGI cont'd from 1

local veterans, and XGI members. Penn State Harrisburg alumnus and XGI member, Representative Jerry Nailor (R-88), spoke in support of the measure.

XGI President, Retired Sergeant First Class (U.S. Army) James Hall, explained XGI's motives for renaming the building. "The Members of Chi Gamma Iota want to take this action on behalf of all veterans because we all know the Medal of Honor is the most hallowed award in our nation... and represents the very best of every branch of the Armed Forces... I had the honor of serving in the same regiment and company as Michael Durant... I know this story from the people who were there... it would be a great honor..."

If you would like to learn more or sign the petition to rename the Post Office, contact James Hall at jdh343@psu.edu. To voice your opinion, contact Representative Shuster directly at his Chambersburg office at 717-264-8303 or at his Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-2431.

## Opening minds, Haas helps students think clearly

PROF cont'd from 1

the rubble of misconceptions. Once in a while I've even said something a student who has been waiting his or her whole lifetime to hear. When teaching empowers somebody, sets a person free, then I remember why I keep showing up for work."

Haas is not currently on a tenure track. He has a yearly contract with PSH, which has been renewed every year since he came. Haas said that he prefers the yearly contract right now because of the responsibilities of family. The process of getting tenure is very stressful and time consuming, and Haas said he needs those energies to be focused on his family. Because tenure would mean more security for him and his family, Haas is not ruling it out and will most certainly pursue it at some point in the future.

Haas, along with his wife, Jennifer, who is a nurse, have three young children. His oldest is a girl who just turned five. His middle child is a three-year-old boy. The youngest and most recent addition to the family is a boy who recently celebrated his first birthday. Haas and his family currently live

in Lancaster County, just outside of Mount Joy. He grew up not too far from there in the town of Manheim and has lived in many other cities across America during college and young adulthood.

Haas has a keen talent for conversation and his lectures are informative and stimulating. His classes are a favorite on campus

- that I'm not daring them to succeed, that I actually want them to succeed. But to do that, they must also learn. We all know that students learn best when they're not feeling threatened or bored. If a student finds a class something to look forward to, that student has a better chance of doing just fine."

"When teaching empowers somebody, sets a person free, then I remember why I keep showing up for work."

-Prof. J. Craig Haas

and many students who take one of his courses scramble to take more in subsequent semesters.

Haas talks about his teaching style and what makes his classes so appealing to PSH students. "In most classes, I use informal lecture and discussion," said Haas. "I don't do a lot with technology, but I try to keep a high level of personal interaction. Students in my classes often comment about my laid-back style and sense of humor. They suspect that I'm on their side-

Haas teaches a wide variety of classes within the context of philosophy and the humanities. He is hard pressed to pinpoint a personal favorite and said that the students in a particular course are as crucial as the subject matter when defining what makes a course favorable.

"For me, the pleasure in teaching is not only in the subject matter, but also in the make-up of the students," said Haas. "Some groups of students are just fun to teach. For example,

my Comparative Religion class last semester was very inquisitive and had a great sense of humor. I looked forward to being in class each time, and some of the students told me they felt the same. And yet I can't say that in any semester Comparative Religion is necessarily going to be my favorite class to teach. I can say that I always enjoy logic classes, because they are a change in format from the other courses I teach. In most of my courses, we have classic texts to read and interpret, which I naturally enjoy.

But logic classes are mostly how-to courses that build students' reasoning skills, and class time is largely spent doing exercises in logic. There's less material for me to prepare, and I can go to class and enjoy interacting with the students."

Be sure to sign up for the classes offered this summer and fall semesters in which Haas will be teaching. They fill up quickly and are well worth the aggravation of rushing into E-lion to reserve your seat. To find out more specifics about his courses, you can go to the PSH School of Humanities homepage or simply email him directly at jch19@psu.edu.



Photo by John Fox/Capital Times

PSH instructor in Philosophy and Humanities J. Craig Haas teaches a variety of courses, including Comparative Religion and logic classes.

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