

# Editor's Comments

By Kathryn Herr  
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Kathryn Herr

As I begin my fifth semester at PSH (yes, my fifth stop... laughing), I find myself on a campus I no longer recognize. Many of my friends have graduated and my once circus-like staff is down to about four or so. I feel as if I just started at this campus, all my experiences now distant memories. But I want to take this situation and use it to my advantage. Because I have spent so much of the past year in the Capital Times office, I haven't seen much else on campus lately. It's time to explore, and maybe some of you guys could join me, as I am pretty lonely now.

For instance who knows about the running path woven through campus? Ok we all know it's there, but who actually uses it?

And do any of you guys swim in the multi million-dollar pool? I probably should start. And I think I'll take up racquetball. In fact we should start a team for that.

As I sit here in my office at 11:06 p.m., I'm thinking about all the stuff I should be doing right now. I'm already knee deep in school-work and I owe \$50 to the police for parking on my own campus.

Do I or don't I...yeah lets go down that road. What is up with the parking tickets? I have a ton and I do actually buy a parking pass every semester. So how does this happen? Well let me tell you kids, keep that pass in your window; excuse me, on your rear view only, or you'll get a ticket. Can we be more anal?

Don't get me wrong, the campus police are not at fault here. They're just doing their jobs. In fact they have become my friends, as I see them regularly when I lock myself out of my office. It's the fault of the really backward policies we have on campus pertaining to parking.

I came in this summer to pay some bills for the newspaper and clean out my overflowing mailbox, and in the hour and fifteen minutes I was parked I received a \$50 ticket. C'mon guys, that's a tank of gas nowadays.

We're all familiar with that silver, unused suggestion box in front of the Capital Times office, right? Well of the few suggestions we get, one was pretty on the mark saying, "If we weren't charged for parking, we wouldn't be subject

to the new parking tax." On that trail, another one that I particularly loved, and partially agreed with, was "School food is too expensive."

I think we have a pattern here... now listen up everyone...college students have NO MONEY. So stop billing us for bullshit charges like having a parking permit in the wrong window or getting a cup of water in the cafeteria. How much should we be charged for the world's most abundant resource?

But I do love the grilled cheese and regular chicken fingers in Stacks. Thank you Greg! Any ideas on the new coffee? Haven't tried it yet and have gotten mixed reviews.

You guys have to let me know what you think about this stuff. Send me an email, drop a note in the box, or stop in the office. If you guys eat chicken fingers, you know what your voice can do on campus. It's your voice...use it.

And a word to the freshmen: don't light anything on fire, please. Oh yeah, Welcome to the 05-06 school year--you're gonna love it here.

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Next Issue:  
March 21, 2005

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# SGA update

By Maruja Rosario  
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Amid the clamor of new students trying to find their way around campus and old students welcoming friends back, the Student Government Association was already conducting business, or at least it was trying.

The first meeting began promptly at 12:30 pm and ended at 12:30 pm when SGA President Michael Edwards realized he did not have enough senators to fill the quorum required in order to conduct business. Through his obvious frustration at having an empty Senate, Edwards was urged by SGA advisor Nichole Duffy to at least hold discussion. After the discussion session ended and Edwards once again

dismissed the Senate, Senator of Engineering Sean Stanton entered the room. His arrival was greeted with Edwards calling for another meeting to begin in order to conduct his business, which included the swearing in of a new Senator of Humanities, Chris Kantz, and the impromptu swearing of Michael Mahoney as another senator of engineering, and then the Senate was dismissed for the third time.

The second meeting was much more interesting. The budgets that had been discussed by the Finance Committee came through the Senate for either approval or a motion to re-submit the budget to be looked over again. An hour and a half passed by through which Mahoney wanted to know all the reasons for the cuts, members of the clubs were

allowed to speak in their clubs' behalf, and the Senate pored over all the numbers and details in between.

The third meeting had even more drama than the previous two. It began simple enough with the induction of four new senators and then it became interesting. Edwards relinquished the gavel to Vice President Erin Moskalczak and never returned. It was later learned that Edwards had a soccer game to play in, but no information was made prior to the meeting to tell the Senate that he would be leaving early.

Moskalczak began to conduct open forum to which the student court ruled the Circle K budget void due to the budget including money to purchase movie tickets. The court argued that the movie tickets fall under the category or

awards and prizes, a violation of university policy. Mahoney then called for an appeal stating that the movie tickets were not an award or a prize and that Circle K had nothing to gain from giving them away. After comments from all the senators and from Circle K President Stephen O'Holla, the motion for the appeal was struck and the court's ruling remained. One can only wonder what the rest of the semester holds for SGA.

For more information on how to get involved with PSH's Student Government Association, contact Michael Edwards at mle5000@psu.edu.

# Students buy online to save money

BOOKS cont'd from 1

Messiah College senior Lindsey Marthouse, 21, suggested sharing books with other students or buying used books online.

"A lot of times I take really good notes. I don't really read a whole lot. I just try to pay attention in class," she said. "Typically, in my experiences here, the tests that I have are based on the notes."

Jennifer Lindmar, 29, of Port Carbon, Schuylkill County, said students sometimes can get by without the book.

"First, make sure the professor is really using the book," she said.

Many students sell their books back at the end of the semester, which gives them a bit of money, but not much, some said.

Last year Lindmar, a junior sociology major at Penn State Harrisburg, paid \$120 for a book and workbook bundled together. When she tried to sell the book back, the bookstore offered about \$5, she said. She sold it online for \$58.

Online merchants compete with college bookstores, the government report said, and 14 percent of students said they shop for textbooks online.

"And that's up," said Mark Werstein, Shippensburg University store manager.

To compete, the Dickinson College Bookstore searches for used books and lowered its profit margin this year in hopes of maintaining its market share, said bookstore director David Nelson. The store offers an online

textbook alternative for the first time, he said. Instead of paying \$142 new or \$106.50 used for a copy of "Marketing Management," students can buy 150 days of online access for \$70, Nelson said.

Bookstores can offer some benefits that online merchants don't.

At Shippensburg, store employees walk around the store with students, helping them find their texts, Werstein said.

"We consider that an investment in the future. We hope if we take good care of the freshman, we'll get returning students."

When he sees a student writing down book titles, he tells them, "If you can't find it online, come back. We've got plenty."

This story originally ran in the Patriot-News on Sept. 6



Photos by Maruja Rosario

Brian Vasquez, a freshman studying aerospace engineering, checks the price of his new engineering book.



Books of every nature line the shelves of the PSH bookstore. The difference between the price of used and new books is big, but used books offer the benefit of pre-highlighted pages and noted margins.

# As the books pile high the prices follow



Cartoon by Sharon Berger

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