

Editor's Comments

By Kathryn Herr
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**Kathryn Herr,
Editor in Chief**

I would like to start out this issue's comments by apologizing to two of my writers for mistakes we've made in past issues. The article about Dragonfly's Salsa night was not written by our regular Hot Spot writer Elizabeth Wingate, as it read, but was actually written by her sister. Second on the list, Marko Primorac's name was spelled wrong on several occasions in the past two issues and for these two mistakes I am very sorry and I would like to say Thank You to Elizabeth and Marko for all the hard work they put into this paper.

I went to the football game this weekend and I have only one word: Student Section. I guess that might be two. If you guys have never been to a Penn State football game in the student section you are missing out. There is dancing and singing, cheering for the team and yelling at the refs. It's passing the lion, white out days, and the Blue Band that breathes the breath of school spirit. Yeah I'm a nerd and I love it. We were lucky enough to be in row N, yeah I said N not 88 like the last game I attended or row 81 like the one before. Row N. I heard the helmets smacking against shoulder pads, I heard the phone on the sidelines ringing. If you ever get a chance to go and sit in row N, do it.

New topic: Swipe cards. Who thinks we need swipe card access to the building after hours? I'm doing a survey on this topic so please email me and let me know if you would have use for such a thing. I also welcome any other suggestions anyone may have to improve accessibility to the resources on campus. Hey, we are paying for them, shouldn't we be able to use them when it is convenient for us. Everyone knows college students work late and sleep all day.

Some colleges bolt everything down to the desks, computers, desk lamps, and pens included, and leave all buildings open all the time so students can get to the resources they need when they need them. Maybe our campus should adopt a similar policy that allows only students, faculty, or staff into the buildings

after hours.

Soon I will be gone and there will be no one to send a ripple thorough the administration or the food services office. I am counting on you, the students, to use your voice and start sending letters to the editor to make the ruckus that, as a college student, you have a right to do. We might not have grilled cheese and chicken fingers in Stacks had I not needed those items. The great thing about the 'power of the press' is that not only are we allowed to write just about anything as long as its true, but our words are protected by law. So go ahead and type away your grievances and send them over to the Cap Times and we'll put it out there for you.

Now I know you guys are ready for Thanksgiving break, with all the turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and so much more, but eat responsibly. Turkey can cause drowsiness and prolonged napping.

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Fall is in the air, accompanied by a significant drop in temperature, leaves defying their primary emerald hues, and the constant need to carry an umbrella should any raindrops decide to plummet. Fall is the foundation for change, and that theme was the kickoff for SGA's 7th meeting. It began with roll call, as it always does; however, when it came time to open the floor for public comments, a representative from the international Affairs Association (IAA) roused the members of senate from their Autumn-induced daze. The representative from the IAA read a letter of apologies in regards to a prior submitted letter that had an apparent accusatory nature. The IAA then resubmitted the previous proposal for further funding of an upcoming trip to Arlington, Virginia. The senate collectively elected to grant the request of the IAA, presenting the organization with over \$1000 from the SGA's restricted account.

As the IAA representative took his seat, the president of the school's art magazine Tarnhelm

requested a private meeting with the Treasurer or President of the SGA to discuss methods of assisting the publication. The Student Affairs chair then called the senate's attention to a developing dilemma around campus housing- trash and litter. Members of the SGA were asked to investigate solutions. They were then informed that members of THON will be scooping ice cream at Cold Stone Creamery from 5 - 10p.m. every last Wednesday of the month.

Once all public representatives had a chance to speak, the Advisor's Report was given, during which the acquiring of a Gaming License by the SGA was discussed. This license would provide the SGA the legal ability to hold a variety of entertaining fundraisers such as a casino night.

The most controversial topic of the meeting was then unleashed. The SGA proposed amendments to their Of the three topics included both on the handout and in the senate's debate, the most deliberation was caused by Amendment III, the mandatory involvement with the SGA of all club presidents. The senate disputed the amount of times

it should be required that each club president sits in on an SGA meeting per semester. The amendment was suggested mainly so all club presidents know how the SGA works. This would allow clubs to be knowledgeable of where to go

and what to do if they feel they need anything. Also, it would be a chance for the SGA to be sure all club budgets are running smoothly. The debate dragged on so long that senate members elected to close the issue and move it to the next meeting because of time restraints.

The meeting concluded with SGA President, Mike Edwards, instructing members of the senate to give themselves "a hand" for their successful Fall Fest. In return, the senate congratulated Mike Edwards on winning the Pie Eating Contest. The meeting was then adjourned.

The next meeting took half the time of the former, and was far less eventful. Edwards played a slideshow filled with pictures of volunteers for THON scooping ice cream from the night before the meeting. The meeting was filled with simple announcements. THON reminded the senate of ice cream scooping at Cold Mountain

Creamery, and explained that the more people who come in and buy ice cream - even if it's just one small dish- the more it benefits THON. Diversity Affairs announced a "Diversity Day" in the works at University Park.

The atmosphere was kept so light, that the Amendments introduced in the previous meeting were never mentioned. Instead, the announcements were followed by a proposal for the SGA to organize a lollipop and candy bar sale for the week of November 14th was approved. After the fundraising discussion, the SGA discussed the possibility of serving "Finals Food". This would include meals and snacks prepared for the students of PSH during finals week, because most students have little time to prepare their own meals due to the demands and pressures placed on them by finals. This proposal was also approved. The meeting was then adjourned.

Even with all the changes involved with Fall, and the consistent needs and progressions generated by the people and organizations of PSH, the SGA is right on target, doing all they can to enrich the atmosphere of our campus.

Students work for free to raise money for THON

THON cond' from 1

This year, Penn State Harrisburg will be sending two students to THON weekend to be part of the 700 dancers that represent the many organizations at Penn State University Park and all of the commonwealth locations.

The THON committee is working hard to raise funds to find a cure to pediatric cancer through strategic investments in hospital bills, research efforts, and a new family-centered pavilion at the Penn State Children's Hospital.

The THON committee would like to thank Cold Stone Creamery owner Jaime Bolen-Pollock and all of the employees for allowing them to take over the creamery for the evening and support Penn State Harrisburg's efforts to raise

money for kids with cancer. The committee also wants to thank those who have supported the students' efforts.

The THON committee is excited about their volunteer work at Cold Stone Creamery and cannot wait until the next Cold Stone Night, which will be held on Wednesday,

November 30 from 5 until 10pm. Students, staff, parents, friends, and community members are encouraged to come out and support THON. Patrons will receive ten percent off their order, and twenty-percent of all profits will be donated to THON. So whether you

like "Nights in White Chocolate" or are tempted by "Caramel Turtle Temptation," the THON committee hopes you stop by Cold Stone that evening and support the volunteers from Penn State Harrisburg. Remember, it's for the kids!



Ariel O'Malley smiles for the camera with a waffle cone in hand at Coldstone Creamery.



Matthew Mahoney shows off his prize waffle bowls he has just made with the help of other PSH students at Coldstone Creamery.

Students serve us in Iraq

By Amanda Nace
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They are not your average Penn state students.

They have gone half way around the world. They have had near-death experiences. They have helped save lives.

Meet Staff Sergeant Mike Campbell, 24, of New Oxford, Sergeant Matt Mahoney, 24, of Rochester, NY, and Sergeant James Elligson, 25, of Reading. They are all full-time students at Penn State Harrisburg and veterans of the Iraq war.

Penn State Harrisburg currently has 205 veterans and 57 Chapter 1606 Reservists attending classes. Reservists are currently enlisted in the military and could be called up for duty at any time.

All three were deployed in 2003 at the beginning of the Iraq war. Both Campbell and Elligson spent seven months in Iraq

while Mahoney stayed for nine months.

All three became involved in the military during high school. "I was a freshman in high school, and I knew that's what I wanted to do. It was only a matter of time until I picked the Marines," said Mahoney, a junior electrical engineering major.

Campbell, also a senior electrical engineering major, enlisted in the Army Reserves while he was in high school so he could take advantage of the benefits and college money offered by the military.

According to www.Military.com, education is the number one reason for joining the military. Reservists can receive up to \$297 a month while veterans and those who served active duty can get up to \$1,034 a month for their education.

As was recently reported in the Pittsburg Post-Gazette, nearly 70% of Pennsylvanians now

serving in the military are college age. That's up from 40% during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

When college students serving in the military are deployed they can take leave from their college and the school must then reimburse them all their money. Carolyn Julian, the student aid advisor for PSH helps students deal with financial aid. "They were great here. Carolyn and everybody helped me out a lot and refunded all my student loans for the semester. I even got my book money back for the original price," said Elligson.

Elligson, a senior environmental engineering major, found it shocking to go from the classroom to the Iraqi desert in such a short amount of time.

"It was real quick. Usually you get some warning," said Elligson. About two weeks into the 2003 spring semester, Elligson was given his orders, and in less than a month, found himself in Iraq.

"Not a good place for an Irish kid," Elligson said with a smile.

"It's a different world," said Campbell, "We had to spend so many hours outside to get used to the heat."

The average temperature during an Iraqi summer is about 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Campbell spent two weeks in 150 degree weather. "We were drinking water that actually burnt your mouth as you put it in, but that's all we had to drink," said Campbell.

Mahoney equates Iraq to putting, "a blow dryer, the hottest heat, full blast in your face and start pouring sand into it."

Adjusting to living conditions in Iraq took some time. Everyday luxuries that are taken for granted such as showers, air conditioning, even beds were in short supply or didn't even exist in the war zone.

"Originally, when we got over there, we didn't have showers. We didn't have enough water. We slept on top of the humvees,"



Photo courtesy of James Elligson

Sgt. James Elligson during his seven months in Iraq as a U.S. Marine.

said Elligson. "After awhile we got stuck in tents, and I think that was actually worse," he continues. There wasn't much space. His tent-mates came and went at different hours, and of course there is always that one person that snores. "It can kind of grate on you after awhile," said Elligson.

Mahoney recalls having 32-40 people to a tent when his unit first went into Iraq. Eventually they

got it down to about 16 people per tent. "You have this one little spot to call your own. It's only a cot about as long as your body. You pack everything else underneath," said Mahoney.

The close quarters of communal living wasn't all bad news though. "It's really nice to see other people working together, people from all different backgrounds, coming together as a team," said Elligson.

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