

Editor's Comments



First, I would like to share with all of you my latest amazing discovery. It is a toy, yes, a toy. But, it happens to be one of the coolest toys ever, providing even more entertainment than your etch-a-sketch or light bright from back in the day. This remarkable stress reliever is "20Q." It is a small, handheld device and what you do is think of any word and it will ask you 20 questions in order to determine your

word. It will leave you in disbelief how many times it gets this right and when it doesn't, well, hence the stress relief part. Go pick one up at Wal-Mart for a fun office toy; we've certainly had tons of fun with it here.

Now on to my real point. How many of you are ready for the end of the semester already?! And I don't even have to ask those of you who are graduating. There's no doubt that, for most of you, senioritis has set in just like it has for me. The future is calling my name, the wings are on, and I'm ready to fly...

Unfortunately, before I can daydream about where life is going to take me, in little more than a month, there are a hundred other things to think about. And yet I just can't escape the anticipation of finally being done with college, which lingers in my thoughts every day now.

It's crept up on me slowly... at the

beginning of the semester it was just a passing thought, "yeah, I graduate after this summer." At midterms, it progressed to, "wow, where's the time going?" And now, with what seemed like merely a blink of my eyes it's become, "holy crap! I have all this work to do, two more papers to put out, an internship to secure in order to actually graduate in summer and not have to come back here in the fall..." You get the point, as many of you sound just the same.

But before we know it, it'll all be over and we'll be off enjoying the summer vacationing, or for some, starting new jobs, internships, or even taking our last few classes.

So to all of you out there staring down the home stretch, congratulations, you're almost there! Good luck in finding your first jobs and starting your path to success. Hopefully you've all had a wonderful college experience and will have an even better time out in the real world.

I know I will. After all, it's what we've been here striving for, to better prepare ourselves in meeting our lives' goals... and don't worry I'll make it there.

Regards,

Ashley Lockard

Ashley Lockard

SGA UPDATE

By **HOLLY WEICHMAN**
Staff Reporter
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March 30 2006

- The Car and Auto club's constitution was approved.
- \$90 was approved for a team flag football team going to Millersville University.
- \$70 was approved for light refreshments at the School of Business open house.
- \$100 worth of Giant's food was approved for the SGA end of the year celebration.

March 6 2006

- Congratulations to everybody who won SGA elections! The official Penn State Harrisburg SGA Elections results are:

- o President - Ariel O'Malley
- o Vice President - Augie Bravo
- o Division of Undergraduate Studies - Sahar Safee
- o School of Business Administration - Kenneth Trail
- o School of Humanities - Matthew Mahoney, Maruja Rosario, Diane Kenney, Mark Rosenstein
- o School of Science, Engineering, and Technology - Arne Stefanon
- o School of Public Affairs - Drew Sellitti, David Quidley
- o School of Behavioral Sciences and Education - MaryGrace Mathin,

- o Kervens Dorcely
- In the Advisors report Donna Howard said, "I'm proud of how elections were conducted."
- There will be no more paper tuition bills. In order to get your bill now you have to sign onto E-lion.
- \$400 was reallocated to BSU (Black Student Union) for a skating trip and a barbecue.
- \$247 was reallocated from Rites of Spring advertising for security.
- \$200 was approved to SIE for Blue and White Game food. \$250 was approved for transportation to the game.
- \$19.74 was allocated for SGA end of the year celebration.
- The Accounting club's constitution was approved.

Reward Offered

Opinion Piece

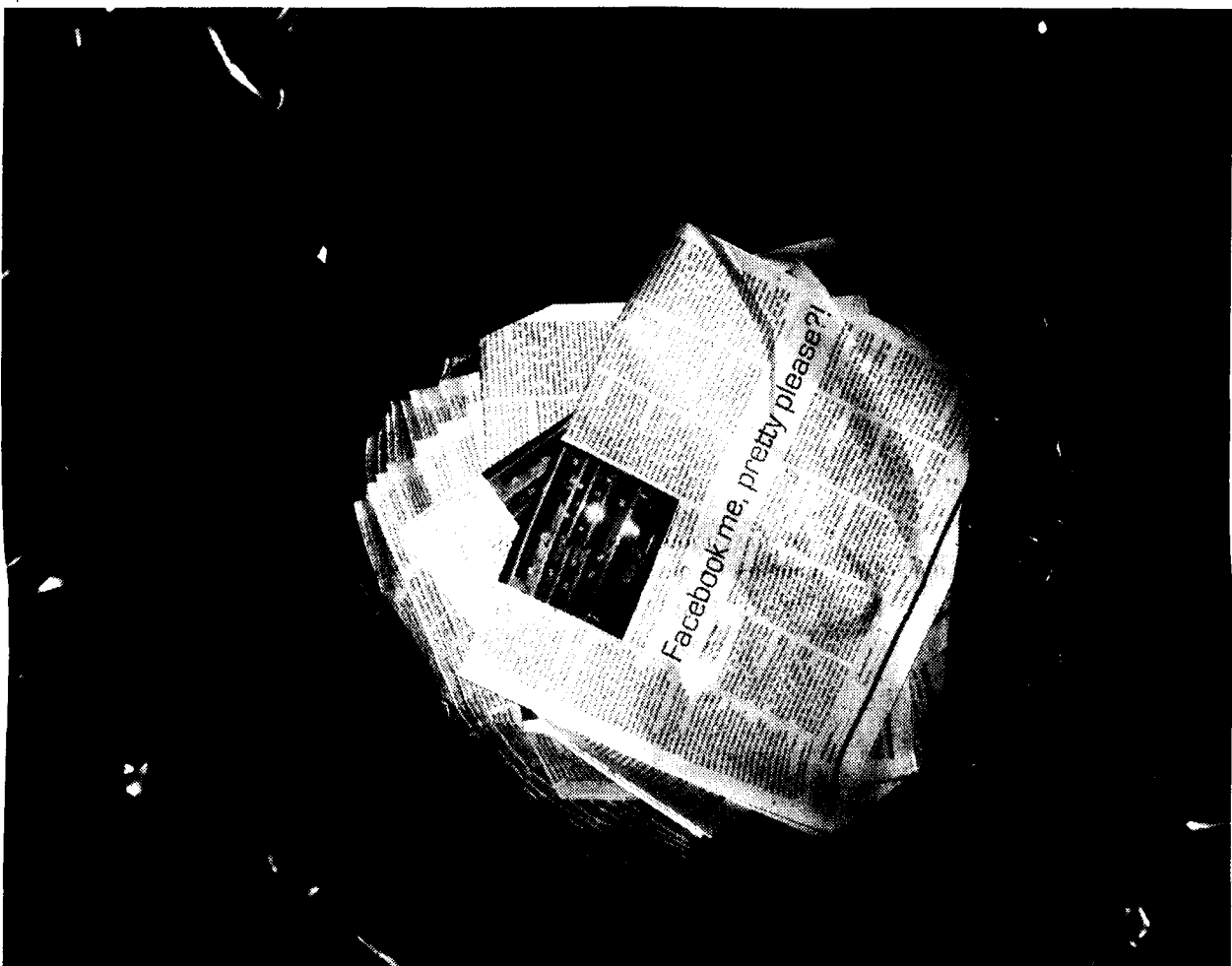


Photo by KRISTEN POOLE/The Capital Times

A \$25 reward is being offered to anyone with information that leads to the discovery of the person or persons involved in throwing away several hundred copies of the March 27 issue of The Capital Times. Newspapers were removed from stands between the afternoon of Monday, March 27 and the early afternoon of Thursday March 30. After redistribution on Monday April 3, the papers pictured were found in two separate trash cans in Stacks Market. Anyone with information should contact Police Services at 948-6233.

It is obvious that whoever removed these papers had a serious problem with something in the issue. Anyone with varying opinions in the future is encouraged to write a letter to the editor in order to voice your opinion. Throwing the newspapers away is not the way to make your opinions known.

Recently I sent out a short story submission to *Glimmertrain Press*, a semi-prestigious and widely read literary journal. In a short and ultimately maddening letter, I was informed that while my short story was "a good read" it wasn't what the publication was looking for.

After the initial disappointment, I looked over my work and tried to figure out where I could strengthen it, or where I could cut something out to make it more desirable.

It's a natural emotion to be upset after rejection; no one likes to be told they aren't good enough.

It is just as natural to never want your work to be seen by another judge's eye, or at least never by the editor of the same place you were rejected from before. But published writers (and artists, for that matter) didn't give up after their first rejection letter, and neither should you.

Sure, that last sentence sounds like the catch line to an after school special, but it's true.

There are several reasons that rejection can be more valuable than acceptance. I know that the most desirable outcome for any writer or artist is to be published or sell their work.

Being a Creative Artist as a hobby is fine, but being known as a Creative Artist by a community larger than your friends is a fantastic experience. But you'll learn more, by far, with a rejection letter.

To start with, if you are lucky enough to get a rejection letter from a publication that has the time to tell you why they didn't accept your work, that advice is good as gold. It can show you what this particular publisher is looking for.

Simply read over your work, see if you agree with the publisher, and change what they recommend. But take this advice carefully. Editors, no matter how intelligent and esoteric as they seem, are not flawless.

If you're going to send your work to the same editor again, it's easier to take their advice. The

same can be said for a continuing criticism no matter where you send your work.

But if you are planning to send your work to many different places, and only had one editor dislike a particular aspect of your work, use your discretion on the changing of your work.

It's also important to note that being rejected from a publication holds its own prestige. As I discussed the idea of rejection letters with an Advisor, she stated something to the effect of: "If you are going to be rejected, be rejected by the best." What great advice! Sure, it's a shame to get a rejection letter from the *New Yorker* (let's say), but at least you sent your work to the *New Yorker*.

Someone from their office looked over your work, held it in their hands and thought it over. That is not something to be overlooked.

Rejection can also show you at what level you are. If you're getting published at small presses and school run creative arts journals maybe it's time to step up to larger groups. But don't expect to move up the food chain that quickly.

If you get published once out of about twenty submissions, you're doing all right. While that is my own philosophy, most published writers and artists know that a similar ratio is just as true: you will get very little published compared to what you send out, which brings me to the next point: send work out.

If you don't put yourself out there, no one will know what you are doing. I know it seems very self-explanatory, but the more work you send out, the more likely you are to get published.

Also, in my own experience, I feel more like a writer when I have work under review, even if I don't get published. For that period of time, when your work is out and you are waiting to get a letter back, you are as close to a creative artist as anyone.

Another very important concern that you should have when getting a rejection letter is who judged it. Some places only use one person to judge who will win a contest or be placed into a publication.

Others use a roundtable where

people battle it out to decide who gets published and who doesn't. *Tarnhelm*, PSH's own creative arts magazine does something else, which a few smaller publications are known for.

We judge all submissions anonymously on a scale of 1-5 (5 being the best, 1 being the submission that needs the most work) and everyone who is involved with *Tarnhelm* judges. Then we agree to a cutoff point, and add up all the scores.

Let's say someone in the magazine either gives themselves a high score or gives someone's work they know a high score, simply because they want themselves or that person to win. Because five other people are also judging, who are doing so without knowing who wrote what, that high score would be balanced.

This assures that not only will a wide range of work get into the magazine, but that a community of peers decide who will receive first, second and sometimes third place.

I guess what I'm trying to get across is this: if your work gets rejected from a publication, look at the factors in your work, the decision makers, and the times.

Don't take it as an insult, take it as an advisement. Keep sending out your work and don't stop with the first publication. Quality of work and quantity of submissions will get you much farther than thin skin and dusty stamps.

Event Announcement:

Tarnhelm Reception
Thurs, April 20
Morrison Gallery
12:30-2:00p.m.

Come celebrate the release of this year's *Tarnhelm Magazine* as well as the announcement of winners for each category.

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CORRECTIONS:

The Capital Times seeks to provide complete, correct information. Any necessary corrections, comments or critiques are wanted and welcome.

Please stop by The Capital Times office (E126), e-mail captimes@psu.edu, drop a suggestion in the box outside the office or call the office at 948-6440.

Any corrections should be reported no later than a week after the paper is printed.

The Capital Times would like to clarify that the photograph with headline and caption found on page two of each issue reflects the opinion of The Capital Times. While the captions usually contain bits of factual information, the opinion expressed is that of The Capital Times newspaper.

We would like to apologize for any confusion this issue may have caused.

THE CAPITAL TIMES

We are currently looking to fill the following positions:

- Business Manager
- Photography Editor
- Photographer
- Copy Editor
- Reporter

If interested, please contact us at 948-6440 or captimes@psu.edu

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