

Editor's Comments...



Hello everyone! How is everyone doing today? As we come down to the wire, I hope that you all finish with bangs, and not the kind that drop G.P.A.s either.

Well, I honestly didn't believe that we would get to this point when we started this journey in September. However, it is time for the last issue of The Capital Times for the semester. So, I am going to give you my halfway through the year report on the newspaper you pay for.

I started this semester with a list of capital improvements. In order to run a fantastic newspaper, things needed to be upgraded. It began with the purchase of three flat back large screen monitors, the very same that led to the ripping of someone's jean pocket three issues ago.

These monitors allowed for a great improvement of the workspace, exterminating menial tasks like moving palettes to see other palettes and greatly expediting the layout process. Everyone was excited when they

were hooked up (Thanks Diane!) and to this day, a regular sized monitor just doesn't cut it for me anymore.

The next improvement came in the form of the new Adobe Creative Suite 2.3. This new software upgraded our old one, and with the purchase of three licenses, it allows three different people to work on the layout at once. This is unprecedented in the history of The Capital Times, so we are stoked.

I know I talk about them a lot, but I truly cannot thank Marin Bendoritis, Alex Pomeroy, and Mr. Matthew Carroll, for coming on board the staff. Each one of them has brought something amazing to the crew, and the newspaper absolutely could not run without them.

Marin and Alex are the layout editors. These girls were sent from newspaper heaven in order to help this publication. Since these two came on board, there has not been a single weekend we've had to slave away doing layout. We get out of here every Friday, and it's because of these two angels. Though Alex likes to make sound effects to the point of nausea and Marin likes to distract herself any way she can (smoke breaks, Stacks, SGA naps), there are amazing employees and just as amazing friends.

Mr. Matthew Carroll made it possible for The Capital Times to actually spend some money on themselves, because he sold enough ads. He knows how much he irritates me that he doesn't show up in the office for days on end, or that when he is here, he'd rather debate sexism than bill advertisers,

but in the end, he knows that I would never replace him and that I am indebted to him.

I need to take a second to personally thank two graduating seniors. These two have definitely been an amazing asset to this newspaper, Lisa Mauti and Diane Kenney.

Mauti joined The Capital Times during the spring semester last year. She wanted to write a column about whatever was in her head, and she was given the space to do so. Since then, her columns have been a hit with all our readers, and for good reason. She is witty and clever, and I am going to miss her column in the paper every issue. Mauti, thank you.

If you needed an article written about anything in history, Diane is the one you would ask. Not only did she know her history; Diane could be counted on to write a last minute article at the 11th hour without complaint, help distribute the paper, brainstorm ideas, and did whatever she could to help this newspaper. Diane, I love you to death and wish you the best.

That ends my report. To all those graduating, I wish you the best of luck. And to the rest, I will see you in the spring.

Have a great holiday!

MARUJA ROSARIO

Christmas time has already arrived

By **MARIN BENDORITIS**
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It is the third week of December and I have not even begun to start my Holiday shopping. My mother on the other hand, has everything bought and wrapped already. Insane? I think so.

It may be the fact that I have pretty terrible planning skills and am perpetually late; but I do not see the need to be buying presents in November, or decorating the weekend after Thanksgiving.

Take a walk around campus and take a look at the plethora of decorations that abound Penn State Harrisburg. The offices are decorated with Christmas trees, bows and poinsettias; Stacks is a wonderland of holiday cheer; and most of the dorms are aglow with colored lights and Christmas trees.

Given that it is dangerously close to December 25, these kinds of displays of cheer are acceptable; but most of these decorations were up immediately after the Thanksgiving break, if not before.

I will admit though that my apartment is one that looks like the morning after Santa had a wild party; with lights, bows, and garland hung and strung from all possible places. But they were only put up within the past week.

It seems like the Holiday season is beginning sooner and sooner in the year. On Halloween, the dollar store in Middletown had no Halloween decorations or costumes; instead, their shelves were lined with sparkly snowflakes, ribbon, and chocolate Santas. Black Friday started Thursday night, and people were being harmed when the stores opened at midnight.

But even with Christmas being pushed at you like it's a new form of recreational drug, I still get the feeling that it is on the backburner here at Penn State Harrisburg.

It could be the fact that finals are coming up and students here have more on their plates than figgy pudding. Not many students are talking about Holiday plans or making lists for their families and friends.

The two Angel Trees funded by the College Democrats and Lion Ambassadors are not getting much publicity, and there is a lack of toy and food drives on campus. Although it is obvious that Christmas is quickly approaching, the spirit here is lacking. Not to say that we don't have Penn State spirit, but the warm, fuzzy feeling of sipping hot chocolate and watching a movie with friends, or seeing bins full of presents for underprivileged children, seems to be more of a warm-down, lukewarm holiday feeling.

I'm a believer of the theory that if you do one small, nice thing for someone, it will cause a chain of nice things. There is a sign on the door of the CapTimes that says "Today's Challenge," so I challenge you Penn State Harrisburg to spread a little Holiday cheer by doing one nice thing for someone. Spread some cheer and wish someone 'Merry Christmas' as you hold the door for him or her. Or pick up some candy canes at the dollar store for your friends, whatever it may be; it is officially Christmas time, so make the season feel like it.

POLICE REPORT

12/06/06: Motorist assist: PSO gave directions to lost tractor trailer driver.

12/05/06: Suspicious vehicle: Observed suspicious vehicle parked by gate. Contacted M&O who confirmed Survey contractor working in area.

12/05/06: Reckless driver: Report of reckless driver. PSO located vehicle on Hunter Lane with vehicle unoccupied.

12/05/06: Suspicious incident: Caller stated her 12 year old son was stopped by Penn State student. Incident occurred in Middletown/ referred to Middletown pd.

12/04/06: Assist outside agency: Middletown PD requested PSO search campus for vehicle/persons involved in suspicious incident. Unable to locate.

12/03/06: Motorist assist: PSO provided assistance with flat tire.

12/03/06: Vehicular escort: Provided chancellor escort from airport to campus.

12/03/06: Security lapse: M&O found two students inside library after hours. Students left building.

12/03/06: Criminal mischief: PSO

observed black Toyota parked on grass in front of library.

12/02/06: Disturbance: PSS assisted PSU employee evict female student who was fighting with another student.

12/02/06: Disorderly conduct: PSS prevented person under the influence from entering the CUB for event.

12/02/06: Public drunkenness: PSS told non-student visitor he was not permitted to enter building for event. Person was highly intoxicated.

12/02/06: Security detail: Wackenhut security found unidentified subject with Karshaw knife. Person not allowed to enter building. Several subjects refused metal wand search and left.

12/02/06: Criminal mischief: During social gathering someone ripped sink off wall in 2nd floor female restroom. Investigation continuing.

12/02/06: Police information: PSS observed large amount of litter in parking lot i.e. glass beer bottles, beer cans, and cups from student event held in CUB.

12/01/06: Noise complaint: PSO

issued verbal warnings to students for excessive noise.

12/01/06: Public drunkenness: PSS found several students with open containers of alcohol in parking lot. Student allegations to be filed.

11/30/06: Suspicious person: M&O reported a suspicious person in room E330. PSO responded and found student studying.

11/30/06: Criminal mischief: Student reported door decorations were lit on fire twice today.

11/29/06: Found property: M&O found blue back pack in room E307. Owner contacted/property report completed.

11/29/06: Harassment: Former student called requesting information on parents of harassment suspect. Unable to provide information. Informed student to report to local police.

11/28/06: University policy: Report of 4 juveniles placing flyers on vehicles. PSS responded and issued verbal warning.

11/28/06: Assist outside agency: Ex-student reported receiving harassing emails from another ex-student at her home computer out of state. PSS advised to contact local police.

Okay people...



Photo by **ALEX POMEROY**/Capital Times

We know that Penn State Harrisburg is mainly a commuter campus, but does the campus really need to shut down after 3:30 p.m. on Friday? This picture outside of Stacks market around 3 p.m. on Friday, December 8, sends a shiver of loneliness through my spine. Sure, we here at the CapTimes are still here until ungodly hours of the night slaving away to create your student newspaper; but why does this campus feel like a ghost town on Fridays? Ask anyone from Food Services and they will tell you that Stacks gets very little, if any, business after around 2 p.m. on Fridays. Ask anyone who lives on campus and they will tell you that at least half of the students that live on campus go home or to another college for the weekend. Complaint after complaint is heard about how there is nothing to do on campus on the weekends, especially if you are under 21. But many clubs do not plan events for the weekends because no one is here to attend. These empty chairs and empty tables only reminds us of the song from Les Miserables, but that we know of, no one here is going off to fight the French Revolution.

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.

CORRECTIONS:
Zachary Piccolo's last name was misspelled in the last issue. Correct spelling above.
In the article, "THON raises over \$1000 due to BSU/SGA date auction success," the Black Student Union was called the Black Student Association. Our apologies.
On the back page ad for the THON gala, the official THON slogan should read, "Many Hearts, One Home."

The Capital Times
We are currently looking to fill the following positions:
Copy Editor
Photographers
Reporters
If interested, please contact us at 948-6440 or captimes@psu.edu

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