

An interview with a gaming legend

Matt Sarver is burning. Find out why...

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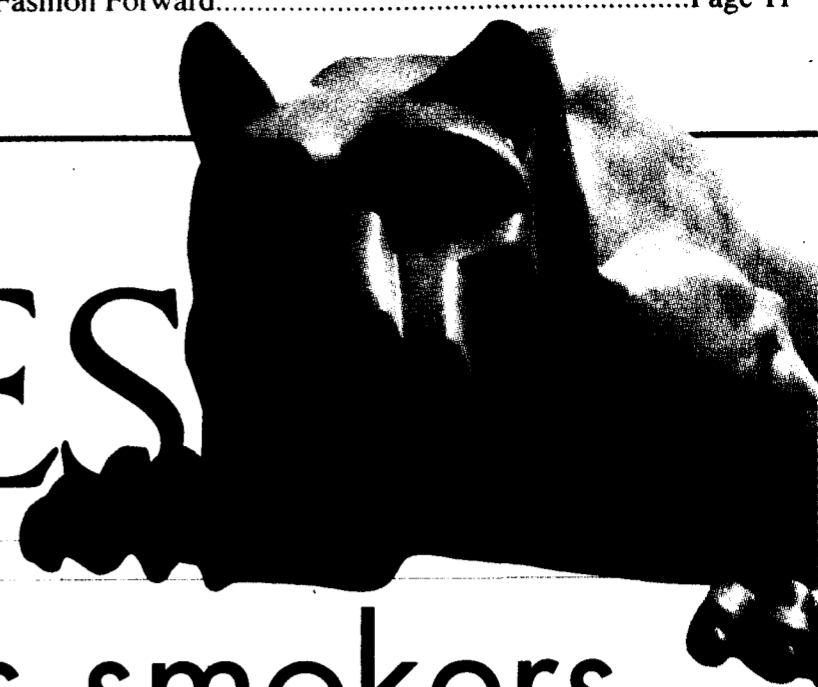
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Smoking ban snuffs smokers

By **MARIN BENDORITIS**
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A new policy at Penn State Harrisburg has made a majority of the campus 'tobacco-free.' The policy was agreed upon by the Tobacco Taskforce, made up of students, faculty and staff and charged by Chancellor, Madelyn Hanes, to explore the possibility of a tobacco free campus.

Penn State Harrisburg, like all Penn State University campuses, already follows Policy AD-32, which prohibits smoking inside buildings, and any place where smoke will enter the building. The policy also states that buildings should post signs at entrances that state, "This is a No-Smoking Building."

The new policy prohibits smoking in the main core of campus, including outside the Olmsted building, Zeigler Commons, and the athletic fields. Because of a new baseball field and tennis courts, and the close proximity of fans to players, the task force decided to include the athletic fields in the ban.

The task force took a look at this policy, and as one of the charges

given to them, reviewed and evaluated the implementation of the policy. The task force was also given 4 other charges, including

surveying policy, practices and trends related to tobacco usage at other Penn State Campuses and other colleges; soliciting

comments related to tobacco usage; recommend policy for implementation; and recommend in spirit of improved health and wellness, voluntary educational programming in accordance to the impact and progress of the policy.

The task force met at the end of the spring semester and during the summer for a total of 6 times, with meetings continuing into the fall. The new policy was announced Aug. 22 and took effect Aug. 27. The meetings were not closed, but were only announced

to the task force, which was made up of 2 students, 5 faculty members and 11 staff. According to Mary Lou Martz, co-director of the task force, about 4 to 5 members showed up to each meeting.

The task force researched other PSU campuses' smoking policies, such as Altoona as well as other colleges in the Big Ten.

The campuses of Berks and York do not have a smoking policy in addition to AD-32, and Penn State Schuylkill has restricted smoking from around entry ways according to Engracia Texidor, Schuylkill SGA President.

Penn State Berks also holds smoking cessation sessions to help students who wish to quit smoking.

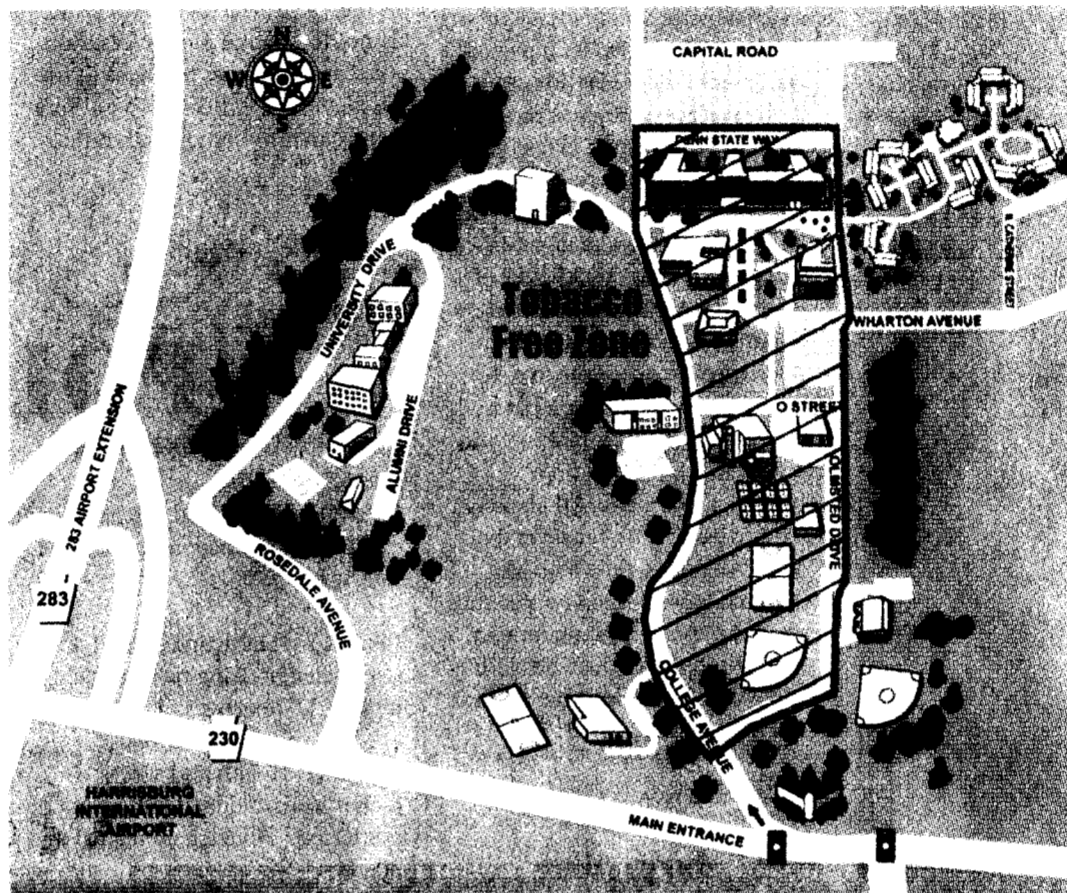


Photo courtesy of PENN STATE HARRISBURG

The new tobacco policy on campus prohibits smoking in the red area showed above.

A survey was also sent out in April to students, faculty and staff asking their opinion on a no smoking policy on campus. Out of 345 faculty, 59 responded, with 71 percent in favor, 104 out of 214 staff responded with 77 percent in favor, and out of 3,722 students, 333 responded with 62 percent in favor of the no smoking policy.

Please see **TOBACCO** on page 5

A needed facelift for the old Olmsted building

By **KATIE GOODRICH**
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Master Plan, according to Ed Dankanich, Director of physical plant and maintenance operations.

"The cafeteria, majority of the classrooms and offices are all located here," said Dankanich.

Penn State Harrisburg is evolving into a college campus one

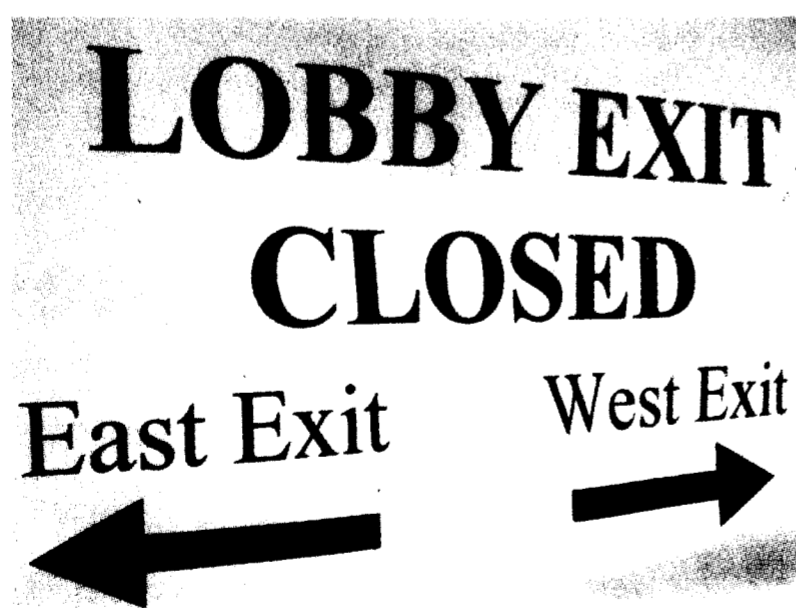


Photo by **MARIN BENDORITIS**/Capital Times

The construction on the new lobby entrance may create a hassle for students but renovations will provide a fresh look and newer capabilities to Olmsted.

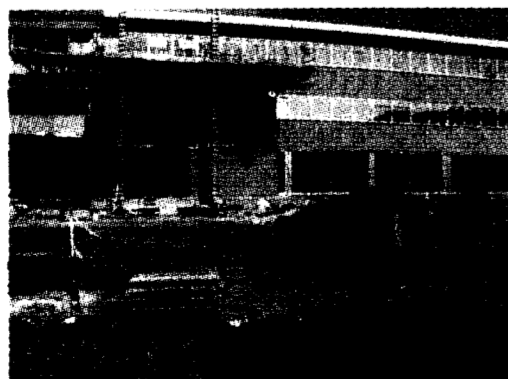


Photo by **MATTHEW SARVER**/Capital Times

The new entrance to Olmsted will house an additional elevator. The existing elevator, an old freight elevator from when the building belonged to the air force base, will still remain

The renovations to the front of Olmsted are all part of the Campus

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Please see **CONSTRUCTION** on page 5

Campus housing vs. commuting

The great debate over which is better continues to grow

By **PETER ROQUEMORE**
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Penn State Harrisburg, originally a small commuter school for upperclassmen and graduate students, has done some growing over the past few years. Take for instance, that over 400 first-year students were admitted this fall compared to the 10 first-year students admitted in the fall semester of 2001.

Sophomore Dustin Holler commented, "Having spent some time at the dorms in the past couple weeks, there does seem to be an influx of hoodlums this year. I haven't noticed a spike in participation in student organizations as of yet, but I look for it to happen before too long. Something I'm eager to see happen is an increase in overall school spirit."

Another aspect of student life the increase will affect is eating. Everyone eats, everyone needs food, and Food Services at Penn State Harrisburg are doing everything they can to keep up with the student demand. This year, Assistant Director Greg Schiavoni hired more student employees than in his 12-year history at Penn State. Along with the student hires, Food Services is making a few changes with the hiring of a second chef next semester, the introduction of some new food items and more "grab and go" options. One thing they won't be changing is quality.

"We're pretty proud... we make most of our stuff from scratch," said Schiavoni.

Being a smaller college campus allows the food service to be versatile and change to fit the student preferences. A major aspect of their decision-making comes from student input which they don't get enough of. A suggestion box is located in the Stacks Market and all ideas we welcomed.

As Penn State grows, the food services grow.

"We think we have one of the best food services in all of the commonwealth campuses," Schiavoni said, expressing confidence in the growth.

Director of Admissions Robert Coffman projects that this growth will continue.

"Our future enrollments look strong. We continue to attract applications from an academically strong and diverse population of prospective students," he said.

A statement easily backed up by the 13 percent increase in applicants this year over last.

"The growth here at Harrisburg does seem to be stronger than some other campuses," he continued. "But that is due to many factors such as our academic offerings, housing, student activities and athletics."

With the construction of apartment style dormitory buildings in The Village at Capital College, Penn State is able to offer excellent housing to students of any year. The dormitories for first-year students consist of three double occupancy rooms and one triple occupancy room, while upperclassmen receive four single occupancy rooms. Every apartment comes with features such as a living room, fully loaded kitchen and a washer/dryer unit.

Freshman Sarah Barraza said, "I love living on campus. If you live in the 9000 building, you get your bathrooms cleaned, you have a huge living room, all of my roommates are awesome and the kitchen is perfect to cook feasts in, which we do!"

Unfortunately not everyone can enjoy these facilities. The Village at Capital College houses only 328 students, leaving the rest to commute.

Many students have opted to move into apartments in the surrounding area rather than commute all the way from home. A popular apartment

complex nearby is The Village of Pineford. Its popularity is attributed to its close location, price, benefits and student population.

"I was surprised when I first learned on-campus housing fills up fast and is very limited. I didn't think a school would take on such a large number of students that it can't house," said freshman Stephen Seal. "It is great that there are nice apartments nearby. I enjoy my apartment because I have freedom to do whatever I want whenever I want. I also don't have three to eight roommates. One or two is OK."

Freshman Anna West also enjoys the perks of living in Pineford.

"I do enjoy it much more than living at home and commuting every day," she said.

There are students who commute long distances to campus every day however. The commute can make the campus experience very different from that of someone living in the dorms.

"I enjoy commuting because I feel like it is less limiting. I can also keep the same job that I had during the summer," said freshman Alicia Castro. "I think that commuting has definitely made it a little harder to fit in. Living with your classmates will definitely create a stronger bond than just seeing them a few times a week."

Freshman Cherie Smith chimed in, "For the most part, I don't mind commuting. I really like the fact that I'm saving \$7,000 on room and board by not living on campus. I really like that all my classes are spread out so I have plenty of time between them. Overall, I am enjoying my Penn State experience."

Any expansion of on-campus housing is at best five to 10 years down the road, so the best way for any student interested in housing on campus is to visit www.eLiving.psu.edu.

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