

CLUB NEWS

SGA Update

By **MATTHEW MAHONEY**
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The Student Government Association met Thursday Oct. 25 and was faced with criticism not only from members of the student body but also from within. Camille Capmpbell, President of the Marketing Honors Society, wanted to know why the SGA, and specifically the Student Court has been focused solely on the impeachment and not on the student body. "I charge all of you," she said during public comments, "to act as professionally and efficiently as possible."

SGA President Marques Stewart pointed out that the court has three weeks to review constitutions from the time they are submitted and it had only been two weeks.

Chief Justice of the Student Court, Paul Fogle announced that three charges would be moving forward to an actual impeachment hearing.

During the continued debate over constitutional amendments senators began to exchange indirect verbal rounds as disparity surfaced about the senate's agreement over including the position of a webmaster. Currently the position of Communications Director holds the responsibility to not only communicate SGA activities to the students but also design the webpage.

Senator Dustin Holler, who filled this position previously, feels that appointing a web master is unnecessary and feels this is the expressed majority of the Senate by those that attend Senate meetings. Senator Blackmon countered by saying that Dustin is improperly assuming that it is the majority of the Senate that feels this way because he admits that it was not brought up at any senate meeting he attended.

Debate also continued over the inclusion of an Inter Club Council that would replace the need for clubs to attend SGA meetings. Feedback from Vice President Sahar Safaee about the ICC informed senators that a lot of ideas and concepts are accomplished at ICC meetings, and that communication between clubs is improved.

Senator Martin Santalucia voiced concerns that the SGA should be more effective. "The SGA is being informed by rumors and not internally," said Santalucia. He also reminded everyone that the Senate holds a lot of power to do what is necessary for the student body. The idea that the SGA should be more involved with the needs of the students is a sentiment echoed by many members of the SGA on all levels.

As of the meeting on Nov. 1 the SGA reported it had \$16,868.90 in the restricted fund; \$4,403.41 in the unrestricted fund; and \$2,321.72 in the FAA account.

The Student Court reported it had approved constitutions for the Model Rocket Club, Mu Kappa Tau, and the Capital Alliance. Chief Justice Fogle also presented copies of the impeachment charges to the Senate for their review. This was the first time the Senate had seen the charges and it was done in advance of their meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

In the continuing debate of the amendments to the SGA constitution the amendment for a webmaster did not pass. The amendments for a max of four justices on the Student Court and the President to hold a leadership conference did pass.

Members of the SGA continued, again, to voice concerns that the SGA was not focusing on where it should, the students. Still no actions have come from these admissions. Senator Maurice Blackmon summed it up when he said, "Our student government has issues."

Show off your diamonds at PSH

By **ADAM PORTER**
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With an eye toward the future, Linda Barry, Assistant Coordinator for the Four Diamonds Fund, has high hopes for the battle against pediatric cancer. "The Four Diamonds Fund provides an invaluable safety net for families who have a son or daughter treated for pediatric cancer at Penn State Children's Hospital," said Barry. "Thanks to the vision of co-founders Charles and Irma Millard and the partnership with THON, the Fund is able to provide pediatric cancer patients with comprehensive medical, emotional and financial support," she continued.

Last year was a "tremendous" year for the Fund according to Barry, who noted that the Fund raised more than \$6 million in the last fiscal year. Not only through an enormous increase (over \$1 million year-to-year) in THON's donation, but also through many more middle and high school mini-thons than years past. According to last academic year's

calendar on the Four Diamonds website, there were over 30 mini-thons throughout the area. They included dance-

a-thons and rock-a-thons of varying lengths with kids of as young as 6th grade participating. Ms. Barry also helped organize Elizabethtown College's first mini-thon raising more than \$7,000.

As assistant coordinator, Ms. Barry works closely with Coordinator, Sara Firestone, and Staff Assistant, Linda Leonard to make sure The Four Diamonds has the resources to carry out their mission. Those resources include funds but volunteers and other staff members as well.

One of the ways this is accomplished is through fundraisers with local organizations and businesses.

On Wednesday, December 5, Penn State Harrisburg's THON committee will be holding a "Community Night" at the Isaac's Deli locations in Mechanicsburg (in Rossmoyne Business Center) and on Paxton Street (near BassPro Shop). 25% of sales between 4 pm and 9 pm will go directly to the Fund.

You must present a flyer to your server that will be available around campus.

Ms. Barry's other responsibilities include editing the Fund's newsletter, The Four Diamonds Forum. She also conducts tours of the Penn State Children's Hospital. Tours for students can be arranged through each campus' or

organization's THON committee.

To join this campus' committee, simply e-mail myself at AWP5038@PSU.EDU or Ariel O'Malley at AEO5002@PSU.EDU and we will add you to the ANGEL group to keep you up to date on events and information. The reach of this organization is broad.

"Last year, The Four Diamonds Fund assisted 607 patients and their families. Unfortunately of those 607 patients, 104 were newly diagnosed at Penn State Children's Hospital," Barry pointed out. "The number of newly diagnosed patients continues to rise, but we are confident the patients are receiving the best care possible because of the support of The Four Diamonds Fund."

Recalling the ground-breaking pledge that THON made in 2004 THON of \$10 million to build the Pediatric Cancer Pavilion at the new Penn State Children's Hospital, Barry provided an update on the progress.

"I am pleased to let you know that recently [the Hospital's] Board of Directors approved plans for the creation of a four-story children's hospital.

With the Board's approval, the plans are now proceeding to the formal architectural design phase... designs will then be presented to [the Hospital's] Board of Directors and the Penn State University Board of Trustees for final approval in order to begin actual construction. The presentation of designs is expected to happen sometime in the fall of 2008." "THON is allowing the dreams of a free-standing children's hospital and dedicated space for our pediatric oncology patients to become a reality," said Barry. Expressing her gratitude to Penn State students, Barry continued, "We thank each and every THON student for your passion and efforts on behalf of The Four Diamonds Fund and Penn State Children's Hospital."

"Through THON, The Four Diamonds Fund has helped Penn State Children's Hospital create a top quality pediatric cancer program.

We look forward to the continued partnership between THON and The Four Diamonds Fund and thank you for all you do as we work toward our goal of conquering childhood cancer."



4 Miles for Four Diamonds Walk-a-thon

Image courtesy of GOOGLE.COM

Diversity inactive at Penn State

By **MAURICE BLACKMON**
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One can commonly observe a separation of races in most large public venues.

"We're just more comfortable within our own races" is the typical excuse.

It is unfortunate that the United States, the melting pot of the world, continues to deal with issues of racial inequality, discrimination against members of various sexual orientations and religious ridicule. More so, it is ironic that we, the United States, even deemed ourselves a melting pot. It is true that we are a nation with a rich dynamic of cultures, but the fact that so little effort is made to unite us diminishes our claim to be a melting pot.

Penn State Harrisburg is rich in diversity, overflowing with groups dedicated to spreading cultural awareness on campus.

One might now ask, "Isn't your campus perfect? Shouldn't it be so that discrimination against races, members of various sexual orientations and religions, doesn't exist on your campus?"

To address these questions, two prominent student leaders were asked

about campus diversity.

Senior John Howie, president of the Black Student Union and director of the Multi-Cultural Recruitment Team, felt the representation of races is not an issue. But his first year here was a different story.

"The influx of freshmen alone has contributed to the increase in diversity," he stated.

Howie felt it brought an entrepreneurial spirit to the campus.

"We've become more diverse in our ideas and perspectives, more so than just in race," he said, referencing the Gospel Choir and the drama club, the Capital Players.

Student Government Association President Marcus E. Stewart also felt Penn State Harrisburg is taking steps in the right direction as far as diversity is concerned.

"A major goal of the SGA this year is to unite our campus in every aspect," he said.

On a scale of one to 10, 10 being good, Stewart felt the campus is between a five and a six.

"I wish I could give a higher

number, but the burning of the LGBTSA (gay-straight alliance on campus) signs around campus must be noted," he said with frustration. "Sure, there's diversity in food court,



photo courtesy of MAURICE BLACKMON

but the diverse groups sit with one another... separated from everyone else! People may attack this claim, saying they're simply eating with their friend, but it still gives off the wrong idea."

Howie rated the campus slightly different. He felt the campus gets an A- or B+ in diversity, but "in terms of inclusion and exploration of other

cultures, we lack, and therefore get a C+ or D-."

Recognizing the positive and negative sides to the issue of diversity, Howie and Stewart were asked how they felt the gap of diversity could be bridged. President Stewart suggested approaching Howie with any questions, comments or concerns about the issue.

He stated, "You do not have to be a minority to join the Multi-Cultural Recruitment Team, MAEP or the Black Student Union."

Anything with the word "culture" in it is assumed to be geared towards Blacks. This is a terribly ignorant misconception. Stewart also recommended contacting Phebe West, Chairman of the Diversity Committee of the Student Government Association.

Howie shared his expertise on the matter, reiterating the Multi-Cultural Recruitment Team's motto "bridging the gap."

"We must develop ways to foster interaction between individuals' ideas, perspectives, cultural backgrounds, interests and tastes," said Howie.

He feels it doesn't take mathematical or scientific theories to solve this.

"We're already diverse...what's the glue?" Howie asked.

He suggested the campus can be

united by possibly bringing together clubs and educational departments. This will lead to students obtaining better understanding of one another.

Howie stated, "Individuals have to be more motivated to engage in something outside of their norm. We all have something to bring to the table. Don't keep it hidden. Actually bring it to the table."

It is obvious the campus is dealing with an inactive form of diversity. One can place a member of four different nations into one room. If they all retreat to the four corners of the room, they are isolated. The room is diverse, but in an inactive form, doing no one any good.

With two open-minded, mature leaders like Stewart and Howie, the campus can certainly look forward to change. President Stewart is making strides on a daily basis to see to it that the campus is uniting. The same can be said about Howie. Though the silent leader that he is, Howie displays incredible enthusiasm and promise for the campus.

Look forward to the next Diversity Corner, where several faculty/staff members of minority backgrounds will be profiled. They will share their experiences at Penn State and talk about how and if their diverse backgrounds have played a part in their experiences.

Health Spot

By **ROBERT KABATA**
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Here it comes: the article that says, "Hey smokers, why don't you just go ahead and quit already?"

This article isn't going to list reasons why quitting is smart. It's common knowledge that not smoking is the healthy choice. But the decision to quit is a personal one and has to be reached on your own. I personally know how great of a drug nicotine can be, how hard it is to let it go and how much it just plain sucks getting through the quitting process. I also know how much better life (and your wallet) is afterwards.

For those who choose to try to live a healthier and longer life, there are countless ideas and ways to choose from. Cold turkey, chewing gum, avoiding areas with smokers, nail-biting, Nicorette, pickle juice, 10 deep breaths, keeping your hands busy and pushups are some methods

that people have used to quit smoking. Death is always a guaranteed way to quit. But professional help is available right here on campus.

Smoking cessation information and assistance is offered by the Health Services Office, Olmsted W-102. Appointments can be made to talk to medical professionals on the importance and ways of quitting smoking. Many different kinds of informational handouts are available to take and read to help a person make the decision to quit. The staff is very

knowledgeable and willing to work with a person to get him or her healthy.

If a person wants to quit on their own, the internet has countless Web sites that will help. Two of the best

(and free) are from the government. The site <http://www.smokefree.gov/> has hotline numbers and links to online chat rooms, so instant help is available for the times the urge is really tough to fight. Also, the writers of warning labels on cigarette packs have their own Web site, <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/index.html>, with similar resources available for the soon to be non-smoker.

Making the decision to quit and sticking with it is not easy. There is countless reminders everyday for smoking and of its very pleasurable short-term benefits. One of my professors alluded to that fact earlier this year, saying how he knew it was bad, but also how good a cigarette would taste right at that instant. However, that "instant" does fade away.



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