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Jay Mumford

SGA proposes new policies

By **BEN BRANSTETTER**
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The fading Common Hour and the necessity of new textbook editions were the subject of two resolutions passed by the Student Government Association this month.

The Common Hour was deemed necessary in Resolution No. 2008-3, which stated, "Having a campus-wide time which is free for all students is necessary in promoting a more active campus environment."

The Senate with a unanimous vote passed the resolution.

The Common Hour, set for 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., is a block of time during which no class are meant to be scheduled to provide clubs and student organizations a time to meet.

"The main problem stems from the fact that we have 196 periods in a day," said SGA Vice President Martin Santalucia, "while the standard Penn State commonwealth campus will have 16... Obviously, this is where the Common Hour is going as professors try to cram their classes into the current overly complex system."

"Although nothing can be changed this semester," added SGA President Sahar Safaee, "if (campus directors) pass our resolution within this semester, we can expect the Common



Used Calculus textbooks at the Penn State Harrisburg bookstore cost \$133.75 whereas new textbooks cost \$178.35.

Hour to be reinstated in fall of 2008."

"One of the big goals in this administration," Santalucia added, "is to encourage student involvement in what is obviously a growing and evolving campus. They only way to encourage that growth is to provide a time for student clubs to meet."

Because of academic schedules

conflicting with the Common Hour, three SGA members cannot meet with the rest of the SGA at the regular time, including Safaee.

The second SGA resolution passed concerned whether professors always need to update required reading when new editions of textbooks are released. Resolution No. 2008-1 stated, "New textbook prices have

risen to a level that places an unfair financial burden on students required to purchase the book."

"We're trying to encourage professors to use older editions of textbooks when possible," said SGA Senate Leader Dustin Holler, "as long as it doesn't damage the curriculum. When teaching from a psychology textbook, which talks about the century-old theories of Sigmund Freud, it isn't always necessary to update the textbook and have the students pay more."

"When professors are choosing textbooks, it comes down to weighing between the price and the content," Santalucia said.

"But because they don't have the perspective of \$10,000-a-year plus food, living and everything else it takes to go to college, they might not understand that the \$50 more the new edition costs will mean a lot more to the student than it does on paper."

According to Safaee, SGA has been trying to help students with textbooks since at least last year.

She said, "This has been a series of events... since last year, the Senate has tried to get things done like lowering prices, which (the bookstore) really can't do, and making information about the books easier to access."

The resolution was amended by SGA Senator Kervens Dorcelly before it was passed with eight senators in agreement and one abstaining. The Dorcelly Amendment suggested the campus monitor "the rate in which professors are requesting newer editions of books."

Santalucia said, "When a body like the Student Government takes their concern to someone like Don Holtzman, he can then take it to a school director. The director will then give out that information to the professors."

Having been passed, the resolutions were delivered to the office of Don Holtzman, senior director of Student Life and Enrollment Services. As of press time, Holtzman accepted the resolutions and they were given to Dr. Mukund Kulkarni, senior associate dean of Academic Affairs, who will present the resolutions to faculty.

"One thing you have to realize," said Santalucia, "is nothing can move very quickly in an institution as large as Penn State... This resolution is, I think, a large accomplishment towards the students' interest."

By **JULIANNE DAUBER**
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A lover of travel and foreign cultures, Jay Mumford has been to 67 different countries and can communicate in five different languages. He has accumulated quite a list of accomplishments along the way that anyone can admire. He is extremely intelligent; you can almost feel the aura of knowledge emanating from his classroom.

Mumford was born and raised in Ogden, Utah where he resided until he was 21 years old. His family took trips to Los Angeles, Ca every four years, which was his first taste of life outside of Utah. Still, he "didn't really realize there was a world out there" aside from these two states. When he was 21, he left home to travel to Finland to become a Christian Missionary on behalf of the Church of Latter-day Saints. He quickly became fluent in Finish during the two and a half years he spent as a missionary. When he returned from Finland, he enlisted in the Army ROTC program, where he aspired to be an intelligence officer. His love of history, travel and foreign cultures allowed him to flourish; he served for thirty years, and it took him all over the United States and the world. When he became Commander of a Brigade, he had units all the way from Norway to Turkey. His favorite place abroad was a town in Italy (and a suburb of Naples) called Puteoli. Described as a "marvelous little town," it is also critical place in the history of Christian faith; Puteoli is where Paul landed on his trip to Rome. In the United States, he enjoyed visiting coastal California, the Rocky Mountains of Idaho, and the rocky shores of Maine. Having seen more of the world than most people, he retired from the military in 1989 as a full Colonel.

Educationally speaking, Mumford is a very accomplished man. During his time in the military he earned a master's degree and graduated second in his class. Over the years, Mumford has acquired many different degrees. His civilian

Please see **MUMFORD** on page 4

New dorms in works

By **IVANA LEE**
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The numbers of students are increasing here at Penn State Harrisburg. As a result of the increase, the housing department of PSH is planning on building about 100 new dorms.

The housing department has not yet determined if the new dorms will be like the current ones on campus. As of now, the housing department is in the process of considering potential architects to see what the options are for the new dorms here at PSH.

Living on campus this year was \$2,750 for a single bedroom and



This hill near the Community Center is the proposed site for new housing.

\$2,430 for a double bedroom; prices are expected to raise about \$200 for the 2008-2009 school year.

"Services are always increasing: gas, electricity, water, so the housing payment is to cover whatever the increase would be for the utilities that we use or need for the housing department," said JoAnn Coleman, director of Housing and Food Services.

Many incoming freshmen and sophomores attend Penn State Harrisburg but live off campus. While some commute from neighboring towns and cities, many students

live in The Village of Pineford, an apartment complex a few minutes outside campus, where they take the community bus CAT to get to class.

"There's more space and I like the fact that I have privacy and compared to the housing at school, living in Pineford is cheaper," said sophomore Catherine Mejie.

"It's OK living here on campus, but there really isn't much to do. Although the cable is cheaper than Pineford," said a student here at PSH who wished to remain anonymous.

The housing department is still expecting students to return and renew their housing contracts in spite of the implementation of new housing rules, such as the dry campus policy which comes in effect next year.

"Prior to the dry campus announcements, we sent letters along with the students' renewal of their housing contract notifying the students of the dry campus. And we still have a waiting list for students to get room and board here for next year," said Coleman.

"If it was still a dry campus, students are still going to drink, so it won't really affect the students to leave campus or not. It's not really a big deal," said a student that requested to remain anonymous.

An increase in student population and dormitories begs the question: is there a need for more parking lots? While students who live on campus have conflicting answers, commuter students generally support additional parking spaces. Most students seem to not care about parking issues, however, and instead eagerly await a campus bustling with even more students.

Prepare ye the way for Godspell

By **PHILIP NARSH**
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"There is such a wonderful, pure spirit that goes through 'Godspell,'" said visibly excited artistic director Jim Johnson, on the first day of rehearsals.

"'Godspell' was a big part of my early theater life. I used to drive everywhere to see productions of it." Jim even appeared in the play in

written by Stephen Schwartz and John Michael Tebelak. The songs are based on various parables, taken primarily from the Gospel of Matthew. Although this is a 70's musical, you shouldn't expect to see too many bell bottoms. Jim says that he plans to modernize this production of "Godspell".

The talented cast begins with Maurice J. Blackmon, who is honored and humbled to be taking on the role of Jesus. Though he is not

he portrayed Pontius Pilate in "Jesus Christ Superstar" his senior year of high school. Other roles he has portrayed are: Peter Quince in the original cast workshop of a musical adaptation of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", called "Midnight Madness", Topper in "A Christmas Carol", Captain von Trapp in "The Sound of Music" and Rooster in "Annie". He received most of his training from the NJ Youth Theatre and the NJ Workshop for the Arts. He



Photo by **MARIN BENDORITIS**/Capital Times

The cast of Godspell rehearses a scene in preparation for their April performance. Seen here is Lisa Mei, Berreka Banks, Lindsay Martin, Kervens Dorcelly and Layla Dideban.

1990 at the Civic Little Theater. First opening off-Broadway in May of 1971, "Godspell" is an upbeat, religiously-themed musical

a Christian, he feels as though the show's message of love and morality is one that must be told. He finds it ironic that he's playing Jesus since

feels blessed that he's been allowed to continue performing in college.

Please see **MUSICAL** on page 4

INDEX:

Police Report..... 2
 Opinion..... 3

News..... 4 - 5
 Club News..... 6 - 7

Campus Calendar.... 7
 Sports..... 8

Entertainment..... 9-10
 Games..... 11