

**CAMPUS LIFE**

New SGA president Antonios Avramidis shares interests inside and outside the office ... see page 9.

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Defying norms, "Sock Baby" gains online attention from viewers as well as Hollywood ... see page 13.

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Flag football creating friendly competition at Penn State Harrisburg ... see page 16.

# The Capital Times

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## A fight never forgotten

### FDNY Captain Jay Jonas recalls firefighters' response at WTC

By **MATTHEW BIRX**  
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The Morrison Gallery at Penn State Harrisburg was full to standing room only. Waiting was a montage of students, faculty, members of the community, police officers, and firefighters from local areas and beyond. No one knew what to expect.

Jay Jonas, captain of New York City's Ladder Co. 6 in September 2001, spoke Tuesday, Sept. 9 at PSH about responding to the Sept. 11 attacks at the World Trade Center (WTC),

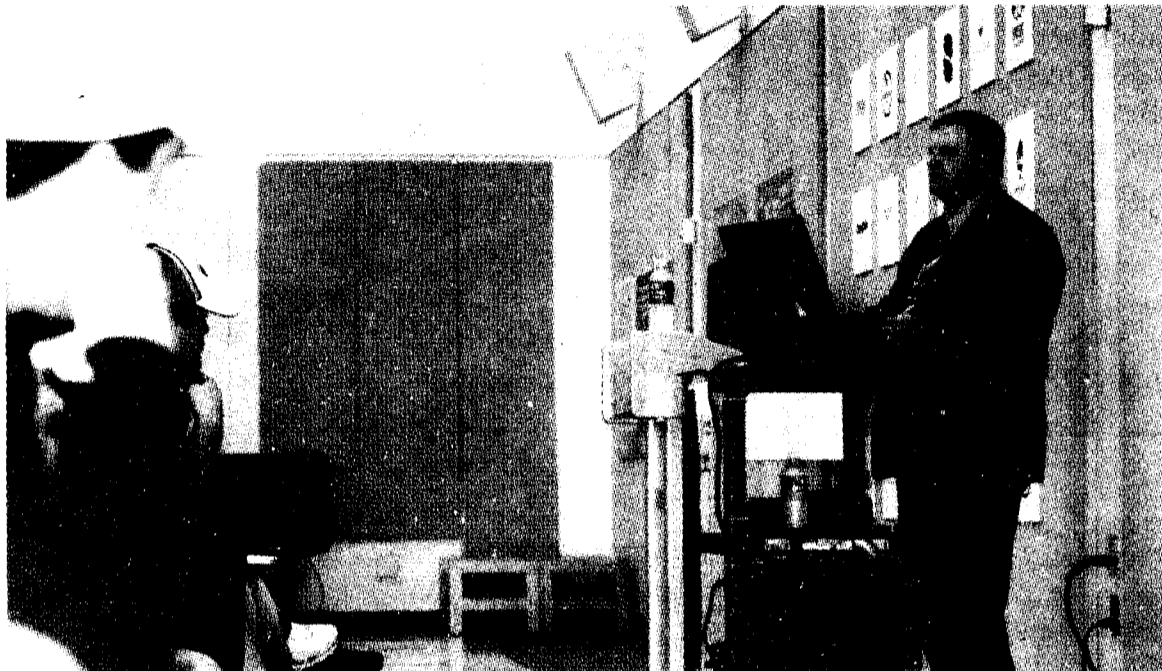


Photo by **DIANA LE** / The Capital Times

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## 7 years on, Sept. 11 is so far and yet so close

By **ERIN McCLAM**  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

It is not a tidy anniversary this year. Seven years between that awful day and this Sept. 11, the terrorist attacks linger somewhere between the immediate, a conscious part of our days, and the comfortable remove of the distant past. No longer yesterday and not yet history.

What happened seven years ago colors American life today. There are the two wars, of course. But in smaller ways, too: We sing "God Bless America" at the ballpark. We weigh "evil" as a campaign issue. We slip off our shoes at airport security, buy the zip-top bag for liquids and gels.

And yet there is an unmistakable distance now. No one speaks of the "new normal" anymore. All of those things are just normal.

This Thursday — Sept. 11, 2008 — will be nothing like the first anniversary, when people were allowed, even encouraged, to take the day off work to reflect, when airports were eerily empty, when silence settled over cities.

But it will also be nothing like what life in America was on Sept. 10, 2001, the day before.

What does 9/11 mean, seven years on? What do we make of it now?

Seven years means we are far enough away that Sen. Joe Biden can joke in a Democratic debate that former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani only mentions three things in a sentence, "a noun and a verb and 9/11," and bring down the house.

Yet we are close enough that

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## Tackling high textbook prices

By **PHIL NARSH**  
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The average American college student will spend between \$700 and \$1,000 a year on textbooks alone, according to a June 2007 report by the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance (ACCSFA). Add in tuition costs, dorm or apartment bills, and all the other little things that make university life expensive, and you probably owe your parents a hug.

The cost of higher education is rising all over the country, increasing at almost twice the rate of inflation. Many students are finding it difficult to meet the financial requirements to graduate, and the percentage of college drops-outs increases as a result. Public and government officials alike have taken notice of this and are slowly but surely working to "roll back prices."

Here at Penn State Harrisburg,

the Student Government Association is on the job. SGA passed a resolution last semester (Resolution No. 2008-1) which expressed the absurdity of new textbook prices and attempted to convince professors to re-use older books instead of requiring new editions for their classes. The idea behind the resolution was that certain subjects, such as calculus or geography, never change in what can be learned about them, so a year-old edition of the book would be just as useful as a brand new edition.

Sophomore Russell Bower was happy to report that his Introduction to Digital Design class this semester uses a textbook published in 1995, but the effects of Resolution No. 2008-1 have yet to be widely seen on campus.

SGA can persuade and cohere

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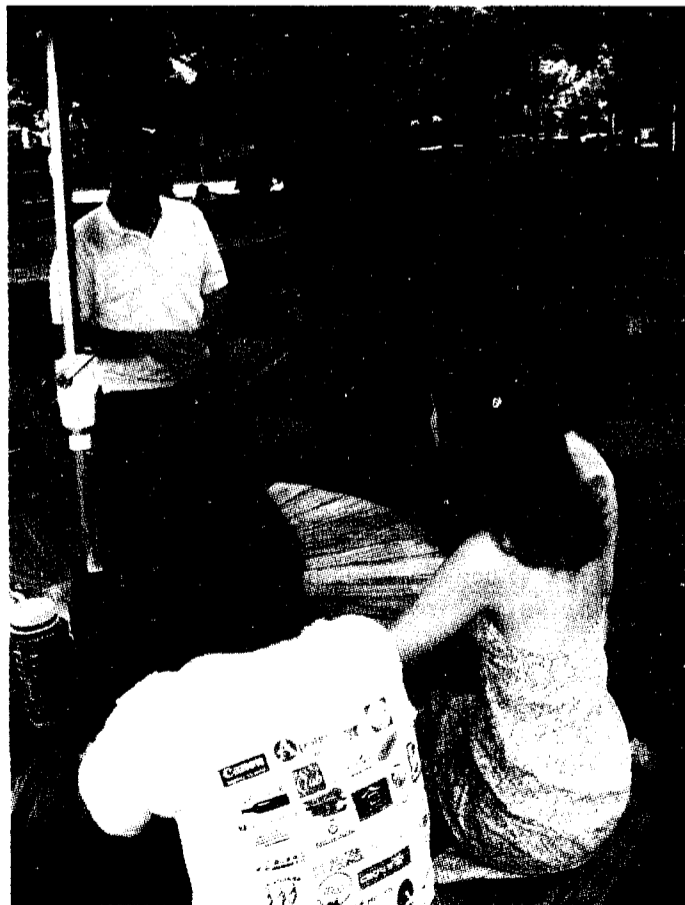


Photo by **PHIL NARSH** / The Capital Times

Councilman Timothy Scott discusses textbook prices with students at Dickinson College.

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