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## Still largely commuter campus, PSH feeling pain at the pump

By JENNA DENOYELLES  
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It is estimated there are 3,500 commuter students this fall according to student enrollment and housing. As gas prices go up, many commuters are forced to find ways to save money on gas or spend more.

Pennsylvania's average for regular unleaded gas is \$3.66 according to American Automobile Association's Daily Fuel Gauge Report. A year ago it was only \$2.75. Junior Communications major Tyler McCollum, a commuter from Harrisburg remembers a time when \$5 of gas lasted an entire Friday night cruising with friends and still had enough gas for the weekend.

Now, McCollum's low fuel light is on daily. At the most, one third of his paycheck goes into his gas tank. To commute to Penn State Harrisburg Monday through Thursday, he spends about \$30 or \$40 a week and lives only 10 to 15 minutes

away. He spends even more on gas if he drives somewhere for his band's gigs.

Limiting frivolous driving, walking when possible, knowing where to go, and knowing the quickest path are just a few ways McCollum, tries to save money.

"It's weird to actually sit here and think about how much I've changed my driving habits," he said.

It is hard to save money on a 206 mile round trip commute from Annapolis, Md.

Fourth year Communications major Benjamin Santoriello leaves his house around 11 a.m. or 12 p.m. to get to class by 2 p.m. He travels on Tuesdays and Thursdays, his only days off from work.

Even with a government discount on gas he pays \$3.15 a gallon. Santoriello, spends about double of what McCollum, spends a week. It costs Santoriello, \$45 to fill up the tank of his Hyundai Tiburon, which he fills up twice a week. On average he spends \$80 to \$90 on his commute to PSH.

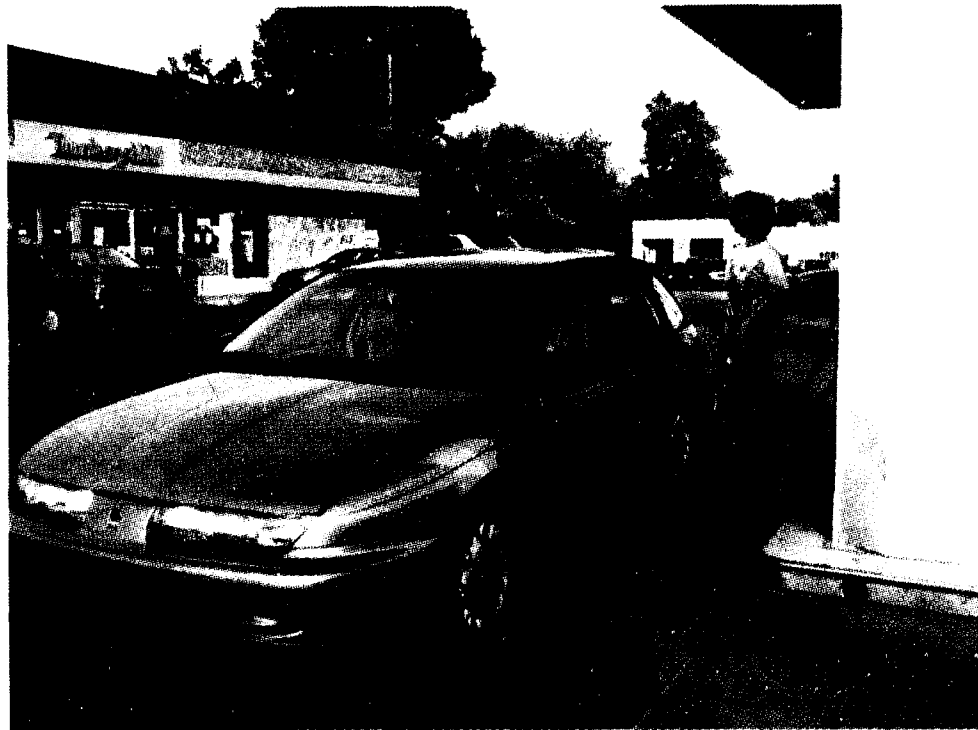


Photo by JENNA DENOYELLES/ The Capital Times

Junior Tyler McCollum fills up his car at a Turkey Hill gas station so he can make commutes to Penn State Harrisburg and his band's shows.

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## Ramadan fasting creates bond between Muslim students

By WILLS KING  
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As a campus with a student body that encompasses a wide range of races and ethnicities, a number of students at Penn State Harrisburg are participating in a month long religious celebration. Around campus, Muslims are fasting for the holy month to the Islamic religion, known as Ramadan.

During this month, participating Muslims refrain from eating or drinking from dawn to sunset, as an act of purification.

Fasting occurs during Ramadan, as a way to teach patience, sacrifice, and humility. During Ramadan, Muslims feel closer to God, mosques are always full for prayers, and there is a strong sense of brotherhood amongst members of the religion. According to



Photo courtesy of AHMED RABEA

Karim Bataineh, a sophomore at PSH, there is a feeling amongst Muslim communities that can be felt by all during this time.

Bataineh, is a native of the country of Jordan, has been celebrating Ramadan since early

childhood.

"Back home, you can just feel it in the air. You can tell that is Ramadan, just as you could tell

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## For a global generation, public health is a hot field

By DAVID BROWN  
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WASHINGTON — Courses in epidemiology, public health and global health — three subjects that were not offered by most colleges a generation ago — are hot classes on campuses these days.

They are drawing undergraduates to lecture halls in record numbers, prompting a scramble by colleges to hire faculty and import ready-made courses. Schools that have taught the subjects for years have expanded their offerings in response to surging demand.

At Johns Hopkins, which has offered an undergraduate major in "public health studies" since 1976, there were 159 students studying the field 10 years ago;

this year, there are 311 majors. At the College of William and Mary, a freshman seminar called "Emerging Diseases" is so popular that it is offered in two sections each semester. "It fills up instantly," said Beverly Sher, the immunologist who teaches it.

"We see exponential growth going on in the interest in these subjects," said Richard Riegelman, an epidemiologist and chief voice of the Educated Citizen and Public Health Initiative, which was put together two years ago by several higher education organizations and advocates undergraduate study of public health.

That group argues that the subject

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