

The Capital Times

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editor's comments

Times of crisis bring out the best and the worst in people. It's something we've all heard and something we recently experienced in the newspaper office.

On Wednesday, Oct. 22, Student Government Association President Antonios Avramidis delivered to me verbally and in writing, a notice on behalf of SGA that the Student Court declared The Capital Times an inactive organization because, they cited, we violated a clause in the SGA constitution.

What followed was a test we hope to never experience again – a test of the bond between editors and the faith of the staff.

Marin and I got in a huge argument before several of our staffers and left the office that evening divided on what actions to take. I was furious when the paper was shut down, but after an argument with my assistant editor and best friend on the paper, felt the sting of betrayal and loneliness. After enduring the emotional rollercoaster on our own and coming to terms, we came to an agreement that in times like these, what is most important is our need to be united.

The following day, we asked our staff to stop by the office and sign a petition for our paper to be reactivated. I simply sat and watched each of them come in and out of the office, sign the petition and ask about the paper. They showed concern and we reassured them. Seeing my staff arrive on such short notice and trust us in a time of crisis meant more to me than I could put in words. I loved my staff more after that day.

The timing of the notice is ironic. It came the day we published what I consider our best issue thus far.

I have an amazing staff to thank, but I put my hard work into it too. I worked till midnight that Sunday and Monday. Then Tuesday, I was in the office till 2 a.m., because our lead story was not in yet. I was exhausted, I had class the next day and I wanted to go home, but I had faith in the writer that it would be an incredible story. When the paper was finally sent to the printer, it was all worth it.

I had also written an Editor's Comments, but chose not to publish it because my staff did such a great job that I thought I should publish a strong piece as well.

I've put my blood, sweat and tears into this paper. I gave up an early, guaranteed transfer to University Park for this paper. Then I gave up a job that could've put my byline on CBSNews.com and WashingtonPost.com, along with those of some of the best student journalists in the country. I put in a lot to make this the best paper it can be for this campus, for my staff and for the editors who came before me and the editors who will come after me."

This entire ordeal of defending the paper has taken a lot out of the editors and I would love for it to be over, but walking away isn't right; it's just easy. This is only the first battle in a long, ugly war, but I'll keep going for my staff.

Below is part of the Editor's Comments I originally intended to publish in the last issue, which came out the day we received notice that the paper was declared inactive:

Being Editor isn't as rewarding as it may sound to some. I work a lot and I deal with a lot of problems. Being Editor takes up three lines on my resume. Being a reporter, which I miss dearly, takes up three lines on my resume and provides me with many amazing clips for my portfolio.

I would love to be writing the big stories. I know I can do an amazing job and they would make a great portfolio. But I let my writers have the stories because I know well that, like myself, they are trying to build portfolios and need the experience. My writers simply come first.

I am only a connecting thread that guides this paper. It is each person on the staff that makes the paper what it is. It's why I set them straight when I need to, why I push them to do their best and why I'll defend them and the paper to no end.

I sacrificed too much for the staff and this paper, and this paper means too much to the students who work hard and are pursuing a future in journalism, for anyone to try and keep us from printing. Anyone who thinks there is room for attitudes, egos or selfishness on this paper is sadly mistaken as well and is not welcomed.

The only reward, the only motivation, I get from being Editor is watching my writers improve, seeing them get excited about a story and holding the final product and thinking: This is what we accomplished.

-Diana

Corrections and Comments

Correction: Medical services to be provided at the CUB is not available to the community, as published in Issue No. 4 on Oct. 22. Medical services are available to PSH students only and does not include student athletes with sports-related injuries during the season.

The Capital Times seeks to provide complete, correct and fair reporting. Any necessary corrections or comments are welcome and appreciated. Please call 717-948-6440 or e-mail captimes@psu.edu.