

The Capital Times

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editor's comments

In an interview for my first article with The Capital Times, now former Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Colonel Jeffrey Miller kept repeating how proud he was of his state troopers when they responded to a shooting at an Amish schoolhouse, and how honored he was to do what he did. Miller was named Penn State Harrisburg's 2007 Alumni Fellow and his job as the state's highest ranking law enforcement officer would soon draw to a close.

I found his humble response a bit cliché, and maybe it was used over and over in press conferences and interviews, but as we finish this semester, I cannot think of a better way to describe my year as editor in chief of The Capital Times student newspaper.

No doubt the year was filled with stress, disagreements, crises and long nights working in the newspaper office. However, I could not have asked for a better staff to work with than the one I have. From saving the newspaper when it was shut down by the Student Court, to breaking a story which led campus administration to launch an investigation into the finances of the Student Government Association, I could not be prouder or in better company.

Every writer, photographer and cartoonist, no matter how much work they produced, contributed to the newspaper and helped make it what it is as a whole. There is no newspaper without the staff which produces its content. One of my proudest moments for the newspaper was when we printed two issues full of student-produced stories rather than filler newswire stories, because that's what a student newspaper should be like.

In addition, I could never have managed to produce 10 issues without the help of my editors. When I promoted members of the newspaper staff to become editors for the 2008-2009 year, I wanted people who were good at what they were going to do, could take direction as well as make decisions, and work together as well as independently. I wanted people who could work well under pressure and take care of the paper if I was unavailable. Again, I could not have asked for a better team.

Therefore, thank you, Capital Times staff, for this amazing journalism endeavor. I could not be prouder of all the things we accomplished and all the challenges we overcame. I appreciate the work you all have done and the effort put into it. It was an honor to be editor in chief.

Assistant editor Jenna DeNoyelles will be editor in chief of The Capital Times for the 2009-2010 academic.

Now is the part where I should be passing on words of wisdom, but the biggest lesson I wish to pass on simply cannot be learned except through experience. Being editor in chief does not mean being editor of this tangible newspaper in your hands or even the newspaper office. It means leading a group of your peers – training, encouraging, rewarding, disciplining, protecting, taking care of, and setting standards for them.

Being editor in chief may mean you are higher-ranking than your peers in the newspaper, but it is still important to listen to them. If your staff does not feel like you are listening to them and care about their opinion, then they will not listen to or care about you. Likewise, if your staff feels like you truly care about them, then they will stick by you when you need them most.

The newspaper staff should always be any editor in chief's top priority because there is no newspaper without them. It takes a team to put out a newspaper. There is no room for egos, which means there will be times when your staff will keep you in check as well, but always remember that it is out of respect and for the newspaper's best.

As the outgoing editor, I chose to sit out in a large part of the production of this last issue. As I write this, it is nearly 1 a.m., and I can see the frustration in my editors. They are frustrated because it is late, they are tired and they still have a lot to finish. I have been there before and I know what it's like. It's going to hurt a bit leaving The Capital Times when I transfer to Penn State University Park, but seeing them work together, make decisions and finish this issue without me will be reassuring when I'm actually gone.

Good luck. Semper Fi.

-Diana

Corrections and Comments

The Capital Times seeks to provide complete, correct and fair reporting. Any necessary corrections or comments are welcome and appreciated.

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