

# Rate cap removal might change tuition

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The decision to remove rate caps on electricity by the Pennsylvania Utility Commission starting January 2010 means higher electricity bills for Penn State Harrisburg. At the moment, the removal of rate caps only affects Penn State University Park.

By 2011 all rate caps in Pennsylvania will be eliminated unless a delay in cap removal is approved. It is anticipated that electricity rates will rise after the rate caps are removed. According to Edward Dankanich, director of business services, electric utilities have been under a rate cap for a number of years.

The rate caps hold the price of electricity below the market rate. PPL utilities, the electricity provider for PSH is changing its rates. Every utility company has a different rate and all rates much be justified according to the PUC.

In 2007 PSH spent \$700,000 on electricity which was lowered to \$650,000 in 2008, said Bruce Smith, energy program engineer for University Park. The consumption of electricity is a big variable in the utilities

budget. Right now, PSH is on a fixed price for 2010 paying only .8 cents a kilowatt-hour. When rate caps expire this January PSH anticipates a 15 percent increase rate jumping the price of the kilowatt-hour to .924 cents. There will be at least a \$100,000 increase in electricity prices for PSH, according to Dankanich.

The question as to whether or not students and faculty will be affected by the rate cap increase has yet to be determined. Any increases in tuition go through University Park first and are looked at by the President as well as all the directors there. University Park determines the tuition of PSH.

"Tuition might not go up," said Dankanich.

When the rate caps do expire, PSU plans on shopping for the best rate for electric utilities. After the expiration, customers will be able to choose a company with a better rate. Though, PPL will deliver electricity through their power lines, the provider may be different if PSU shops for different electric rates, according to Dankanich.

Conserving resources is important to Penn State. The Energy Savings Program's goals are to reduce the consumption of water and electricity by

awareness, conservation, management, monitoring, and procurement. A few ways PSH takes part in efforts to reduce the consumption of electricity is by using more efficient lighting, buying products with the Energy Star label, as well as keeping the lights turned off in unoccupied rooms.

Penn State's Take Charge Web site informs students, faculty, and other visitors on how they can conserve energy. Students are encouraged to unplug cell phone chargers, turn off the lights, computers, TVs when objects are not being used.

"We continually look to save energy which converts to money," said Daniel Barlup, utilities supervisor.

As for University Park, they are the only customer of West Penn Power to have a tariff written especially for that campus. The University is the first customer to come off the rate caps, two years earlier than all the other Pennsylvania customers. The removal of rate caps affects University Park greatly, said Laura Miller, Office of Physical Plant senior energy program engineer.

The removal of the rate caps does not only affect students, "It affects everyone," said Dankanich.

# HOSPITAL: PSU-Hbg students take part in ceremony

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their children to special pediatric surgical suites to an outpatient pediatric cancer pavilion, this hospital will advance the extraordinary care that has made Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital a leader in pediatric medicine."

Currently, Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital primarily occupies the Medical Center's seventh floor. While the care provided within the current facility has earned national recognition, the facilities originally were designed for adult patients rather than children and families. Many of the existing patient rooms do not accommodate parents who wish to stay overnight with their children. Areas such as the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) have become cramped, offering minimal privacy and no room for growth of services.

Payette and Associates, the

Boston-based architectural firm that designed the new Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute facility, created the designs for the new Children's Hospital. L.F. Driscoll Co. of Bala Cynwyd, Pa., will serve as the construction management firm for the project. The Medical Center plans to seek LEED certification for the Children's Hospital, in recognition of its environmentally-friendly design.

Site preparation will begin in the next few weeks, with excavation and construction expected to start in February 2010. The completed Children's Hospital is scheduled to open during fall 2012.

The Children's Hospital groundbreaking ceremony was sponsored by several individuals and organizations -- Jeanne Donlevy and Edward H. Arnold; Suzy and Jim Broadhurst; Peter and Marnie Carlino; Eat'n Park Hospitality Group; Hershey Entertainment & Resorts; Highmark; Penn National Gaming, Inc.; and PNC.

# 'Bible Greg' preaches, stirs campus masses

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Students were surprised on Nov. 17 when Baptist minister Greg A Davis, also known as Bible Greg, began walking campus starting around 11 am. He stayed throughout the afternoon to preach the gospel.

"It's a proclamation, not a protest," said Davis in an interview with The Capital Times. "A proclamation of the bible, preaching the gospel," said Davis

According to his pamphlet, "From Hollywood to Happiness." Davis is a former actor/director who was "born again" when a suicide attempt was stopped by a tract called "New Eye Opener." Since that time Greg has served as a campus missionary with his

wife Amy. He travels the East Coast 365 days a year preaching to Churches, at events, and campuses. He also preaches on Bourbon Street during Mardi gras in New Orleans, on Halloween at Salem, Ma, and St. Patrick's Day in Savannah.

Because Penn State Harrisburg uses federal funds, it is considered public property. The traveling minister was able to preach to any who would listen. His "trust in Jesus/get to know the God of the bible sign" raised eyebrows, but was also allowed.

"We're still a public environment, he's well within the guidelines of the University to share his message," said Officer Sherwin.

While Davis is considered within his First Amendment rights, he is no stranger to brushes with the law. According to his website, Davis won over \$20,000 in damages and legal fees when

Ulster County Community College infringed upon his free speech. Schenectady County Community College lost a similar case against Davis when they attempted to charge him with criminal trespassing.

Despite his rights to preach on campus, the students of PSH are taking exception to Davis's presence.

"They're obnoxious," fumed Dustin Hoepfer, 20-year-old undeclared student. "I would not be able to do this with my beliefs."

Communications major James Couche, 27, was unconvinced of the legality of Davis's camcorder and methods.

"Seriously, they shouldn't be here. This is no better than soliciting and not getting permission to film people," said Couche.

Aubrey Clark, another Communications major, was

more sympathetic.

"It's really not that big of a deal," said Clark. "If people were advocating gay rights or marching with a sign that says 'feed homeless people' would people be mad at it? They're trying to promote the good they think is good."

Others understood the intention of Bible Greg but disagreed on his methods.

"I'm a Christian, but I'm not going to go out and do that, yelling and screaming and pushing my beliefs on someone," shared Communications major Amy Kirby, 24.

Elyse Bell, Information Systems Major, 21, agreed.

"I'm all for religion and god but you shouldn't be out here screaming at people," Bell said. Gideon Abror, also an Information Systems Major, 23 embraced the sign wielding campus preacher.

"I think this is great. First of all, it gives us the opportunity to know Christ," said Abror. "Being 'born again' you know how you're supposed to live your life and preach the gospel and just gives hope."

Davis continued his self-described proclamation, of the bible for approximately at University Park, Davis has spent 7-8 hours wherein he has had an audience of 400-500 students. Campus police were on hand to monitor events. According to Lt. Gelgot, no incident was filed. Davis did not obstruct pathways, speak loudly or create a disturbance to the campus so he was allowed to preach and leave as he saw fit.

Davis said reactions to him are mixed. Some students yell, curse, give the middle finger, but he by the end of the day, they're shaking hands, he said.