

New Times for Mont Alto

Andy Hess

A total of twelve atomic clocks are scheduled to be installed in each building on campus over the summer. The Student Government Association is funding \$365 for this project in response to student complaints.

The subject of time on campus has been a joke for the last few years. The seemingly different time zones in each building is often used as an excuse for a student's tardiness to class; no longer will this be an acceptable excuse. The new

clocks have access to satellite signals that will ensure time synchronization. Ron Swope has helped with the selection and placement of the new clocks.

Batteries will be replaced twice annually, however, the clocks will automatically set for daylight savings time which will save on maintenance.

SGA considered the placement of atomic clocks in the classrooms. In addition to the cost as a factor, it was determined to be an unnecessary purchase at this time.

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brief conversation with me that "... Diversity is always a factor in who they choose because variety is a huge part of the college experience. We carefully assess each potential employee. We use a guideline provided to all the Commonwealth College called: *Evaluate the Best Qualified Candidate.*" Some examples of this would be if one candidate had a profound amount of experience dealing with underrepresented groups or took many classes dealing with diversity along with great credentials over the other, that candidate that would get hired.

The extent to make each Penn State campus a more comfortable and diverse atmosphere is top priority. Search committees have even been established to seek out faculty/staff of underrepresented classes. English professor Peggy Russo was one of the faculty members from Mont Alto that was on a search committee that tried to recruit African American professors at an MLA conference in Chicago. However, the search was to no avail because all applicants were Caucasian. Russo states, "There

aren't that many African American scholars that attend conferences such as these, and the ones that do attend are wanted by larger universities." Russo continues to explain that: "...underrepresented professors are highly needed but the professors must have the credentials and ability before getting hired. Although, if I would have seen an African American professor with an MLA button on, I would have tackled them!" Even though Mont Alto does not have that much diversity amongst its faculty/staff, there are courses that students can take which promote diversity. Some of these courses are: Nancy Funk, Theatre 208: Diversity Theatre, Alice Royer, Deborah Mirdamadi, Lucy Mueller, and Stephanie Sellars, Women's Studies 102: Women of Color, Morgan Jenkins, Music 007: Evolution of Jazz, Peggy Russo, English 467: African American Writers.

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Alternative Spring Break Participants
Back: Dawn Staver, Matt Black, Nolan Fontaine
Front: Cherie Cooper and David Nichols

My Experience with the Foresters

Meredith Mitchell

In the fall of 1999 I came to Mont Alto as a freshman English major. I parked my car on the sidewalk in front of the Penn Gates and members of the Orientation Team descended upon me and began unloading my car, piling boxes on the sidewalk. One of the members paused and asked me where my dorm was. When I told her my room number, she gave me a rather peculiar look and asked, "Are you a forester?"

When I told her I was not, in fact I had never heard of a *forester* before that moment, she picked up a box from the sidewalk and laughed. "Well, they all live on your floor, so you'll get to know them real quick." It wasn't until I met them – the foresters – that I

understood the look she gave me. For the three semesters I spent as a student at Mont Alto and as a Woodsmen's Team member, I would see that look countless times.

The foresters are a very distinctive bunch, and are a kind of legend at Mont Alto; at least they were when I was student here the first time in 1999. They can be loud and rambunctious, and sometimes even difficult. But the foresters I met here, lived and competed with, became some of my closest friends.

I had never picked up an ax or a saw, let alone a chainsaw, before I came to Mont Alto. Initially, I was terrified by the mere thought of chopping a piece of wood between my feet,

but the foresters – my friends – with patience and support, coached me through each event, step by step. They taught me to hurl a double-edged ax over my head and sink it in the center of a target fifteen feet in front of me. They taught me to split a bolt of wood into four even pieces. And they taught me to pole climb – to strap one and a half long spikes to my feet and race up a telephone pole in under eight seconds. They taught me how to do it, but I did it because I had come to love it as I had come to love them. Today, these men and women – these foresters – are some of my nearest and dearest friends.

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