



The Fourth Wall Omnes vocem habent

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Penn Gate Students Urge Housing and Food to Install Pool Table

Danielle Ramsay

A survey reveals that 91% of the student residents of Penn Gate agree that a pool table is both feasible and necessary for the social environment. Karen Krueger, Director of Housing and Food Services, argues that a pool table will not fit in the only available room at the gates. Additionally, this conference room was designed for student use as a quiet meeting place, not a hangout. As a compromise, administrators installed a

foosball table in the lounge of the Penn Gate II.

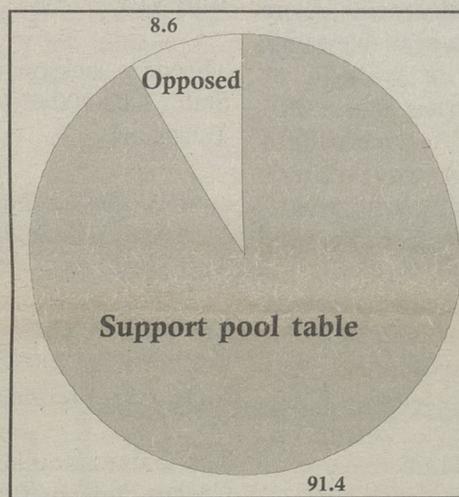
Students, however, are not satisfied. At fifty cents a game, students say they would rather spend their money on pool. 82% of the survey respondents currently using the available pool tables either sometimes or never, indicated that they would use a pool table at the gates more frequently. Several students wrote in requests for a ping pong table in addition to the pool table, claiming that

there is an available table in Penn Gate I.

Reasons stated on the survey for wanting a pool table at the Gates include the inconvenience of the walk to Wiestling or the Hall and the desire to build community.

One student who is against the pool table expressed concerns regarding the cost of damages

which all students would have to incur if something were to happen.



Requests for a pool table started last year when Matt Hass, former SGA President, asked the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) to

address this issue. George Conway, CCSG Southeast

Caucus Director, replied to Hass with an email stating that they held a meeting with members of housing and food services who expressed concerns regarding "the extreme chance of breaking the windows" and therefore denied the request for a pool table.

Hass argues that students need the pool table because it provides a "decent environment" for them to socialize at any time. Hass points out that Wiestling closes at 11pm, which leaves students with no choice but to hang out at the gates and a pool table

see *Pool Table* page 4

Online Courses Growing in Popularity

Heather Cairns

From 1997 to 2001, enrollment in distance education courses increased by 185% according to recent survey results from the National Center for Education Statistics. As the popularity of online universities like Phoenix increases, other universities make way for online courses like Penn State's World Campus. While most 'traditional' colleges offer the option, some students are unsure about signing up for an online course because they don't know anything about them.

Penn State's experience with distance learning began in 1892 when education was conducted by correspondence. By the 1920s, PSU had changed their

distance learning curriculum to incorporate radios. It wasn't until 1994 though, that Penn State officially introduced their distance learning program. According to Penn State's official website, twenty-four students earned their MBA degrees from Penn State's World Campus in 2004.

The popularity of online courses is growing. What originally started as an option for working adult students is now spreading to traditional students.

Students who have taken online courses have mixed reviews. Some students rave about their online classes while others are less impressed.

see *Online* page 7

Living Arrangements Offer Different Atmospheres

Travis Johnson

The distance between the Penn Gates and Mont Alto Hall might as well be a hundred miles. While all of these buildings serve to house students for the school year, they are different in regard to what they offer and what students take from living in these different residence halls. In fact, they may be two different communities altogether.

Cost may be the most important determinant for incoming students when

choosing a residence hall. Mont Alto Hall is the cheapest place to live on this campus, at \$1715/semester per student. Penn Gate I is more expensive by \$120, costing \$1835. If you're looking for luxury then you will pay \$2020 per semester to live in Penn Gate II. For more money, you get more space and amenities. Besides these obvious facts, what other factors contribute to a student's decision as to where to live?

Matt Souders, a former Mont Alto Hall resident,

highlighted what Penn Gate II offered him: "Penn Gate II has air conditioners, full carpet, and it's much quieter to do work."

A number of other Penn Gaters state that personal showers and privacy that the Gates offer were the main factors that influenced their decisions.

There are no personal showers at the Hall and this is a downfall to living in Mont

see *Residence* page 6