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STD from page 1

consequences and emotional attachments involved." Also, Wintermyer feels that abstinence has a "horrible failure rate."

The risk of being infected with a Sexually Transmitted Disease is high. According to the Resource Center for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (RECAPP) "college students are more sexually active today and using less contraception than the early 1990's." A survey released in February by the University of North Carolina states that "one in two sexually active college-age students will contract a sexually transmitted disease by age 25."

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) National Prevention Information Network, the U.S. has "the highest rates of STDs in the industrialized world." Although the infection rate of gonorrhea and syphilis have recently been brought to historic lows, you are still 50-100 times more likely to be infected with

an STD in the U.S. than in other industrialized nation. In the U.S alone, an estimated 15.3 million new cases of STDs are reported each year.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health 2005 report on Syphilis, Chlamydia, and Gonorrhea shows that there were over 50,000 reported new cases: 118 with Syphilis, 38,025 with Chlamydia, and 11,236 with Gonorrhea. In 2004, Franklin County reported over 320 cases: 263 being Chlamydia and 55 being Gonorrhea. These numbers continue to soar with the lack of safe sex.

Cathy McAfee, a Mont Alto campus nurse and Penn State Alumna, provides "necessary services" for the students. These services consist of testing for sexually transmitted diseases as well. She is also open and willing to offer any education or assistance regarding contraception.

Get to Know Your Mont Alto Student Government

Hello all! I am writing this article on behalf of your Student Government Association at Mont Alto (S.G.A. M.A.). Let me first introduce myself and the other members that represent you. My name is Beth Herbert (blh5014) and I am the Communication Coordinator; other members are President, Darci Newhouse (den129), Vice President, Nolan Fontaine (nlf135), Freshmen Representative, Bella Perez (bep139), Campus Activities and Multicultural Programs (C.A.M.P.) Chair, Jessica Smythe (jms939), Treasurer, Scott Vinck (sjv144), Information Technology Representative, Ben Orr (bto112), Advisor, Andrea Christopher (axc8).

We feel it is important that all students understand the role of S.G.A. The Mont Alto S.G.A. Constitution states in Article I, Section 2, 2.1-2.4, "The purpose of the Student Government Association will be: To represent the interests of students and to encourage communication between the student body, administration, staff, and faculty; To encourage extra-curricular activities; To support clubs and organizations; To represent Penn State Mont Alto in the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments at University Park."

Let me inform you about some of the many issues that S.G.A. has been tackling. Returning students have probably noticed the addition of two new "Blue Light Call Boxes," one by the commuter parking lot

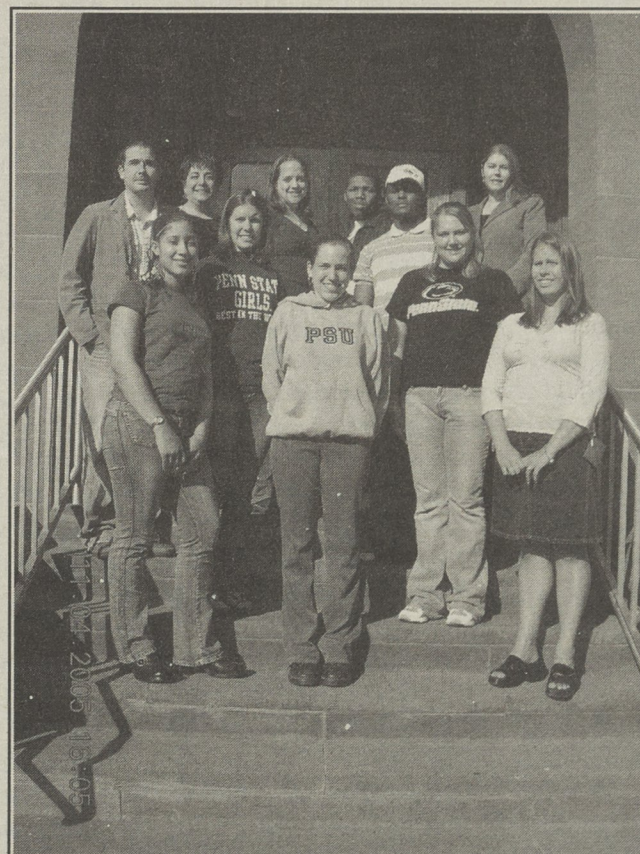
and the other by Mont Alto Hall's parking lot. These are an added security measure which give you a direct call line to police services in case of an emergency. We are currently trying to add a third blue light to be installed close to the Penn Gate Complex.

Another issue that we are addressing is the general consensus among students that smoking outside of the residence Halls is becoming problematic. Smoke is drifting into residents' bedrooms and for many, this is a health concern. An interesting fact that we recently learned about this issue is that it is not just a Mont Alto issue, but also a problem of other Big Ten Schools. So we are working with others to find a solution that meets the needs of all students and makes the campus environment comfortable for everyone.

The Mont Alto S.G.A. has brought these and other issues to the attention of all Penn State Commonwealth Campuses (which are also facing similar problems). Once a month, all Commonwealth Campuses send S.G.A. members to University Park for the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (C.C.S.G.). C.C.S.G. helps students network with other campuses which are facing similar problems and brainstorm for answers. One of the hot topics at the last C.C.S.G. was the tuition freeze President Spanier is considering. Dr. Spanier attended the C.C.S.G. meeting and discussed his tuition freeze program, which generally states that for one year, all Commonwealth locations will see no increase or decrease in tuition.

I would also like to mention S.G.A.'s budget. The Student Government has money for you—the students (clubs and organizations)! If you need funds to sponsor an event, please do not hesitate to submit a proposal which you can pick up in the S.G.A. office or next to Campus Life in Conklin.

The Mont Alto Student Government Association is here to enhance your Penn State experience. Have an idea? Want to sit in on a meeting? Please feel free to contact any member of S.G.A. or stop by our office—1st floor in Wiestling.



Front from left: Bella Perez, Jess Smythe, Lydia Brindel, Kristen Nielsen
Back from left: Scott Vinich, Andrea Christopher, Beth Herbert, Darci Newhouse, Nolan Fontaine, Mark Burnett, Julie DeMoss