



The Fourth Wall



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When It Rains, It Pours

By Justin Zickar
News Editor

Over the summer of 2006, the Mont Alto campus of Penn State was engulfed in a minor disaster. On June 27th, after a period of torrential rainfall the Multipurpose Activities Center endured major flooding on to the gymnasium's main floor.

Usually in the Mont Alto area of Pennsylvania rainfall is steady over a long period of time, in this case the summer months. Normal totals include an average of 3.49 inches of precipitation.

On this particular week of June in which the flooding occurred the precipitation total nearly doubled. Within a 3 day span the total rainfall reached 7.56 inches.

The main source to the gym flooding can be attributed to a clogged drain near the rear exiting gym doors. Most debris that fell during the time easily maneuvered around this drain area, allowing water to slowly back up. Because of the back up, water gradually made its way underneath the gym door, flooding the floor. Damage from this disaster has totaled the college about \$66,000. Funding from University Park is helping aid the campus's expense in the reconstruction phase.

Rain flood damage was not limited to only the MAC Center. Another building that flooded was the Emmanuel Chapel. The flooding within the Chapel consisted of damage to the floor. After another expense of nearly

\$7,800, the Chapel's underneath floor ducts had to be cleaned out, relieving the issue.

The flood also caused havoc on the stream at the bottom of campus. Water levels rose a foot due to the storm's surge of rain. Because of the high level the stream would be susceptible to easier flooding in the future. The campus is taking precautionary advances and already in the beginning stages of trying to lower the stream's water level.

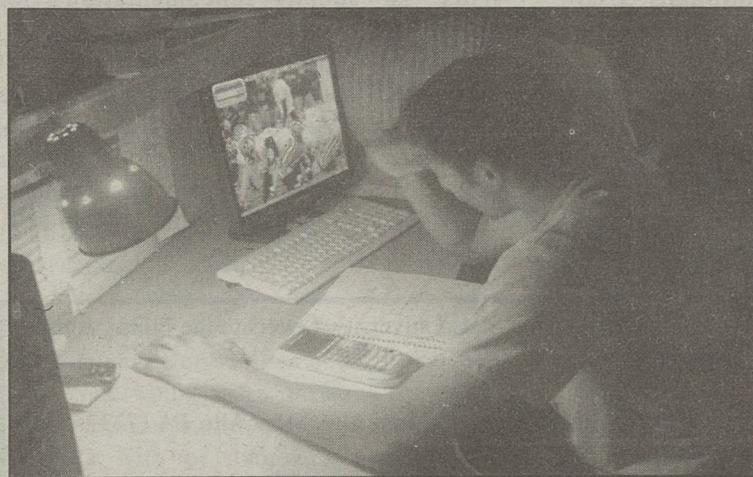
The repercussions from the storm, other than damages, have already left their mark. Some disruptions over the fall 2006 semester include those of sports, organizational events, and even Alumni programs. During the Lady Lions' fall volleyball season at



Due to the vigorous flooding, the water levels on the Mont Alto campus increased.
Photo by J. Michael Ray

Mont Alto, the team was forced to relocate. Upon already having moved practices, they also had to move their games and other events to Waynesboro, where they played at the local YMCA.

This year's fall basketball season is not expected to be hindered from this complication; all repairs to the Multipurpose Activities Center are set to be completed throughout the month of November.



Adeeb Mahmood, freshman, looks over financial aid and tuition information.

By Jordan Martin
Staff Writer

Tuition costs rise annually. According to Kenneth Gill, Director of Finance at Penn State Mont Alto, there are two major reasons for ballooning tuition.

First, the cost of living for employees of Penn State goes up about 3% each year. Employee salaries must also rise to cover the

deficit. If salaries are not adjusted, employees will have little incentive to continue working for Penn State. "If the salaries don't keep up [employees] will find another place to go," Mr. Gill said.

- A second reason for the rampant escalation in tuition costs is the rising cost of fringe benefits for employees. Fringe benefits include such benefits as medical, dental, and vision coverage. These benefits come from a central fund

Tuition: Up, Up and Away!

at University Park. "The cost of medical coverage has gone out of sight," Mr. Gill said. Employees pay a part of their own medical costs themselves, but these costs have still gone up 20% per year.

There are other reasons for rising cost of tuition, although they are not as significant. "Probably one of the biggest things is utilities," Mr. Gill said. The cost for employees traveling to and from University Park for meetings and other purposes has also risen dramatically. This cost has gone from thirty cents per mile to forty-four cents per mile.

The tuition cost for an in-state student at Penn State Mont Alto is \$5004 per semester, not including housing and food costs. For an out-of-state student, costs run much higher. Out-of-state students find themselves paying \$7642 per semester, not including housing and food. For some, this may be a

heavy burden to bear. Sadae Williams is a Political Science major, and a freshman at Penn State Mont Alto. She is from Manhattan, New York, and as such, finds herself paying the hefty out-of-state tuition rates. "I pay about seventeen thousand dollars a year," she said. "I think it's outrageous, and I don't really agree with it. I think we should be provided with more aid." For Eric Edler, tuition is a prime concern. "It's one of my main worries," he said. For Edler, a freshman, and biochemistry major, the prospect of over \$50,000 in college debt is very overwhelming. "I'm going to need a job next semester," Edler said.

There are resources available to students to aid them financially. One of these is the Federal Work-Study Program. According to Mr. Gill, Work-Study is a federal program that hires students to work for the university. 75% of the

student worker's hourly wage is paid for by the federal government. 15% of the student wage is covered by a budget at University Park. The remaining 10% of the student's wage is paid by a budget at Penn State Mont Alto. The program is based on need, and helps students cover extraneous expenses. Mr. Gill said, "The idea is to give students some spending money while they're in college." However, Work-Study may not be enough for some students. Sophomore Garrett Shourds holds a work study position. "They only give you thirteen-hundred dollars," he said. "It seems like a drop in the bucket."

Scholarships are also available to some students. However, students should not be under the impression that scholarships are only available to those elite students with incredible talent and superstar grades. Mr. Gill listed

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