

Announcements:

Currently seeking writers

The Fourth Wall is seeking writers for all sections, including sports and arts & entertainment. We also need general writers on assignment and general article writers. There are openings for regular columns, such as a political column, humor column, advice column, and cartoons. All students are welcome regardless of major. Writers are not required to submit articles on a regular basis.

To make this paper successful, we need you to participate by writing in your opinions, concerns, and comments. Interested parties should send emails to jmz5027@psu.edu.

Students wishing to place advertisements can submit them to: jmz5027@psu.edu for consideration. This is a free service for students.

Mission Statement

The Fourth Wall was established to provide a responsible forum for dialogue within the student community and for the free expression of considered ideas; to build community; to promote student involvement in activities and issues that have an impact on students' lives; and to disseminate information about campus activities, organizations and events. This is our chance, as students, to say what we really think.

Virginia Tech

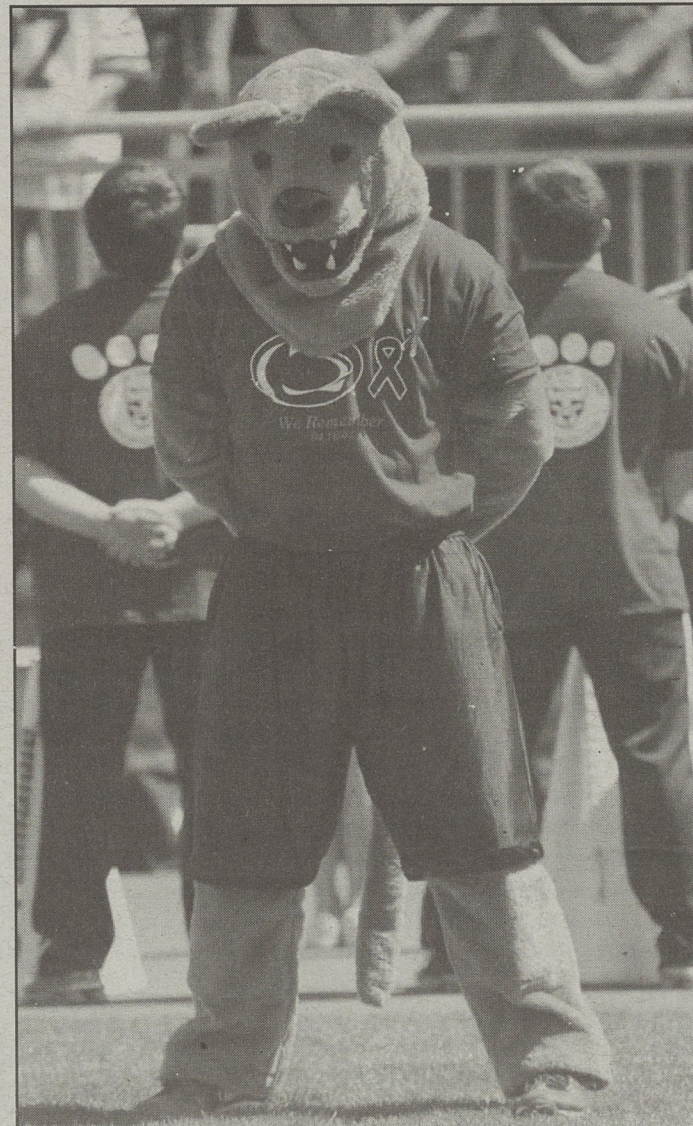
By Jordan Martin
Staff Writer

The actions of one man at the Virginia Tech campus have had repercussions for all American citizens, especially college students. In the days following the shootings, other threats followed. Threats of bombs and violence hit even the local area, as classes at both James Buchanan High school and Shippensburg University were disrupted due to a bomb threat and a suspicious package respectively.

This makes one wonder, as a college student, how safe one is from the threat of violence, even on a small rural campus. While there may be plans in place in the event that a shooter would appear on campus, one cannot help but have doubts at the effectiveness of such a plan against a determined killer. The plan might stem further violence from occurring, but it would be nearly impossible to thwart initial violence from taking place. The ability to keep the violence from occurring in the first place or from escalating would necessitate the type of monitoring systems evocative of Big Brother. A campus blanketed with 24/7 visual surveillance might be a safe campus, but it would probably not be a happy one.

Students' freedom to express themselves freely in writings could also be threatened by the recent events. How far does a student's work have to go before it must come to the attention of the authorities? What is the line between freedom of speech, and a premeditation of impending violence?

This leaves those in charge of law enforcement on college campuses in a precarious position. If there are no distinct guidelines, a repeat of violence might occur. If rules are stringent, there is a danger that they might go too far and infringe on students' rights. Therefore university officials must take care that they do not infringe on student rights as a reaction to the Virginia Tech incident, while also ensuring the safety of the scholastic environment.



Penn State recently showed their support for Virginia Tech at the annual Blue and White game.

The Fourth Wall is the monthly student newspaper for the Mont Alto campus of The Pennsylvania State University. Letters to the Editor, comments, and queries may be addressed to Justin Zickar, Editor-in-Chief (jmz5027@psu.edu). Penn State Mont Alto's The Fourth Wall can also be visited on the web at: www.clubs.psu.edu/ma/thefourthwall

Mail can be sent to: The Fourth Wall, Campus Life Office, 1 Campus Drive, Pennsylvania State University Mont Alto, Mont Alto, PA 17237.

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