

Millstream

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the renovations is the issue of security. As reported last year by *The Fourth Wall*, the petty thievery of food, silverware, and trays had reached new highs. The renovations to the service area are not only more welcoming, but also better designed to catch thieves in the act. The spacious more open design decreases blind spots that hindered staff members from seeing thieves in progress. The singular entrance necessitates only one area to watch for walk-offs. And in addition to the monitor screens and TVs, surveillance in the Mill has also upped the ante, with the inclusion of several cameras.

Editorial on Russia:

The Icy Fist of the North

By Jordan Martin
Editorial Division Editor

Recent headlines have shouted Russia's emphatic message that it will not be dominated by the United States. In the past several months, Russia, with increasingly dictatorial president Vladimir Putin at the helm, has laid claim to a large portion of the northern polar region, reinstated cold-war era long-distance bomber flights, initiated an intimidating military display, and tested a new non-nuclear explosive device. Not since the days of the Iron Curtain and the tight-fisted, heavy-handed policies of Communism has the nation of Russia felt the need or desire to unabashedly display its power in such an obviously intentional manner.

Most newspapers have seen Putin's move on the North Pole as an economic ploy primarily intended to grab newsprint rather than any serious claim. Nations can only stake economic claims to a particular portion of a narrow border around the arctic region. The majority of the polar area belongs to no individual entity. To Russia, this unutilized region is more than a mere tasty economic morsel, but an entire treasure trove of untapped oil reserves. According to Putin's appeal to the

Karen Kreger also stated that at any time if students have a comment, suggestion, or complaint, that she is happy to receive e-mails, kmd7@psu.edu, and even open to meeting in person to discuss any issue about the Mill. This includes audiences during the Food Services Advisory Board meetings on the last Thursday of each month.

Locks

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Alto, it could be installed at the other satellite campuses.

"I know it's going to take some getting used to, especially for the returning students, but in the end it will make Mont Alto a safer place," concluded Kreger.

United Nations, Russia can lay claim to this territory because of the region's connection to Russia via the continental shelf.

The Russian military recently tested a new non-nuclear bomb four times more powerful than the most powerful non-nuclear bomb used by the United States in the past. This device is of such power, it produces a small version of the same mushroom cloud that is ordinarily only the signature of a nuclear device. The Russian military has also revived Soviet-era strategic bomber runs that kept Russian bombers ready for an attack upon the United States at a moment's notice.

These actions seem more than just the proactive steps of a healthy nation taking steps to ensure that the world properly respects a nation. One finds oneself asking just why Russia might be carrying out these cheap intimidation tactics.

Russia has been economically depressed for some time. Since the Cold War ended and communism folded, Russia has been struggling to find an adequate foothold in the world's economic market. Having had many of its resources callously abused by a Communist government eager for the maximum short-term production no matter what the long-term consequences, Russia has been ready for an

economic leg-up for quite some time. It would actually be extremely advantageous for Russia to take control of the northern polar region. With such an inordinately enormous supply of untapped oil, Russia would suddenly hold a hand packed with energy-aces. Russia may be willing, and even eager, depending upon the world's reaction, to gain control of the polar region by force in order to exploit the vast untapped resources.

Russia's successful seizure of the polar region would depend in large part upon the world's reaction, and just how far Russia's leader would be willing to go militarily to protect Russia's economic opportunity at the pole.

When one thinks of Russia resorting to such a dramatic step, one's gaze immediately shifts to the United States. What one sees, however, is a nation hopelessly distracted by partisan conflict and the situation in Iraq. If Russia made such a dramatic move, would the United States have the resources and international backing to thwart its nefarious scheme?

Perhaps. International outrage could be provoked if Russia's claim is seen as entirely nonsensical. On the other hand, without proper support of the United States, international disapproval might prove fruitless. Putin's strong leadership and strong words for those standing in the way of

Russian advancement has shown him assuming a role rather different from the mantle passed on to him by Boris Yeltsin. Putin, a product of the cold war, seems to be putting into practice some of the same policies of intimidation espoused by Soviet Premiers of the cold war era.

Some recent political dissenters unhappy with the Kremlin have found themselves accused of trumped-up charges, or put under pressure until they are forced to leave the country. Putin's heavy-handed political techniques just may be heavy enough to push Russia into taking action toward steps for promising economic advantage.

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