

## Morning-After Pill at Shippensburg University

*Plan B in vending machine draws national attention*

**CARESSA RICE**

Shippensburg university caused much controversy when they made Plan B - "the morning-after pill" - available in a vending machine on campus. Plan B is an emergency contraceptive taken up to 72 hours after sex to stop the sperm from meeting the egg.

The vending machine was first brought onto campus 2 years ago when the University conducted a survey on health center services, in which 85% of students said that they would like a contraceptive like Plan B made readily available. Common drugs like ibuprofen, antacids, and aspirin have been available in vending machines for a while, but these drugs are not kept behind pharmacy counters.

Normally, one must be 17-years-old to purchase the pill without a doctor's prescription, though the school has checked their records and reported that all current students are 17-years-old or older. Students at Shippensburg University can acquire the pill for \$25 at the school's health center, though it's normally sold for 50 dollars. The vend-

ing machine also carries condoms, pregnancy tests, and cough drops.

The president of Shippensburg University Bill Ruud contacted the FDA and invited officials to visit the campus and review the way the school is dispensing the pill. Alexandra Stern, a professor of the history of medicine at the University of Michigan, said she wasn't questioning a woman's right to have access to Plan B, but whether making it so easily available is a good idea. "Perhaps it is personalized medicine taken too far," she said in the Cumberland County newspaper, The Sentinel. "It's part of the general trend that drugs are available for consumers without interface with a pharmacist or doctors. This trend has serious pitfalls." A dozen people associated with a website called Polycarp.org protested at the school on Friday, February 17 because of the school's choice to have this vending machine. The group called the distribution of the pill "outrageous" and contend "the university should be in the business of providing education, not abor-

tion," according to whptv.com.

Although some oppose the Plan B pill being available in vending machines on campus, most students support it. Freshman Morgan Jackson said "Yes, I do support the Plan B morning-after pill being available in vending machines on campus. I believe that it offers a discreet and easy way for students to get a hold of contraceptives without having to face embarrassment or judgment at the cash register in a public store. Here, all the student has to face is a nurse who accompanies them to the vending machine." Justin Wiles, a sophomore, said "I support easy access to any form of contraceptives on campus. If students are going to engage in sexual activity it seems right to provide them ways to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies which would drastically affect the lives of the parents and the future child. Having Plan B available on campus helps provide a responsible way for students to prevent a potentially devastating situation."

The Plan B pill remains in the vending machine on the university's campus.

## Tensions Rise Between Egypt and the United States

**ALEX WYPIJEWSKI**

After the ousting of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak about a year ago, Egypt has been run by a military-led primarily Islamist government. According to The New York Times, the country's economy is now in urgent need of billions of dollars' worth of foreign aid. America is in the process of securing \$1.55 billion in aid this year, but Egypt's recent raids on as many as nine American-funded non-profit aid organizations and trial of 43 people, 19 of which are American, has almost acted as a way to provoke an "American backlash," as reported by The New York Times.

These persecutions seem to indicate that the Egyptian military rulers are negotiating with the Islamists who occupy the new Egyptian Parliament to make Egypt a primarily Islamic State. America is trying to make Egypt a democratic state, and the Egyptian leadership is trying its best to both keep America's 30-year aid

commission and turn Egypt into an Islamic state. The terms to our aid, however, state that Egypt must be on the path to Democracy if we are to keep sending them support. Even past president Hosni Mubarak was quoted saying that he was "deeply skeptical of the U.S. role in democracy promotion."

Recently, however, these Americans have been given the permission to leave the country, according to the Los Angeles Times. "Egyptian relations with the United States are hanging in the balance in this trial and no judge would want to be the man making a ruling that could hamper or jeopardize such relations," said Mahmoud Abdel Razek, a law professor at the University of Zagazig, Egypt. Popular belief is that the ruling came from heavy political pressure on prosecutor general, Abdel-Maguid Mahmoud. According to the San Angelo Standard-Times, bail for the 7 American workers has been set at \$300,000 each.

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### A Letter From the Editor-In-Chief:

As an editor and a journalist, commitment to truth and objectivity are my two highest priorities. As you may have noticed, John Shaffer, my excellent co-editor, was one of the two candidates featured in the SGA election article. In order to minimize bias and maximize objectivity, Mr. Shaffer had no editorial control over the content of the article he was featured in.

-Michael Garrett

The Fourth Wall is seeking writers for all sections, including Mont Alto sports, arts & entertainment, and local news. All students are welcome regardless of major. Writers are not required to submit articles on a regular basis.

You can also participate by writing in your opinions, concerns, and comments to Michael Garrett at:

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## The Fourth Wall

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 [Mmg5241@psu.edu](mailto:Mmg5241@psu.edu). Mail can be sent to The Fourth Wall, Campus Life Office, 1 Campus Dr., Pennsylvania State University Mont Alto, Mont Alto PA 17237.

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