

# The Lion's Eye

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## Campus original walks off into the sunset

By GERRY DUNGAN  
Staff writer

I sat patiently outside Dr. Bruce Stephens' office fuming about the Religious Studies test he had just given me, that I had just failed.

It would have been sweet revenge to rip on him in the upcoming interview. However, when I saw him hurrying down the corridor to his office carefully balancing a worn briefcase and some disheveled papers, the idea melted away.

Once inside his office, which has a perfect view of the Vario building's amphitheatre, I immediately noticed a wall, which held up a huge poster of the world. It was like something out of a rather large National Geographic Magazine.

In front of the poster was his desk, which was nice and tidy, topped with the new i-Mac, some pens, and Dr. Stephens' feet, which were propped up in a relaxed position signaling me that he was ready for the interview.

"Now, Dr. Stephens, I promise not to reveal your real age in this article (62) but they tell me that you've been here for quite some time," immediately he gave a broad and weary smile suggesting that that was an understatement, "How long has it been?"

His smile broadened a bit more from modesty and proceeded to tell me that he came to this campus in the fall of 1970. Delco campus was actually a Chester campus then, it was not until the spring of '71 that the campus, along with Dr. Stephens, was moved to its current location.

"It was a rare privilege to have a hand in shaping this campus," he concluded.

Then there was silence. Dr. Stephens was looking at me expectantly for the next question and I was looking at him expectantly for an explanation to my first.

"Well, Dr. Stephens, how exactly have you contributed to the shaping of this campus?"

He didn't have to think long, his voice trembled

a bit from a rising gusto.

"By providing the grand opportunity for students to explore and study the subject of religion," he made a triumphant sound, "I enjoy teaching religion because it is just one of the many aspects of diversity this campus has to offer. You know that other schools, in fact other campuses, are working around the clock to become as diverse as we are!"

I could actually begin to feel his passion - it was eerie.

In addition to his role as a religion teacher, he has also served as a representative for the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Communications; he prides himself of his influence in the humanities.

"You know I am the longest full time teacher of religion in the university outside of Main campus!" he was breathing slightly harder. I watched in silence expecting him now to give me more than I bargained for, but almost instantly, he sat back and gave a tired look with his hands steeped in hard reflection. "But of course that won't be for much longer - at least until the end of this semester."

It is true that he will be leaving us after this semester. Although I have only been here for a short time, I know that this campus will miss him. This I gathered from the awkward silence that followed.

"But I do have some things that I've got to look forward to in my 'retirement'. There's my 60-acre farm I have to maintain. I could spend more time practicing my trumpet and piano." His voice trailed at half the capacity and fervor as he said, "You know I cycle a good deal as well."

Then he stopped again and there was a waiting silence that followed. However, I knew better than to rush him at this point. He was staring out the window into the amphi-theatre with his feet propped up and his head was tilted gently to the side.

I was going to thank him and walk out as quietly as possible. Somehow he had sensed this and it seemed as if he wished the same. Without moving, he

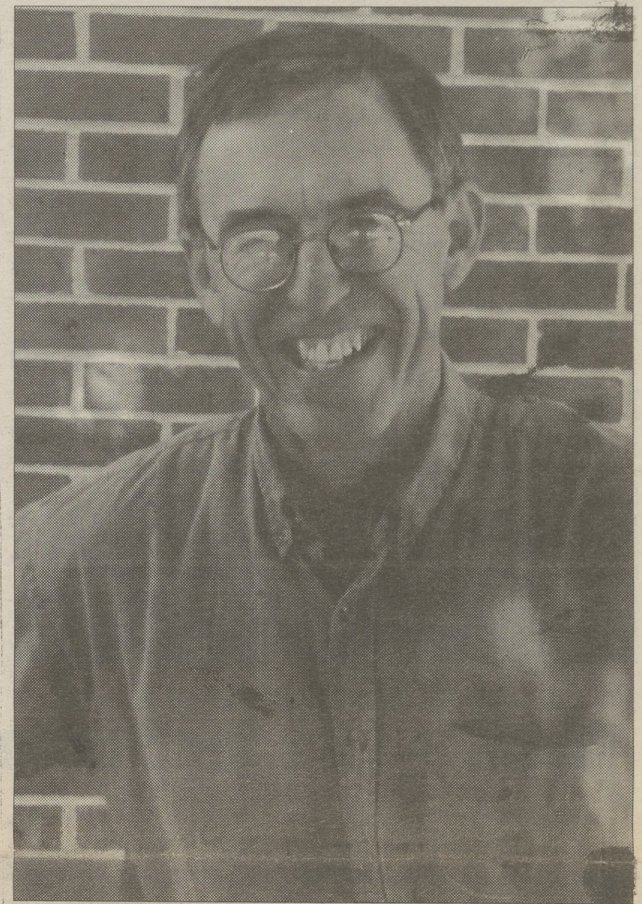


Photo courtesy of PSU PR  
Dr. Stephens will be retiring at the end of this semester. He will be greatly missed by all on our campus.

addressed me in the same quiet way that the long experience had reduced him to:

"Over the years, there has been a great strength on this campus, which has given many young people a solid education. I sincerely hope that when I go, they will continue this tradition - that they teach them that no matter what major the students desire, it is the diversity of the general education which is important."

## Bomb scare rocks PSU Delco

By SHAWN PETTIT  
Assistant Editor

The United States has been in disarray the past few weeks due to the tragic events of Sept. 11, U.S. troops invading Afghanistan, and, most recently, the anthrax scare. For PSU students, it has now hit home.

On Oct. 15, a bomb threat was made in the Main Building. Lisa Krol, who works in Registration, took a call that turned out to be the threat. "I answered the phone and said 'Registration,'" Krol says. "For a minute, nobody answered. Then, in a low, raspy voice, the caller said 'There are explosives in the building.' and then hung up. This happened around 1:30"

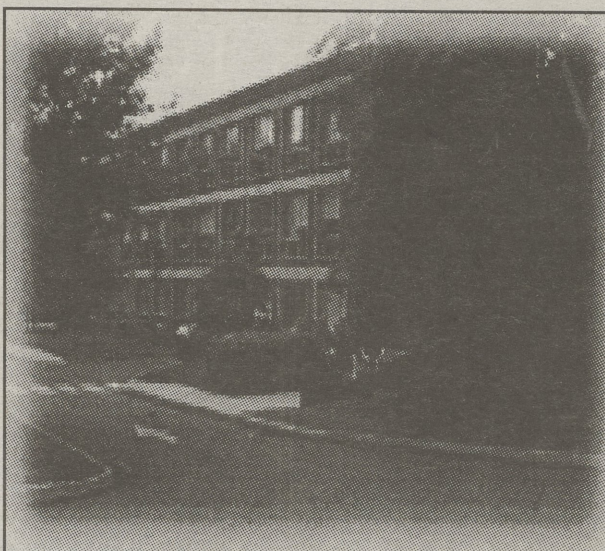
Krol then proceeded to notify security officer Dave Horevay and Head of Maintenance Lisa Colwell.

"We first notified the State Police, and then I requested that the fire alarm be pulled to get everyone out of the building," said Colwell.

After everyone evacuated the building, bomb sniffing dogs were brought in to check the Main Building. "The dogs were brought in from Upper Darby at 2:30 and the search lasted a little more than an hour," said Horevay.

No explosives were found, and later classes scheduled in the building were still held there. Students showed some concern, but it was limited.

"I was concerned because they didn't tell anyone it was a bomb scare. People thought it was just a regular



The Main Building was the location of the bomb scare at PSU Delco

fire alarm," said sophomore Simon Burns. "The funny thing was that no one was leaving the building. I went into classes to tell them to get out."

"I think that if there really was a bomb, they should have evacuated the whole campus so everyone would have been safe," said Renee Stein, freshman.

The State Police are currently tracing the call and Penn State fully intends to prosecute the caller.

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