

Opinion

We must pay, now let us play

By SHAWN MANDERSON
Staff Writer

"No games in the computer lab please."

These are the words from those wonderful lab aids that sit on the computer all day babysitting us so we do not play games on the computer. We are in college, not high school and definitely not grade school. We have a right to play games if we choose to or not because of one simple reason: we (the students) pay tuition. Part of that is a technology fee that we pay, not Computer Services.

Of course the lab aids have nothing to do with this, they are doing their job. I personally took the pleasure in asking a few lab aids (who will remain anonymous) some questions. I asked one lab aid what is the reasoning or motive behind this rule? The lab aid replied by telling me that they (the lab aids) never received an reason why this particular rule was made. I asked another lab aid how come students cannot play games on the internet and the explanation I received was: That this rule is supposed keep students from hogging the computers when playing games, so other students who actually need to get work done can do it. Some of the lab aids feel that this rule is unfair and it is not necessary to look after students and the others feel that it is fair, and I quoted one lab aid saying, "If the students do not like the rule, then they should go to a different school. The computers are for education, not for games."

Thinking about what was said seemed fair enough, if I had to do work on the computer in the computer lab and they were all taken up it would be a nuisance and the computers should be used for education.

But, not every student will be in the computer lab at the same time, so this talk about students hogging computers really didn't seem right. After all aren't the lab aids hogging computers by sitting there basically all day?

Come on folks whether or not every student was playing games in the computer lab they have that right to, and who am I or any other student to say otherwise.

I came to the conclusion, what is the difference between a student playing games on the internet in the computer lab and a student browsing on the internet just to browse around? There isn't a difference because a computer is still being hogged, so maybe whoever is in charge of this should ask themselves, "is this fair?"

How about this for illustration; a couple of weeks ago I witnessed a student being told that if he was seen playing games that he would be locked out of the campus network. This came from a certain person from Computer Services. A rude comment (in my opinion) of that person to say.

I asked a lab aid, "is it fair if a student were to get

locked out of the campus network for playing games?" and the lab aid replied, "No, that is not needed, it is not like that person were doing anything illegal on the computer." Personally if they want to lock people out of the network for playing games, then maybe people should get a refund for their technology fee; now that seems fair.

Do not misunderstand my point of view. I am not saying that students should use the computers in the computer lab solely for games; after all I have seen lab aids play games too. I'm saying it is not fair that we cannot play games (if we want to) since we pay a technology fee. That's like not being able to call long distance on your home phone even though you pay for the long distance service.

I attended Penn State Hazleton and they roughly have 1400 students attending Penn State Hazleton, oh and by the way Penn State Hazleton has one computer lab that has around 70 computers on their campus and there is no problem with the students playing games in the computer lab. Here on this campus there are about 1900 students and we have we have five computer labs and a little over a 100 computers and suddenly we have a problem. Penn State Hazleton has about a 20:1 student to computer ratio and that is with one computer lab, and Penn State Delco roughly has a 19:1 student to computer ratio with five computer labs. Hmmm, which campus should have this rule?

I'm just one voice out of many and I do not speak for everyone else, but there are some people on campus that probably feel the same way as I do. In my opinion this is more crap that we as students have to put up with.

Of course the ideal solution in this situation is for Computer Services to let us play games on the computer (when we feel like it), but we do not live in an ideal world and besides if we did I would not be writing this article. Most students do not even realize where the computer labs are around campus. There are two in the library (front and back) plus the "Mac" labs; then there is one on the second floor in the Commons Building; there is one in the classroom building and finally the lab in the Main Building.

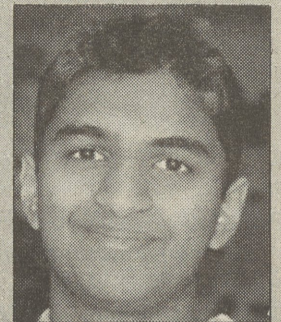
One lab aid said, "That the labs do not stay crowded all day; people come and go in groups." Well if this is true then maybe games should be permitted when the lab is empty (or near empty). And when the lab aid sees that the lab is beginning to become crowded that is when he/she should be tell students, "No games please!" Its a win-win situation. Computer Services can still regulate the playing of games, while students can still enjoy playing games to relax; its like a cigarette break(-not that I smoke-) but only its not hazardous to your health. That seems fair to me and maybe they will agree with it and change the rule, but that would be too easy.

"... it is not fair that we cannot play games (if we want to) since we pay a technology fee."

People Poll Question: What's the most fun you've ever had on Spring Break?



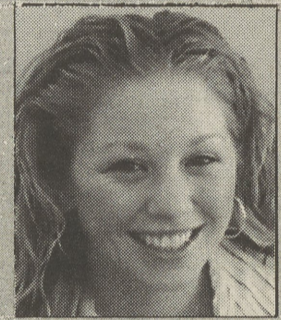
"Going to Florida with my best friend."
- Jen Willis, Sophomore, Kinesiology



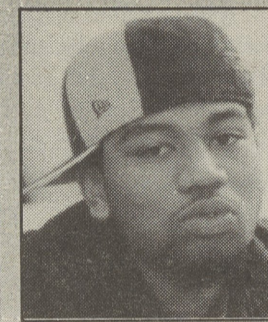
"Got wasted"
- Brandon Goveas, Freshman, Engineering



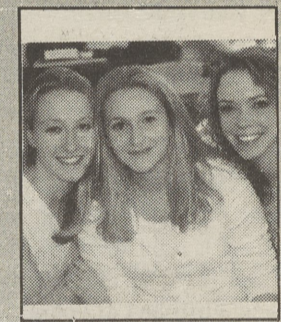
"Got kicked out of a casino for gambling."
- John Coyle, Freshman, Criminal Justice



"Went to Cancun"
- Megan Mann, Freshman, Undeclared



"Got higher than ever"
- Jason Ford, Sophomore, Undeclared



"Girls gone wild"
- Francesca LaVelle, Sarah Sagin, Tracy Coleman, Freshmen

This month's horoscope from our resident astrologer

By JENNIFER RUFO
Staff Writer

Aries - Spring is for new beginnings and you have a lot of plans to start over before the season gets here. New opportunities offer good ways for you to focus your energy. If you're lucky, a new relationship might even surface from all the new faces you will be meeting.

Taurus - Stuck in the rut of winter, you're ready for some summer fun. Take your significant other out for something you both would love to try. This month, don't take any unnecessary chances. If you do, you will not like the consequences.

Gemini - An occasion will leave you worrying over things that you should not be worrying about. Instead, use your energy for positive things. It's time to put your ideas on paper so you can profit from them. Now is the best time.

Cancer - Trying a new food for the first time will leave you craving for more. Be aware of what happens with too much of a good thing. Others will want to know what is

going on in your life. Be careful of who you tell your secrets to.

Leo - You must take the lead in a group project, or the work will never get done. Be prepared to work straight until the end of the semester when you finally get that much-deserved break.

Virgo - Take care of things that are bothering you. You won't get over them if you don't work things out. An argument with a loved one is taken to heart. Cherish the moments you have with this person. Life is all too short.

Libra - Take a break from friends and develop your own opinions about things. A bad break-up will leave you down but not out. Remember your loved ones are always there for you.

Scorpio - Don't let a black cat cross your path this month. Take some time to research your roots. You might learn something worthwhile. Don't turn your heart away from love this month because you are in demand.

Sagittarius - Flowers are your fancy this month, whether you give or receive. They remind you of the approaching season. If you look careful, you might see some buds on the bare trees outside. Be creative for someone you love.

Capricorn - You have been feeling depressed lately, but the worst is over. An old friend will come back into the picture and make you forget all of your problems. Look forward to the spring, it is fast approaching. The fun is yet to come.

Aquarius - You feel renewed with the feeling of spring, but you also feel the pressure of work. Being persistent will make it easier and others will respect you for it. A new love is outside your circle of friends. Open your eyes now before that person runs away.

Pisces - Be a star and shine this month. Do something you have never done before. The outcome will surprise you. An adventure will leave you far from home, but you always find your way out of difficult situations.