

# Opinion

## An editorial SGA: No follow-up to promising start

All right, so the campus talked up the new SGA last semester.

The *Lion's Eye* even praised it, and lauded its new openness and vigor.

But now, as the year progresses, we see less and less of this "elite" group of students. The SGA has once again become a phantom organization, the same ol' SGA we've grown accustomed to in past years with a new structure and new people that mean little.

Now the first of what should be several "open meetings" for this semester has been canceled. The open meetings, the one facet of the "new" SGA that the *Lion's Eye* was particularly impressed with in the Fall, 2003, semester, unfortunately proved the only things to really come out of the SGA last semester, and even those were very ill attended.

There was no Fall Week, and there doesn't seem to be any plans for a Spring Week.

So what exactly can we say that this powerful group of students has done? Not much.

Not much, at least, that students outside the SGA can appreciate. The SGA held a beautiful banquet for itself and faculty and staff at the end of the fall semester. That was in celebration of a job well done.

Well done for whom?

Where are all the things the SGA promised the student body? Chalk it up to lack of funds, which would probably be a legitimate excuse, but why not hold picnics and other events for students instead of spending money on an event like that banquet, that only a small group of carefully chosen people enjoyed?

The SGA has done more for itself than for the student body as a whole. If the members are fighting for students, no one — at least not the average Joe and Josie Student — really knows about it. If anything is being done to better students' campus experience, no one sees it.

It's far too early to say the restructured SGA has been a failure. The restructuring has the potential of being great, and making for great things, but it's falling short of greatness right now.

The group can only be as great as the sum of its parts, but when some of its people are leaving and some members seem to have their own agenda, it makes it hard to get much accomplished. Instead of setting so many large, long-term goals for this "new" SGA, maybe SGA should set smaller, more manageable goals that people can appreciate. It's great to have many goals for the group, but when you're just re-establishing yourself as a powerful group, it seems better to set fewer goals so that you don't fail, or appear to fail, when no one sees anything getting done.

The SGA is the most important organization this campus has. The stronger the SGA is, the stronger the student body can be. As a commuter campus, we struggle to keep students here for more than just classes.

The SGA can still make a difference on this campus. But will it? Rest assured the *Lion's Eye* will be watching.

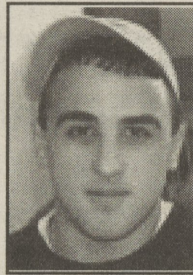
## People Poll

Staff writer Chrissy Greenan asked:  
What are your thoughts about Valentine's Day?



I like it. It's a fun holiday if you have someone to share it with.

Patty Murphy  
Freshman  
Undecided



It can be depressing, but if you're involved then it can be fun.

Anthony Iezzi  
Freshman  
Business



It's a great way to show the people you love how much you love them.

Natalie Delva  
Freshman  
Biology



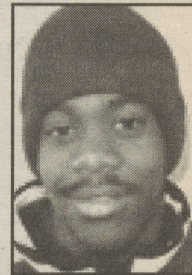
It's a special day to get together with your loved ones.

Bobby Condon  
Freshman  
Business



Blah, it's not a big deal. It should be Valentine's Day all the time.

Jennifer Orihuela  
Junior  
HDFS



It's pointless. If you care about someone you shouldn't have to wait until Valentine's Day to tell them.

Branden Easley  
Freshman  
Communications

## What can brown do for you? When it comes to Vairo Library, not much

A cyber café. A place to meet friends. A place to study. Soundproof study rooms with DVD players in each with students actually using them. A big picture window and bright colors. Welcome to Penn State Berks Boscov-Lakin Library. It's what the John D. Vairo Library could be.

Instead we have brown, brown and more brown. Be honest, do you actually use the library when you study? Do you even know about the first-floor Quiet Zone, allegedly haunted? There's a giant printing press down there, also known as the Catacombs, because of its isolation. Berks has a printing press, too, though the rest of civilization can see it.

I'm afraid to go to the Delco library. I'm not a fan of ghosts and I don't want to warp back to the '70s. One semester, I had no classes there and was able to evade the library the entire term. I can't study when I'm surrounded by the color of muck. This semester I am unfortunate enough to have classes there. The technology is old and the sounds on the televisions are scratchy and distracting. Aside from the cramped classrooms, I can't see the chalkboard. I can't call it a blackboard because, well, it's not black. It's, you guessed it, brown. And, white chalk doesn't appear too clearly on a brown surface. As you have experienced, the classrooms in the library really make for a great learning experience.

I'm sure with proper renovation the Library can become a place students can be proud of, an appealing place students want to go. Think of it this way: Penn State wants its students to excel. They want us to get good grades and jobs so they can look good. How can we do that without using the library? Isn't it a bit contradictory of the school's mission to supply students with an outdated library? If the library were renovated, grades and GPAs would increase. Students would come flocking to a cyber café. Students could have a fun, productive

place to go. I know it can happen because I have seen it. And, I like what I've seen. It's something the students of Penn State Delaware County need. Now that we are in the age of technology, most things we need for research are online. In theory, we don't need to go to the library at all, what with virtual librarians and online databases. The library should fix itself. Now, the Berks campus has dorms and we're only commuters, but a nicer library may make students want to stay on campus for longer periods of time.

Of course, there is a downside to this renovation. After seeing how the Lion's Den was redone in the Commons Building, I'm afraid of what could be next. The students should have a hand in deciding how the library would be renovated. Students are the ones who would primarily get the most use out of it anyway. The cost is another negative, but that should be taken out of our ever-rising tuition. At least then we can see and benefit from where our money goes. Besides, doesn't Penn State want us to

excel?

I brought a guest named Kim from Berks to visit Delco one day. She was shocked by the ancient library.

"I could never study here," she said.

Coming from a Berks student's perspective, why settle for emeralds when you can have diamonds?



By  
JENNIFER  
RUFO

### MISSION STATEMENT

We are the newspaper of the Penn State Delaware County campus, serving the students, administration, faculty and staff of, and visitors to, our campus. We vow to entertain and inform all of our audiences, and we will strive to make each edition better, so that we remain a vital part of the Penn State Delco experience. We also strive to be professional, and to follow the highest standards of good journalism.

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**Editor-in-chief:**  
Anteia Consorto  
**Associate Editor:**  
Sarah Gallatig  
**Copy Editor:**  
Meredith Becker

**Contributing Staff:** Charlotte Barr, Renee Blisard, Jess Goldey, Chrissy Greenan, Jeff Huber, Stacie Mann, Sean Orner, Jennifer Rufo.

**Guest Columnist:** Janice Kuehn.

**Contact the Lion's Eye:** At AAC136@psu.edu.



**Eye Contact:**

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