

# Eye On Columnists

## Waking Up from the American Dream

**Lion's Eye Featured Columnist:**  
**Mike Bruder**

I woke up one morning to a vivid picture in my mind. I pulled the blinds at my bedroom window and looked out to see children at the school bus stop. Nothing seemed right at all. I noticed all the children were dressed in the same clothes and all carrying the same books.

I drove to Center City and saw more of the same, instead with adults and the school uniforms where suits. I could not understand what was happening. Why did everybody look the same? Confused, I drove home as fast as I could and turned on the news.

I flipped on the T.V. and saw the same man on every channel, but the man was not reporting the news at all; he was telling me what I needed to fear and how I needed to feel about each of the issues he was presenting. "Buy duct tape" the man was shouting. "Tape up your windows and doors, don't let anything in." At this point, I freaked out.

For some reason, everything seemed so sharp and real, like all of the other days in my life were a dream. The man on the television continued on in the background going

on about war and the enemy. In the distance, I heard a different man on the television going on about an upcoming election. He was using words such as "great resolve" and was speaking about stopping different groups of people before they take over. The man was talking about large groups of people and how their views were different. I tried, but could not figure out who they were or what threat they posed. I needed to know who we had to stop. How would duct tape help us?

I have to go to Phoenix today and I'll miss my plane if I don't leave now. I go to the train station and when I arrive, there are soldiers inside with M-16's posted at different corners of 30th street station. Two soldiers are making rounds in the main concourse and I don't understand why. The R-1 is running late. SEPTA is not on time! Finally, something normal has happened, maybe everything is okay.

When I get to the airport, it is

much of the same. Soldiers on every level, police on every corner. I feel so helpless. I walk over to a vendor to get a newspaper and a coke as I wait for the nice "uniformed crew member" of Southwest flight 151 to announce the "preboarding" of my plane.

The front page of the paper reads "Election Coverage." I open the paper and the headline says "You Have No Choice! No Decision 2004".

A bolt of lightning is sent through my spine, I know why this is all so familiar. I saw news footage of it before. I saw a place where all the children

were forced to act, look, and think the same. All the adults had already been destroyed by a system set up to break the free will of the people. There was no choice for leadership, and everything was policed by the government!

My whole youth this was what I heard about, the most evil word in the English language, COMMUNISM! It's 1984 and I'm having a dream that I live in Moscow.

But wait! It isn't a dream and I'm not in the Soviet Union, and I'm not in 1940's Germany. Its worse I'm at home in the good old U.S. of A. I just woke up, that's all.

School Uniforms, Anti abortion laws, amendments banning gay rights, the CIA, FBI, FCC, FTC, ATF, IRS, Park Rangers, State Police, Local Police, Parking Authority, TSA, National Guard, U.S. Marshall, Sheriff, State Constable, DPS, Highway Patrol, EPA, OCU, FDA, U.S. Customs, Border Patrol, Coast Guard, FAA, Department of Homeland Security, the list goes on. You have no choice in elections. No representation. This country was bought and sold in 1776 and has been owned by the money ever since. Agency after agency and commissions, appointed, not elected bodies of government who tell you what to say, how to say it, how to dress, how to think, what not to say, how to go where you go when you can go; non-elected, so-called officials who know what is best for you because you are too stupid to figure it out for yourself. Do you know why "freedom isn't free?" Because it DOES NOT exist.

*If you're certain that Big Brother is watching, you can contact Mike Bruder at [mab522@psu.edu](mailto:mab522@psu.edu)*

**"This country was bought and sold in 1776 and has been owned by the money ever since."**

### STUDENT

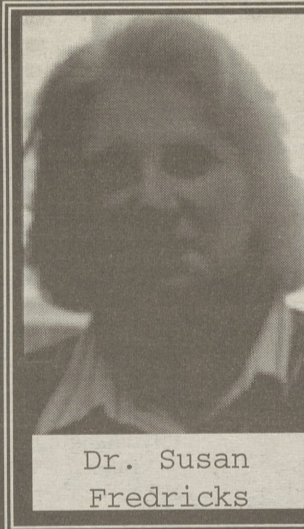
Patricia (American Studies/senior) is an adult student who graduates in a couple of weeks. When asked if she was nervous about graduating she said, "No, not at all. It's been a long time; I'm looking forward to it." Fleck is a prime example of someone who learned the hard way that quitting was not the answer. She left University Park some years ago and came back to our campus to complete her American Studies degree and to get her dream job as a history professor. "I have a lot of love for history. Teaching and imparting knowledge to others makes me feel like I'm passing the love on." said Fleck. She has depended on the entire Penn State social atmosphere and her professors to get her through some tough times. Now she's merely days away from achieving her goal. "I have no free time," she said and explained that all of her extracurricular activities are reserved for sleeping. All she wants out of life after Delco is to be comfortable. "I don't want more than what I deserve."



Patricia Fleck

### Lion's Eye Student & Teacher Profile

By: John Miller



Dr. Susan Fredricks

### TEACHER

For a person who began her career in Mathematics, Dr. Susan Fredricks (Assistant Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences) is very invested in her work as the coordinator of the Communications degree at this campus. She has been Delco faculty since 2000. Dr. Fredricks enjoys both public and communications because they are the two fields of communication that evolve the most and are truly "exciting to be a part of." Off campus, Dr. Fredricks spends a lot of time with her children and traveling on the International Studies field trip from year to year. She also enjoys shows like "Law & Order" and "Commander and Chief". Dr. Fredricks would like to see a female President but believes it won't happen for at least another twenty years. Dr. Fredricks was torn between being an NFL Quarterback and the President of the United States as an alternative career. Her favorite quote comes from Beverly Sills who said, "You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try."

## Bam's Parents Enlighten Penn Staters on Successful Career Paths

On Tuesday November 15th, Phil and April Margera of "Viva la Bam" came here to talk to the student body about turning your vision into a successful career. The event took place in the Lion's Den where Phil and April talked about how their son Bam took a passion for skateboarding and turned it into a career. He took his interest in film and raised money to make his movie "Haggard" and the TV show that made him famous, "Jackass". It was one of the highest attended events of the fall semester.

- Matt Kelly

Photo courtesy of [de.psu.edu](http://de.psu.edu)

