

Internet offers students wide variety of help

By THU VO
Collegian Staff Writer

Many Web sites are beginning to target college students and offer services such as lecture notes, class information, textbook exchange and internship searches.

Such Web sites include Study24-7.com (www.Study24-7.com), CollegeFever.com (www.collegefever.com) and Studyfree.com (www.studyfree.com).

According to Studyfree.com, there are about 15 million college students who represent the largest "wired-in" demographic group.

Shyam Sundar Sethuraman, assistant

professor of communications and director of the Media Effects Research Laboratory, isn't surprised by the influx of these sites that are targeting students.

"Living independently and making independent choices — advertisers are targeting this demographic group," said Sethuraman, adding this is the group with the most disposable income and most likely to spend it on fashionable items.

A massive student audience, such as the one at Penn State, is an online company's dream come true because it attracts so many advertisers who, in turn, help keep the Web sites free of charge.

Without advertisers, the sites would

have to charge the students, said Brian Maser, co-founder and CEO of Study24-7.com.

"We focus on the advertisers that would interest students," said Maser.

There are both positive and negative aspects of having so many Web sites available to students for studying purposes, Sethuraman said.

The Web not only provides valuable information, but also gives students a chance to interact, he added.

"A student may log on initially to buy a CD and then inadvertently end up interacting in a group discussion with other students," Sethuraman added.

On the other hand, the distractions may take the student away from studying and into surfing the Web, he said.

The lecture notes that are published on the Web should not be used in place of attending classes, but as a supplement so that students can receive more from the class, Maser said.

"It enhances student education by being an extra resource. It revolutionizes the way students study," he said.

In addition to lecture notes, Study24-7.com offers a virtual class community where students can have online study sessions with their classmates or post classroom discussions.

"Many students are intimidated in group settings but here they can have a user-name and ask questions to anyone about anything," Maser said.

The site not only offers help with classes but also gives students the opportunity to earn some money and learn more from the class by taking notes in order to post them on the site.

Some do not see the Web as a distraction but as an extra way for students to gather information.

"I think the sites would help a lot of students like those who aren't excellent notetakers," said Amy Boccadoro (sophomore-art).

Local clinics prepare for flu shot demand

By MICHAEL KARPE
Collegian Staff Writer

Local health agencies are preparing to combat the wave of influenza expected to reach the State College area some time next month.

University Health Services, Giant Food Stores, Inc. and Centre Community Hospital are holding clinics to vaccinate students and area residents.

The shot, given in the upper arm, will cost students going to UHS \$10.

The vaccination goes into effect about two weeks after receiving the shot and can last for up to a year, according to Becky Taranto, a pharmacist at the Allergy/Immunization Clinic.

Bryan Speck (senior-psychology), who received a shot yesterday at the Kern Building, said the vaccination process was simple.

"It was very smooth and they (local health specialists) explained it well," he said.

Speck said he thought it was best to be prepared for the flu ahead of

time. "I have a history of flu around this time of year," he said.

This vaccine protects against the three strains of the flu that are circulating in the Northern Hemisphere this season, but not against other flu-like diseases.

Symptoms of the flu include fever, aches, dry cough, runny nose, headache and fatigue, said Taranto.

Last year, 1,507 students went to the flu clinic offered by UHS, said Pamela Koons, UHS marketing manager.

The number of students the flu infects varies each year, said Dr. Edward Rosick, UHS physician.

"Sometimes it's a low number; other times it could be as high as 75 percent," he said.

Koons said anyone with chronic illnesses or people working with children should definitely be inoculated.

Although healthy students can endure the flu without protection, a shot can prevent outbreaks in the close-knit atmosphere of Penn State.

In past years, many people have taken advantage of Giant's clinic.

"One night, there was over a hundred (people)," said Nick Telegraphis, a pharmacist at Giant.

Because Giant is off campus, a larger number of adults visit the clinic, but students also attend, Telegraphis said.

Emma Smith, Centre Community Hospital occupational health department employee, recommends those with weakened immune systems get the shot.

"Anyone who is at highest risk of infection or complications should take it," she said.

However, people with Guillain-Barre Syndrome, or an allergy to eggs, should consult a physician before taking the shot, Koons said.

Two occupational health nurses will head the clinic at the hospital, for which Smith said they are very prepared.

"An ample amount of vaccination was ordered," she said.

Stephanie Rutkowski (freshman-information sciences and technology) said the shot she received yes-

terday at Kern Building wasn't painful.

"I personally think it's a good idea because I'm so far away from my mother and there's no one else here to take care of me," she said.

Flu clinic availability

University Health Services

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 27
at Pollock Commons

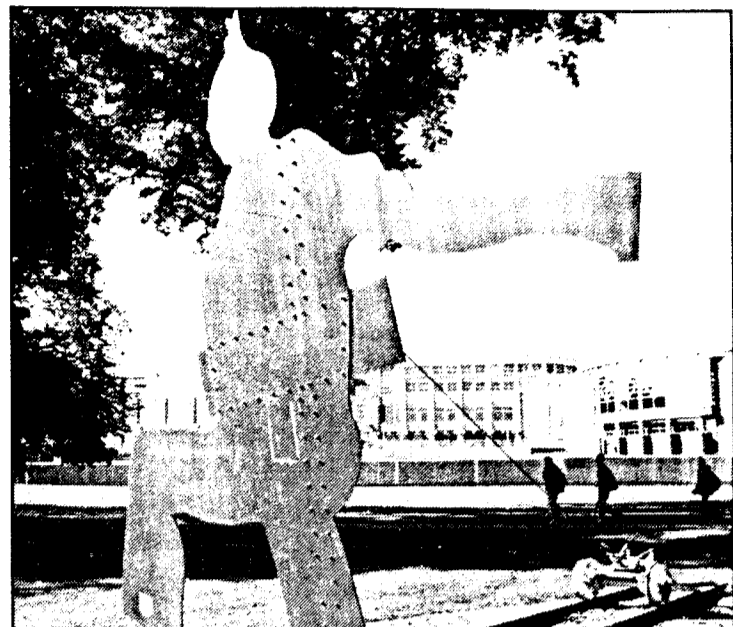
Giant Food Store, 255 Northland Center

4 p.m. to 8 p.m. today

Centre Community Hospital (cost: \$12)

12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 30

Source: Pam Koons, UHS marketing manager; Giant Food Store Inc.; Emma Smith, Centre Community Hospital



Collegian Photo/Barb Ovutsky

Shooting blanks

The statue of the red soldier on the HUB/Paul Robeson Cultural Center lawn has lost its gun. The piece was first noticed as missing on October 20.

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For more information, contact Elena DeLuca at 865-2545 or e-mail emd2@psu.edu.

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