The Councillor

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CCSG Council Meeting Holds its First Issue Session

By Tony Pomicter

At the first meeting of the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) for fall 2000 a new trend has been instituted that is guaranteed to be seen more of in the future. Student representatives from all 19 Commonwealth locations took part in an Issue Session, led by Student Affairs Committee Director Ashley King. This session was preceded by a discussion amongst the student representatives and the two assistants to the PSU Student Affairs Vice-President, William Asbury.

Each CCSG meeting for the remainder of this academic year will consist of a half hour discussion led by one of the committee directors from CCSG Central Staff. The October meeting will see 2000-2001 CCSG THON Chair, Paul Mihalko, discuss the upcoming Dance Marathon by informing the representatives from the commonwealth about the new rules and regulations for this year, as well as answering any questions that the students may have.

Ashley King, 2000-2001 Student Affairs Committee Director fielded concerns and answered questions concerning what her committed plans to do in the upcoming academic year. "I felt it was a great way for the Commonwealth representatives to express what they felt the committee should be looking into for the year", King said. She also added that "it gave us a definite direction for the rest of the year." A few of the issues that came from the session were health services, food prices, and standards amongst the campuses with independent contractors (these being non-University Housing and Food Services).

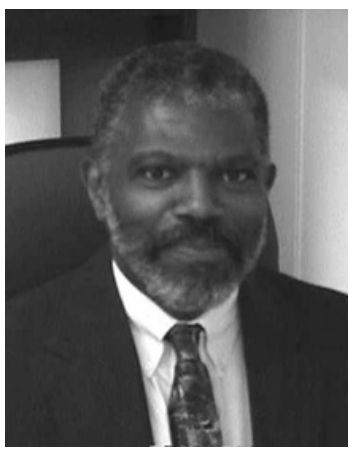
Dr. Art Carter and Dr. Philip Burlingame spoke briefly about many of the new issues that they have been dealing with in their department. But the main area of interest to all those who attended was the question and answer session. Representatives brought up concerns such as faculty use of the newly instituted Newspaper Readership Program and the reasons and uses for the tuition increase. It was suggested that if faculty members use the papers in class for assignments and discussion then they should have the same access to the newspapers as do the students. Students and administrators are still discussing this question. A tuition increase of any kind and for any reason will always be a topic of heated discussion, and the students of Penn State had (and still have) a lot of questions about this year's 6.23% increase, as well as the proposed 6.75% increase for next year. Answers given by the guest speakers ranged from the 24 hour/day opening of the HUB-Robeson Center at University Park, funding for the Newspaper Readership Program at all campuses, and many upcoming university-wide improvements.

Governmental Affairs Committee Director, Alyssa Karakos will be presenting in November, Lois Abdelmalek will be presenting Multi-Cultural Affairs in February, and Jake Paparelli will be speaking on Academic Affairs in March. With continued student participation and interest, these sessions will continue to be a part of the meetings of the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments.

"I felt it was a great way for the Commonwealth representatives to express what they felt the committee should be looking into for the year" - Ashley King, Student Affairs Committee Director, CCSG

Dr. Phillip Burlingame (right) and Dr. Arthur Carter(bottom), guest speakers at the OctoberCouncil Of Commonwealth Student Governments meeting.





Students Need to be Aware of the Credit Card Trap

NSNS- Promotional tables of credit card companies offering students "free stuff"
in exchange for applying for a credit card have become a common site on college campuses; however, students who accept such offers are often unaware of the real cost of the credit card and have much higher rates of debt and credit problems than other students, according to a survey conducted by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG).

The report concedes that credit cards are an important way to build credit. The problem is that credit card companies are so desperate for student clients that they do not educate students on how to maintain a good credit rating. Therefore, students are not aware of the consequences of late payments and bad credit.

The credit card companies attract students by offering free t-shirts, shot glasses, or even food if the student will take a few minutes to fill out an application. Paula Simon, a senior at the University of Maryland, has avoided the credit card tables all together. "I don't like the idea of people pestering me to buy their product. I think if they were offering you a quality deal, they wouldn't have to give you all sorts of free stuff."

The real problem with credit card tabling is that students often have no idea how to manage the credit card once they get it. Administrators are so concerned about tabling practices that many campuses have put restrictions on it or have banned it altogether.

Problems at Rutgers University led administrators to change their policies regarding credit card solicitation on campus. These problems were brought to light by the NJPIRG Student Chapters. Some Rutgers' campuses require vendors to have a student organization sponsor and pay a fee in order to have a table. Other Rutgers campuses completely prohibit credit card solicitation.

"Students, especially those who fill out credit card applications at campus tables in return for trinkets and candy, run the risk of falling into the campus credit card trap," said Ed Mierzwinski, the U.S. PIRG Consumer Program Director. "Students, often without jobs and facing large student loan and other school debts, should be careful not to make things worse by running up unnecessary, high-cost credit card debt, since they risk ruining their credit records if they fail to pay on time."

A report released by the U.S. PIRG in 1998 is as relevant today as it was 2 years ago. The report shows that students are all too often ill prepared for dealing with credit cards.

Of the 1,260 undergraduates surveyed, 61% of those who have the card under their own name got the card through tabling. Students who get their cards from tables average 2.6 credit cards compared to 2.1 cards for students who did not get cards from a table. Even more disturbing, however, is the fact that the average balance is $1,039 for a tabled student and only $854 for other students.

Another dilemma is how college students pay their credit card bills every month. Only 36% of students pay off their balance every month, while 16% pay the minimum, and 9% pay late. Overall, 28% of the students surveyed admit that they have paid a credit card bill late. This is a problem because after 1-2 late payments there is a penalty interest rate of 22-28%.

The credit card trap is compounded by the fact that campus organizations often use credit card tabling to raise money for their organizations. Some groups get up to $4 for each application that is filled out, so their profit can add up very quickly.

Saumil Chudgar, a senior at University of North Carolina, helped SANGAM, a South Asian group on campus, raise money through credit card applications. They were raising money for the Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship. The fellowship gives money to two people to run projects that will benefit South Asia.

Chudgar says, "I felt it [tabling] was worth it— we had the potential to raise a lot of money." There were some downsides, however. "I did feel like I was taking advantage of my friends," he says.

Tresshia Smith, a senior at the UNC, is an example of how credit card companies can lure students into debt. "As of right now I have six credit cards, and I'm currently unemployed. For me, having the option of buying things without having the money to do so right then has gone from a novelty to a dependency. But, months on end of paying the minimum or barely above the minimum payment has led me so deeply into debt with increased interest that I don't even care to think about. So now on top of student loans that I'll owe when leaving UNC, I have several banks to repay before I make any other investments like a car, etc."

"As of right now I have six credit cards, and I'm currently unemployed." - Tresshia Smith, a senior at UNC.

Mount Nittany Hike

By: Tony Pomicter

On September 16, following the first meeting of the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG), several members of various campuses and (almost) all of CCSG Central Staff joined together to climb the mountain with the namesake of our university's mascot.

Everyone was broken into two groups and slowly but surely made their way up the 50° incline. The groups made stops on the way up to catch their breath and take PSU trivia exams from the group leaders (either CCSG President Gabriel Bryant, V.P. Shane Szalankiewicz or Chief of Staff Kurt Maldovan). The groups also saw the grave of Mr. Herb Williams, a man who is said to have wandered Mount Nittany watching after students on the mountain until his death.

A few Central Staff members had gone up before the groups to prepare the fire and clear the area for the groups to sit, so everything was ready when the groups arrived. Once everyone reached the final site, marshmallow sticks were collected for marshmallow roasting, and food and drinks were distributed. Everyone took turns reading from the "History of Penn State" and educated each other on the beginnings and uprising of "Good Old State". Each of us then sang the songs of our alma mater, such as *Fight on State*, *Nittany Lion*, and *Victory*. After a short walk to the edge of the mountain, everyone heard the story of Mt. Nittany from the group leaders and took a moment of silence to overlook State College from high atop the mountain. With all the Penn State history and literature, it was a very pride inducing night.

The hike is highly recommended by those who went up. It is a steep climb, but very worth your time to see all of State College from such a different perspective. Directions are as follows: Go to the Sheetz on College Ave. just outside of downtown State College, go down the road that meets College and is on the same side as Sheetz, turn left onto Mt. Nittany Road and follow it until you can not drive any farther.

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No More Stressing for Penn State DuBois

By: Cristy DeBoer

Penn State DuBois students will no longer have to struggle to find a parking spot around campus. The campus' Executive Officer, Dr. Claudia Limbert, stated that the new parking lot would be open next week. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday Oct. 4 at 12:30 p.m.

Student Government Officers will be arriving to the new lot in a car donated by Johnson Motors. Following the ceremony, the parking lot will be open to all Penn State students. This new lot will increase parking availability by 229 new spaces. Monitors will be in place to ensure that the lot runs correctly and that everyone parking in the lot will be a PSU student. This addition to parking has been needed for quite some time and will decrease the stress and frustration levels of students trying to find a parking spot.

In addition to the campus' parking, the Student Government Association has made additions. New Upper Class and Freshman Senators and a Corresponding Secretary were elected last week to the Student Government and were inducted on Sept. 22 at the kickoff luncheon. The new officers will join the rest of the SGA to host a Halloween Dance on Oct. 26 for Penn State DuBois students from 8:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. The Penn State DuBois Business Society will join SGA's Halloween celebration efforts by holding their annual Haunted House Oct. 26-28.

Penn State Fayette's Success

By: Douglas S. DeFrank

Recently at Penn State Fayette, the Student Activities Committee (SAC) held a dance for the student body in the cafeteria. This was quite possibly one of the biggest campus events so far this semester. Close to 75 students attended this dance. The great turnout is assumed to be due to the major advertising methods used by the Student Government Association. Members of the SGA placed flyers on cars in the parking lots and plastered the campus with posters. Admission charge was $2.00, but students could get in for free if they brought in two canned food items, which were donated to a local food bank.

The radio club, which has taken off to new heights this semester, also provided the excellent music.

In order to continue such success, the SGA is placing suggestion boxes throughout the individual buildings on campus. And in order to bring a safer environment to the students, security call boxes, similar to those at University Park, are being installed around the Fayette campus.

Hazleton's Cafe In Question

By: Glenn Garrabrant and David Adamus

An anonymous source has tipped PSU Hazleton student government that food is not being "cooked right" on Sundays in the High Acres Cafe.

An unidentified adult male left a message on the answering machine in the Student Government Association (SGA) office. Omar Shakir, vice president of SGA, played the message on Wednesday, Sept. 13. Because the machine had not been checked in four days, it cannot be determined when exactly the message was left, said Shakir.

The message also claimed that students are not receiving their money's worth from the overall quality of food at the cafe. It also advised that students who are complaining should "push it a little farther."

Students have inquired about lack of food at convenient hours, quality of food, and early closings since the cafe opened for the semester. Charles Redden, director of housing and food services, has said that he had to "tighten the belt on certain peripheral expenses" since last school year.

Melissa Landis, president of SGA, has received little cooperation from cafe staff in arranging meetings to discuss students' concerns.

Landis now plans to inform Greg Minner, assistant director of housing and food services for the university, of the anonymous tip, and hopes that an investigation will follow.

Minner had already begun to inspect the cafe more frequently and has listened to students' complaints. Landis says Minner was to organize measures to improve the service. However, Redden failed to attend a recent student affairs meeting, which left many in the dark about what exactly is being done, said Shakir.



High Acres Cafe at the Penn State Hazleton Campus

Photo By: Bridgette Deramiti

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

It's Not A Day Off !!

By: Tony Huang

Do you believe in the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? Do you believe that discrimination across lines of race, class, gender, disability, religion, and age still exist? Do you believe that we have the ability to unite people of diverse backgrounds to end the prejudice that exists in our society? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then please join us in the second annual Penn State MLK Day of Service.

In 1965 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. himself visited Penn State University as a Distinguished Speaker, just days after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize to talk about his experiences in leading the civil rights movement and vision for a more caring and just society. Exactly 35 years later, The Undergraduate Student Government in conjunction with The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments coordinated Penn State students, faculty, staff and community members to unite and honor this man's legacy by volunteering on The MLK Day of Service. The goals of the Day of Service are three-fold: to celebrate the life and times of Dr. Martin Luther King in a more formal manner, to promote an appreciation for diversity and cultural awareness, to promote a sense of civic and social responsibility among all Penn Staters. The participation during this first year was extraordinary – numerous faculty, staff, and community members joined over 600 students from 16 Commonwealth Campuses and 90 Student Organizations across the Commonwealth to "roll up their sleeves" and volunteer by visiting K-12 public schools to run diversity-focused presentations for the kids and by serving the elderly, disabled, homeless & poor, and otherwise disadvantaged at area non-profit human service agencies in the community. The Day of Service culminated in an evening celebration at Recreation Hall, which featured a Keynote Speaker and Musical & Cultural Performances to commemorate the Day's work and to remember the legacy of Dr. King.

This year's MLK Day of Service Committee is working 'round the clock to make this year's Day of Service even more spectacular and WE WANT YOU TO GET INVOLVED. Students, Faculty and Staff Members, and surrounding Community Members are wanted to volunteer on the 36th Anniversary of Dr. King's visit to Penn State University by participating in the second annual MLK Day of Service on January 15, 2001. What should you do to get involved? Here are some options.

1. Contact Tony Huang, USG MLK Day of Service Director at (814) 235-2819 or 4tony@psu.edu, or Lois Abdelmalek, the CCSG Multi Cultural Affairs Director at (814) 863-0697 or laa137@psu.edu.
2. Get a group of people together (faculty, staff, students from a student organization, or your entire class) and make an announcement about the purpose of the day. Designate one contact person for your organization.
3. Create your programs on The MLK Day of Service. Here are some options:
   a) Call the principal of a K-12 public school nearby to arrange for your group to make a presentation to the kids about The MLK Day of Service
   b) Look in the phonebook white pages and call a local non-profit human service agency (e.g. Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, etc.) to arrange a community service project with them on the Day of Service (Jan. 15, 2001)
   c) THINK CREATIVELY ABOUT YOUR PROGRAMMING! You can invite your local Penn State Alumni Chapter to get involved, collaborate with your local Penn State Cooperative Extension Agent and the local 4-H Clubs (teenage leadership clubs run by PSU), or invite any other group of people to join you and celebrate the legacy of Dr. King!
4. Write a Press Release to all the local TV stations, Radio stations, and Newspapers to publicize your efforts in the community! Also, write some blurbs for newsletters that run throughout the University to drum up support and perhaps receive donations for your meaningful work.
5. Get other people involved in celebrating the life and times of Dr. King, promoting an awareness of diversity and cultural awareness, and promoting a sense of civic and social responsibility among all Penn Staters!
6. Let us know what you are doing!

Together, as One Penn State, we can work together to remember the legacy and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and move closer to creating One America. I look forward to hearing from all of you as we coordinate this extraordinary event for the University. Let's make this day a tradition for Penn State!

"The greatest birthday gift anyone could give my husband is if people of diverse backgrounds and ethnicities could come together on this one day of the year to perform acts of kindness for others – remember it's a day on, not a day off!"
–Coretta Scott King



President's Message



Hello again everybody! I hope that you all have gotten adjusted to the new school year, and are busy planning exciting and innovating activities at your campuses. Whether it is with a club or other organization, always seek to do better than the year before. **Try new things**, and **experiment**; don't fall into stages of complacency. In order for these clubs and organizations to continue and prosper, **build** on the foundation that was made the year prior, and see how your membership can bring a new twist to it. This will make a **creative** and **fun** atmosphere for everyone, and help all of youl throughout the course of the year!

The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) is well into working to serve all of you as well! All of **Central Staff** are preparing upcoming events and setting out to accomplish their goals. The committee directors have held meetings with different administrators, as their research is allowing them to find solutions to their problems. The caucus directors are full speed ahead in organizing social activities as well as community service projects for their particular campuses. Our departments have played a role in updating our web page, directing our involvement in Homecoming and All-U-Day, and the production of this great newspaper in your hands right now! And our support staff is looking into future CCSG/USG partnerships, and the production of our C.A.L.L. (Campus Administration and Leadership Links) Page and OAG (Organization Assistance Guide), which will both be placed on the CCSG Web page.

Amidst all of this, there are also the objectives that your President and Vice President are working on. Shane and I have met with different staff members to further our mission to serve the students of Penn State, specifically the 19 Commonwealth locations. We ran under the theme **Creativity and Completion**, and we are making sure that we live day in and day out by the strength of this phrase. We can look into the nine goals that we have for the year, with a quick update on each:

1) **Online Advising Surveys** – we met with Jake Paparelli, Academic Affairs Director, to get an update on the results of last year's advising survey. Along with Associate Dean of the Commonwealth College, Linda Higginson, we thought of ways to make our survey more concise, and reach a greater pool of students through a possible log-on addition.
2) **C.A.L.L. Page –** after researching the campus administrators this summer, we are almost complete with our program which will enable students to correspond with different staff members at different locations, which will increase ideas and productivity. Ken McGraw, Executive Assistant, is finalizing the intricacies of this page, and hopes to have it complete by the Nov. meeting.
3) **Issues Sessions –** we have already began having a committee director facilitate a session of the Council agenda geared toward a pressing concern within the respective committee. In Sept., Ashley King, Student Affairs Director, led the session dealing with issues which the Student Government Associations can begin tackling for the year. In Oct., Paul Mihalko, THON Director, will lead the discussion with pertinent information about canning, and the rules and regulations of solicitation.
4) **Diner's Club Increase –** after meeting with Chris Hurly, Director of Housing and Food Services, we were able to prepare a plan with Ashley to research the option's usage at the Food Services campuses, and find evidence of high pricing to get a decrease in specific food prices. We are also working toward maintaining the ID+ debit system at campuses with Independent Contractors.
5) **CCSG Newsletter –** Stephen Cuppett, Information-Technology Specialist, has just completed setting up CCSG listservs. With this in mind, we will begin to send all members of CCSG reports from meetings held by Shane and I, such as Elected Student Leaders and Association of Big Ten Students, as well as those meetings and reports from Central Staff members. This newsletter will be on a bi-weekly schedule.
6) **Internship Program –** we researched internships currently available at each of the campuses, and devised a plan to work with the DAA's and Career Services to make students more aware of them. We are also working towards establishing more internships in certain colleges that did not have as many programs, such as in the College of Communications and College of Engineering.
7) **Transition Improvements –** after meeting with Ingrid Blood in Undergraduate Education, and Linda Higginson, we looked into modeling our leadership course for student leaders after other curriculums in leadership such as Counselor Education 301 and Management 321. We are currently working on the logistics of the syllabus.
8) **Lobby for Campus-Wide ADA Compliance –** we are researching the physical ADA compliances at each campuses, in respect to buildings and grounds. We also received the Disability Services Informational Packet from Penn State Shenango, which also looks into learning disabilities. We are using this packet to devise our plan to reach these students as well.
9) ***Councillor* Improvements and Distribution –** we have increased the staff by adding two Assistant Editors/ Writers. This has led to an increase in campus coverage, and our inclusion of a THON page per paper. We have also met with Bill Asbury, Vice President for Student Affairs, and have finalized getting new racks to be sent to the campuses for *The Councillor.*

As you can see a lot of work is being done to make sure that we **create** plans to better student life for you all, and **complete** these initiatives as well. We also encourage new ideas and want you to contact us if there is an issue that you may need our help with at your campus. As food for thought, remember that **we only fail when we don't try**. Keep this in mind as you work through midterms and papers to have success at your campus! Hope you all had a great Fall Break, and I'll see you all Nov. 10-11, at the final Council Meeting of the semester, and 2000!!

Sincerely,

Gabriel Bryant
CCSG 2000-2001
"Leadership is participation, not position"

Schuylkill Keeps Busy

By: Jenna Rupertus

PSU Schuylkill has been very busy lately. SGA has been working very hard on the voter registration drive and on planning a trip to Six Flags Great Adventure. Also, the ladies volleyball team has been working hard and the season; looks like it may end with a championship.

On Tuesday October 3, we the campus held the voter registration drive with an opportunity for students, both commuter and resident, to register to vote. A local radio station, T102, and the Party People were here to promote students Registering their Roar's.

The Six Flags trip is scheduled for October 28 just in time for the Haunted Halloween tours the campus will be having. So far, over 80 students have signed up to go and the Student Government Association (SGA) is anticipating that many more will sign up.

The ladies volleyball team has worked extremely hard for their 8-0 records in the CCAC Eastern Division. They travelled to PSU Scranton on September 30 where they played three more games. On Thursday October 5 they hosted the CCAC Eastern division finals where the top two seeds proceed to the finals at University Park.

Penn State Behrend's "Harambee" Dinner a Great Success

By: Melody Sherosky

"Harambee," means, "let's all pull together" in Swahili. With that in mind, Behrend's Multi-Cultural Council plans the annual Harambee dinner every year to focus on diversity issues.

This year's theme was, "One step forward, not two steps back." The featured guest was Pastor Cooper from St. James AME Church, who suggested that society must work as a whole to recognize that everyone is individual and deserves respect. Cooper encouraged the use of the term "salad bowl" to replace the "melting pot" description used to describe America. Both come from the idea that America is mixed from many parts, but the salad bowl emphasizes that all of the parts have their own individuality.

During the dinner, Behrend's gospel choir group, Ultimate Praise, sang the hymns: "For Your Name is to Be Praised" and "Hallelujah." Student Demeca Howard also recited a unity poem entitled "Colors of the Wind." Student Jacqueline Jackson concluded the event with a powerful proclamation that society must "break down the walls that separate us."

Sign-ups for the 130 seats at the dinner were full weeks ahead of time. The event filled Behrend's Reed Commons with students and faculty. Dean, Dr. John Lilley, was also in attendance.

Behrend's Multi-Cultural Council promotes appreciation and awareness of underrepresented groups on campus. In the past they have organized many events, including the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Campus Wide Celebration and Cultural Fiesta. The Council advises many of Behrend's student clubs and organizations, including Asian Students Organization, the Organization of Latin American Students, Returning Adults Student Organization, the National Society of Black Engineers, and Trigon (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender awareness organization).

Students Fight Bookstore Monopolies on Their Campuses

NSNS- Textbooks are one of the biggest expenses for college students, and every year students pay much more than they should because university bookstores control the market without competition from other businesses.

At the University of Southern California and across the country, the bookstore monopoly has been challenged by companies like BigWords.com, an Internet textbook store. However, USC has banned BigWords.com from soliciting students on campus preventing any real competition for their bookstore.

SCampus, the USC student handbook, states that vendors advertising on campus have to get permission from the Cultural Arts and Activities Office. The problem is that the campus vendor must also approve these permits. In this case that means that the university bookstore gets final approval of whether or not it wants to allow BigWords.com on campus.

This is the type of problem found on many college campuses across the country, but some schools have figured out ways to stop them. At the University of Wisconsin at Madison, students from the Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group (WisPIRG) have started a Bookswap.

That Bookswap was started in 1994 due to student dissatisfaction with the University Bookstore. "We started the Bookswap because the University Bookstore was the only option for students when buying their textbooks. The bookstore took advantage of this monopoly and charged ridiculous prices for books, and gave very little, about 5%, for returned used books," says Jessica Tritsch, chair of the WisPIRG Student Chapter in Madison.

The Bookswap takes place during the first two weeks of every semester. Students set their own prices for their textbooks. Volunteers then run an exchange of the books they have collected. Students can buy the used textbooks for "a few dollars less than the bookstore to $20-$30 less than the bookstore," says Tritsch.

The Bookswap has grown every year since it was started. Tritsch attributes this growth to the fact that "more and more people realize that they can buy their books cheaper and get more for selling them at the Bookswap than at the bookstore. And as more people sell books, our selection has gotten larger, and therefore it helps out more people who continue to use the swap and tell their friends!"

Finding Housing Can be Overwhelming

By: Anna Oziraner

With the spring semester just around the corner, students are beginning to think about next year's classes. Those who are relocating to University Park are beginning to look at the housing options.

Applications for the on-campus housing are now available at the Director of Student Affairs office at every campus, and should be filled out as soon as possible. However, those who are looking into off-campus housing, should start looking into their options now.

"I was overwhelmed… it was an overwhelming process coming from a commonwealth campus, not having any assistance other than the USG [Undergraduate Student Government] Apartment Guide," – said Maribeth Collins originally from Penn State Mont Alto about her experience finding an apartment at the University Park campus.

The relocation can be extremely intimidating for those who are not aware of their options. Rachel Korinko, originally from McKeesport, felt that she "got the bottom of the barrel, because I was one of the last people to sign the lease in my complex."

Although the USG Apartment Guide will not be available until the end of the year, there are numerous other resources for students to take advantage of while they are in the search process. "Lion Ambassador tours are a great way to get to know what's available" – said Amy Prusinsky, the Program Director of CCSG. She advises students to schedule a guided tour as soon as possible.

A definite way to get acquainted with the options is to go online. The State College website (www.statecollege.com) offers links to various apartment complexes and leasing offices. Students who are planning to live off campus should begin to explore different options. Another useful website is the Student Activities Off-Campus Living web page (www.sa.psu.edu/ocl).

Students are advised to find their roommates before coming down to University Park to search for an apartment. This eliminates problems with rent and leasing cost.

Finally, when you are truly at the bottom of the barrel, and feel like giving up, there will be a housing fair available at the end of January, however, students are encouraged to try to find a place to stay before this event.

Thon Committee Established

By: Paul Mihalko
CCSG THON Director

THON 2001 is beating down our doors, and we all better be prepared for the journey ahead of us. It will be a long ride until it culminates on February 16, 2001 in Rec Hall. A lot of time spent planning, canning and eventually dancing. It will, of course, be time well spent.

As your CCSG THON Director, I attempting to be as prepared as I possibly can in order to give all of you the sense of security in all of your THON dealings. I have established a committee, in which some of you may have met at the CCSG Council meeting in September. This committee's purpose is, quite simply, to assist you in order to make THON a success at your campus. This committee is broken down into different sections to make it that much easier to find the answers to anything that you may need.

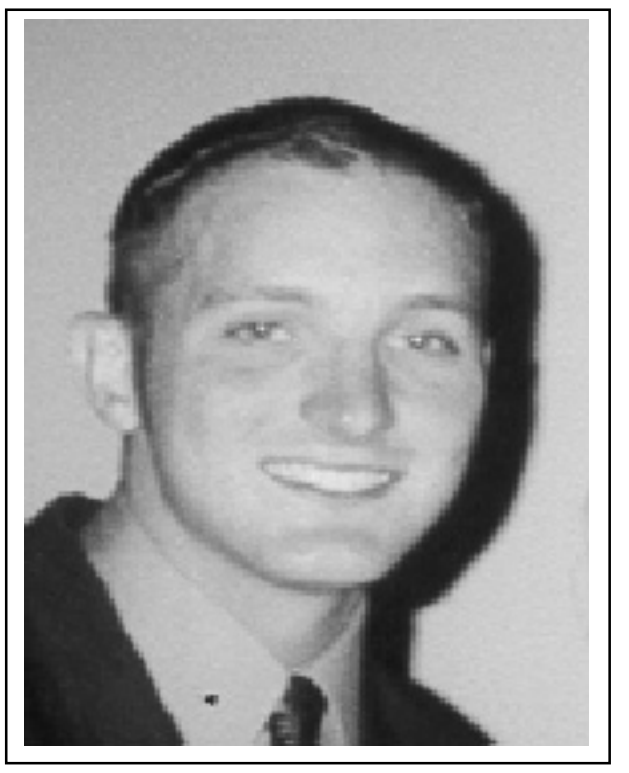
First off there are five Caucus Committee Directors, whose main purpose will be to relay information and answer questions that come up during this THON season. They are as follows:Two-location Causcus—Jessica Domminick, Northeast Caucus—Lyndsey Bowen, Northwest Caucus—Michele McLaren, Southease Caucus—Melissa Mimidis, Southwest Caucus—Regina Kret.

Next, there are two Finance Directors whose job is to handle all of the money. They will be having a detailed and organized portfolio that will be updated every time any form of donation is brought to us. Ultimately, the donations end up with the Overall THON Committee. Patricia Neal and William Mitchell will assume these positions this year.

The next set of directors is the Morale Directors. Their main purpose is to keep everyone enthusiastic about Dance Marathon. Also, they will be working on a Spirit Award in which the campuses will participate in for THON 2001. They are Livia Ball and Jeanette Schreiber.

Lastly, there are four Programming Directors at your disposal. Their main goals are to set up the day retreat in December and the overnight retreat in January in which the dancers and chairs of each campus must attend. The Programming Directors are Maria Finowicz, Jennifer Bernick, Molly Ammerman, Jeanine Dormer.

These people are here for you to utilize, so do just that. They are willing and able to help in any way they can. So, use them to your advantage and make THON a great success throughout the Commonwealth. Remember that our lives change on October 20, 2000 when we realize that it is FOR THE KIDS!!!!!



Paul Mihalko, THON Committee Director

Penn State York's Health Awareness

By: Julia Danner

Penn State York has some interesting plans for the near future! There were many issues covered at the last Student Government Association meeting that will surely benefit the students.

The York campus does not currently have a nurse on duty, however, after the discussion at the first meeting of the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments, this may change very soon.

Another potential addition would be a debit system in the Lion's Den, the campus's cafeteria. Although the majority of students from the campus are commuters, this feature would be just as beneficial to them as it would be for those who live on campus. Money is added to an account, which is linked to the student's ID+ card. This way, they do not have to carry cash and they also move through the line more rapidly. Along with the debit system may come better prices and flexible hours, all of which are in the work now.

A blood drive was held on September 18 in the Joe and Rosie Ruhl Student Community Center tended by York Hospital. There was not much student awareness to the drive and as a result, only a miserable number of 35 students, a microscopical fraction of York campus' population donated blood. York Hospital will be back on campus for the Health Fair, where they will take names and schedule appointments for the spring blood drive. Students are strongly urged to donate every chance they get because the blood supply in this area is extremely low.

Not only is availability of blood a problem in the York area, but so is depression and the many times it is overlooked. National Depression Screening Day is scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 2000. The campus' counseling referral agency, Polly Rost and Associates, will be sponsoring an open house at their offices. The address is 807 S George St., York, PA 17403. The times are from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. with activities ranging from screenings to detect depression to identifying causes of depression in people's lives. Informative printed materials, videotapes, and counselors are also some of the benefits of this event. For directions to the office or information on other campus activities, please contact student affairs at 717-771-4045.

Haunted Forest at Wilkes-Barre

Article Taken from The Collegian, A Publication of Penn State Wilkes-Barre

The Haunted Forest, Penn State Wilkes-Barre's annual Halloween fund-raiser, will be held on the last two weekends of October this year. The project, which benefits kids with cancer, will run from Oct. 20-22, and again from Oct. 27-29.

Organizers hope to convert the trail through the arboretum, this fall, into a frightening path of scary surprises meant to startle and spook anybody who dares venture across campus during the nights of the Haunted Forest. While that sounds intimidating, the event attracts children of all ages with its innocent brand of frightful fun. Traditionally, the Haunted Forest has been Penn State Wilkes-Barre's largest fundraiser for kids with cancer.

Tapping Into Penn State Potential

By Paula Marinak
Capital Times Staff Writer
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The Capital Times

Members of the Penn State Harrisburg community who have met Dr. Madlyn Hanes describe the new provost and dean as a talented, energetic visionary with the knowledge and skills to lead the College into the new millennium. Hanes officially joined the administration on July 1. She replaced Dr. John Leathers, who is now the interim dean of the Commonwealth College, which serves Penn State's 12 undergraduate campuses.

Dr. Harold Shill, director of the Capital College libraries, said of the new executive officer, "She is one of those special leaders who can energize a community. I think she sees great potential at this College.
I think she is the right leader at the right time."

Dr. Janet Widoff, director of student affairs at PSH, agreed with her colleague. "Dr. Hanes' leadership provides an opportunity for the college community to look at new ideas, programs, and services to expand the ways that we serve students," she said. Widoff added that beginnings, whether they signal the start of a new school year, a new administration, or both, "always hold the promise of discovery for our
campus."

Hanes looks forward to the challenges her new post will bring. Her job requires her to oversee every aspect of operating the school, providing all necessary educational and support services for students, faculty, and staff. Her office must also maintain close ties between PSH and the other Penn State campuses, as well as continuing good relations with PSH alumni.

Hanes said she feels very fortunate to come to Penn State Harrisburg at what she calls "an opportune time," when the entire university is beginning its next cycle of strategic planning. Strategic planning, Hanes explained, is an opportunity for the College to set goals and create a road map for the next five years.

The new provost said one of her main goals is to improve Penn State Harrisburg's visibility in the surrounding community. Among the school's assets, Hanes listed a varied curriculum, talented faculty, and a dynamic
atmosphere. "But," she stressed, "you can't just rest on your laurels and assume everyone knows who you are, where you're located, and what you have to offer."

She encouraged current and former students to play an active role in guaranteeing the College's continued success and growth. "We have to look to students and alumni to tell our story and help us get better so we're no longer a best-kept secret," she added.

Since taking the helm at Penn State Harrisburg, Hanes believes one of the greatest challenges facing this campus five years from now and beyond is "to provide access and ensure quality. We need to hire the best faculty and make sure students, faculty, and staff can do their best possible job," she said.

The newest addition to PSH cited strategy and deliberation as crucial elements in her office's mission to provide a comprehensive, timely education for current and prospective students so they can make a successful transition to the job market or a graduate degree program. She knows cooperation among all Penn State campuses will be the key to realizing that goal. Hanes pledged to add programs, at the undergraduate and graduate levels, whenever the school had the resources to meet students' interests and
needs. She anticipates that the Capital campus may eventually offer complete baccalaureate programs in "high needs areas" like information technology, but no timetable has been established yet. If and when
Hanes' office took such action, and if it succeeded, other fields of study would offer a four-year degree on an as-needed basis.

Penn State Harrisburg's new head administrator may be a newcomer to this campus, but she is well acquainted with the Penn State system. She began working for the University in 1988, where she served as the chief academic officer at Penn State's Delaware County campus. She continued in this post even after signing on for the same position at Penn State Great Valley, the school's graduate campus, in 1995-96.

She also chaired the university-wide Commission for Undergraduate Education for four years prior to joining the administration at Penn State Great Valley. After two years there, Hanes was chosen to head Great Valley's new School of Graduate Professional Studies.

Also in 1998, Hanes received the Penn State University Award for Administrative Excellence. The Great Valley Chamber of Commerce named her Visionary of the Year the following spring.

She brings other equally strong credentials to her new position. Before joining Penn State, Hanes worked as a professor of speech pathology, literacy, and teacher education policy at the University of South
Carolina.

Her major area of academic interest is her work in language and literacy learning. She has co-authored a book on that subject, and another discussing policies relating to teachers' professional development.

Hanes has also written numerous book chapters and articles that deal with various aspects of education.

She additionally served as a consultant to help improve higher education in several foreign countries like Puerto Rico, Ecuador, Israel, and Korea. She currently sits on the state board of the Pennsylvania American Council on Education.

Even with all of her achievements and honors, Hanes remains true to her basic philosophy of education and the ways she hopes it will benefit PSH students.

"I believe that colleges and universities as social institutions have the responsibility and moral imperative to extend access to educational opportunities, and to ensure the quality and relevancy of the
educational experience they provide," said Hanes. "Learning itself should be a liberating and energizing experience…with ample opportunities for continuous growth and development."

Shill said one of Hanes' greatest strengths is that "she seems to care genuinely about people, but she expects excellence."

She has high hopes for the student body. "I want our students to emerge from their college experience ready to pursue their careers and ambitions with confidence...and with the talent and knowledge to make informed and responsible decisions." Hanes said.

Hanes believes that students, faculty, and administrators must work together to help PSH move forward. To that end, she would like to see more open forums where all members of the campus community share ideas and have a voice in shaping the school's future.

"I'd like students to get to know the provost and other chief administrators," said Hanes. "Any way we can do that, and help the College, is time well spent."

"I believe that colleges and universities as social institutions have the responsibility and moral imperative to extend access to educational opportunities, an dto ensure the quality and relevancy of the educational experience they provide." - Dr. Madlyn Hanes

Nineteen Campuses - One University?

By: Robert D. Lipscomb

For many years now, The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments, CCSG, has operated on the premise of "19 Campuses, One University." How true is this premise? Students of the Commonwealth have often been considered unequal to those students at University Park. Along with the students being considered unequal, many of the Commonwealth Locations have facilities unequal or incomparable to those available to students at University Park. This raises even more valid questions; What is being done to rectify the belief that students of the Commonwealth are not equal to students of University Park? Are any steps being taken to upgrade or improve student facilities at the Commonwealth Locations?

One of the aforementioned questions was presented at last months council meeting to two representatives from the Student Affairs department. The question included references to the tuition increases for this and next academic year. With the increases combined for the 2000-01, and the 2001-02 academic years, Penn State University stands to bring in over $70 million. With this massive income, one would think that the University would begin taking steps to improve the quality of the facilities available to students of the Commonwealth. If one were to actually think this, one would be drastically wrong. The University feels that it is the responsibility of each individual Location/College to provide adequate facilities for their respective students.

In a conference held a few years ago, President Spanier was asked the question of whether he felt students of the Commonwealth were equal to those students of University Park, his response was, "The **safe** answer would be yes." If the President of the University doesn't feel that we are all ONE University, how does this affect the outcomes/answers to the other questions presented? That response doesn't reflect very well on President Spanier's reputation, but as for CCSG President Gabriel Bryant's reputation, he feels that we are definitely ONE University.

Although it may not be a shared belief amongst students, faculty, staff, and even administration, that we are ONE University, there is one thing we definitely are: We may well be from the Commonwealth, but without a shadow of a doubt, WE ARE PENN STATE!

The Growing Pains of Berks Campus

By: Jonathan D. Myers

Berks Campus continues to grow rapidly in enrollment each year. This is a welcomed growth, but it is having a troublesome effect on the clubs and organizations.

The Dance Team had a record 45 people sign up this year, a record for any club on Berks Campus. This is an obvious event to celebrate, but unfortunately, it left the captains of the team, Tara Minchin and Alia Harwick, with no one alternative than to set regulations so that not everyone was able to join the team.

This growth has also lead to the development of Interest Housing, which was developed by some student leaders and administrators for the students living in the Residence Halls. This gives the students an opportunity to live with other students that have the same interests as them. One of the goals of the SGA is to unite commuters and residents and the SGA Executive Board is trying to find creative ways to encourage the members of the Interest Houses to involve commuters in their activities.

It has been the goal of Berks Campus to get as many students as possible involved in student life organizations. The problem used to be a lack of student involvement and a lack of organizations. The campus is glad to see that the problem is now on the other extreme and that is a welcomed relief from the past.

State RepresentativeEndorses Sprinkler System Act

The House Labor Relations Committee recently approved the Dormitory Automatic Sprinkler System Act.

State Representative Lynn Herman (State College), a cosponsor of the bill, said the legislation would require all colleges, fraternities and sororities in the state system be equipped with National Fire Protection Association approved automatic sprinkler systems.

"The legislation was introduced in response to a series of incidents in which student deaths resulted from fires in dormitories that were not equipped with automatic sprinkler systems," Herman said.

The incidents included a dormitory fire that occurred in January, 2000 at Seton Hall University in New Jersey that killed 3 students and injured 62, and one at a Bloomsburg University fraternity house in March, 2000 that killed 3 students. Neither of these buildins had automatic sprinkler systems.

"Students and their parents deserve safe accomodations on college campuses," Herman said. "Enactment of this bill could prevent the tragic and needless loss of students' lives at Penn State University and other campuses in the state."

Herman spoke in support of the bill at a rally in the Capitol Rotunda organized by sponsors and supporters of the bill including the Pennsylvania Association of professional Firefighters and the Coalition for Safe School Housing.

The legislation establishes a compliance schedule that would require existing dormitories be in compliance with the sprinkler requirement no later than five years from the effective date of the act.

It also permits the Dept. of Labor and Industry to provide an extension of up to two years from the five-year requirement if the college, fraternity or sorority can show that it needs a variance.

Buildings that existed prior to enactment of this bill which are subsequently converted would be required to comply with the requirement before a certificate of occupancy could be issued.

Dormitories that existed prior to the effective date that are renovated at a cost in excess of 25 percent of their taxable value would be required to be in compliance before an occupancy permit could be issured. Dormitories constructed after the effective date would be required to be in compliance with the sprinkler requirement.

The legislation would require the department a program to provide low-interest loans for the installation of sprinkler systems; the loans would be at a 2 percent interest rate and would have to be repaid within 15 years.

The loans would be available to public and private colleges as well as fraternities and sororities affected by the bill. A fund would be created in the State Treasury to be known as the "Sprinkler Loan Fund" from which loans would be distributed.

The legislation proposes appropriating $100 million from the General Fund to the Sprinkler Loan Fund. Violations of the act would be summary offenses and each day of violation would be a separate violation.

Herman said committee approval means the legislation may be considered on the House floor next week.



New Kensington's First Homecoming Celebration

By: Karen Bridge

Penn State New Kensington is beaming with joy because of the success of its first Homecoming Celebration held September 21-23. Homecoming started with a dinner at Hillcrest Country Club in Lower Burrell. The dinner's theme was "Create A Legacy." Events included a silent auction and a public auction, which featured a sweater knitted by the CEO, Dr. Rush, and a painting by the campus art professor. The auctions benefited the Penn State New Kensington Scholarship Fund. In attendance were alumni, community leaders, administrators, faculty, staff and students. Mr. Regan and Miss Simon, who were recipients of scholarships, spoke of how the scholarship funding has helped them.

The campus held a faculty reception on September 22 in our newly remodeled Art Gallery. This allowed new and old faculty to get to know each other and allowed students to meet the faculty. While the students were socializing, they were enjoying the lovely artwork by Martha Corson. The exhibit ran from September 22 through the end of the month.

Later that evening, New Kensington's undefeated Women's Volleyball Team took on Penn State Beaver. It was fan appreciation night and pizza was served. The Lady Lions of New Kensington defeated Penn State Beaver by a score of 3-0. After the game, everyone headed to the cafe for the Homecoming Dance where a DJ and refreshments were awaiting the crowd. Many people attended the dance, and it was a blast.

Saturday started out with Alumni Reunions and breakfast in our gymnasium. Graduates from 1960 - 2000 attended the reception.

At 11:30a.m. the 40-year committee dedicated new benches for the campus patio. There was a Magnolia Tree dedicated in honor of Dr. Theodore T. Ziegenfus, an instructor at Penn State New Kensington who passed away last November. Teachers, staff and students recalled their many fond memories of him. It was a very nice way to remember the professor of biology, whose favorite tree was magnolia.

At noon, Penn State New Kensington held a children's lunch with the Nittany Lion mascot. The children enjoyed a clown with balloon sculptures, a face painter and having their pictures taken with the Lion. Many children left lunch with a balloon hat and a paw print painted on their face.

After lunch, attendees were able to take a guided tour of New Kensington's Nature Trail, guided by Dr. William Hamilton, assistant professor of biology. A virtual trip of Penn State New Kensington's Nature trail is available at www.nk.psu.edu/naturetrail/.

The festivities continued with the watching of Penn State versus Ohio State Football Game. At half-time the annual Blue White Spotlight Awards were presented. The first Homecoming Celebration turned out to be a success. We hope to make this an annual event for the future.

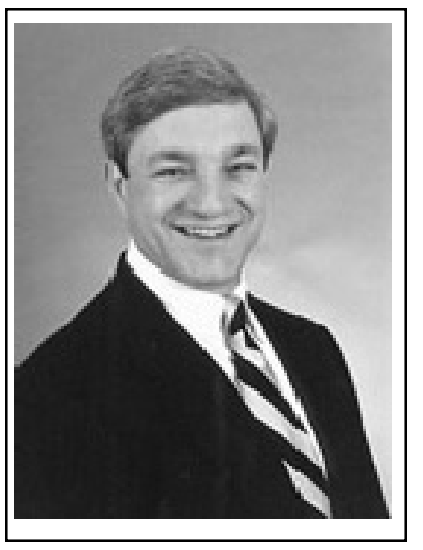
Spanier to Visit Penn State McKeesport

By: Kevin Homan

With classes and activities going better than ever at Penn State McKeesport, faculty staff and students are preparing for a visit by Dr. Graham Spanier, President of the University. On Oct. 10, Dr. Spanier will address students, faculty and staff to start the beginning of the campus' building of a new Union Building.

Sometime after the end of the Spring 2001 semester the current Union Building, the Buck Union Building (BUB) will be torn down and a new one will be put up in its place. The project is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of the Fall 2002 semester.

Students, faculty, staff and alumni have been invited to the event, which will be held in the Buck Union Building stage area. Groups and people who have donated or are capable of donating money for the new union building will also be attending this event. Not wanting to leave the attending crowd un-entertained, Penn State McKeesport's jazz ensemble will play music while the campuses gospel choir will provide the voices to match.



President Graham Spanier will visit the McKeesport Campus for the beginning of the building of the new Union Building

Penn State Mont Alto's Achievements

By: Loretta Scott

Penn State Mont Alto has been very busy preparing for their Voter Registration Drive that was held on September 28, 2000. The Student Government Association had free hot chocolate, lollypops, and for every 20th person that registered to vote a $10 gift certificate donated by our Book Store. A phenomenal turn out resulted in 100 students registering to vote, 5 filling out absentee ballots, and many more taking the flyers to go on the web and register there. Besides getting everyone ready to vote, the Student Government Association (SGA) is also preparing them for a fun October.

In October, Penn State Mont Alto has some scary events in store. The "Dungeon of Doom," which will be held in the bookstore, will have a storyteller and a costume contest. There will also be haunted halls, were the residences of each hall try to outdo the other halls in decorating. And then, to make sure that everyone can make it home during fall break, Mont Alto will test run its new transportation program.

The program is going to do its first run to the Harrisburg bus/train station on Friday, Oct 7, in the early evening. The plan is to see how students utilize this awesome service.

On Oct 3, Volunteer Club held a Blood Drive, with hopes to beat Mont Alto's goal of 75 pints. The Student Government Association also wants to congratulate our Student Government Advisor, Ms. Andrea Christopher, who at the beginning of September celebrated 25 years of continuous service to the Students of Penn State Mont Alto.



New Business Degree Available at Behrend

By: Steve Marroni
Staff Writer – The Behrend Beacon

Behrend students can now enroll in International Business, a new major added to the School of Business this semester.

"The economy is becoming globalized," said Dr. Kenneth Louie, associate professor of economics and in-charge faculty member of the International Business major. "We wanted a program that would give [students] not only the classroom theory, but also practical, hands-on application with respect to globalization."

According to Louie, when students major in International Business, they must have a second major as well. The course requirements include four major international business courses in economics, finance, marketing and management. A foreign language and at least three credits studied abroad are also needed to complete the major.

"We feel that package will expose the students to a very important [understanding of the] contemporary business environment," Louie said.

"I think the program they have here is set up very, very well," said Majoris, a third semester student planning to change her major from communications to International Business. "[With having to choose] another business major, that's going to make me more marketable as a graduate."

With two majors and some time abroad, International Business may seem like a difficult major to take if one plans to graduate in four years. "It's possible. You just have to be serious about it," Majoris said. "I have a full schedule all the time. You have to be a student and know what your goals are. You have to look ahead and make a schedule of all the classes you need to take and how long it will take you to take them. I'm definitely squeezing it."

"We're getting quite a bit of interest," Louie said. "We are having a lot of requests for information. We expect it to grow substantially as the major progresses in the next couple of years."

Penn State's Lost Hero

By: Patrick Abdalla

When people think of Penn State athletics they often think of football players like Franco Harris, Jack Hamm, and O.J. McDuffie. Most people don't know our school's first true athletic hero was a baseball player.

John Montgomery Ward is one of the forgotten legends of our school and our Nation's pastime. He was a pioneer on and off the field.

Ward came to Penn State in the late 1800's in hopes of pursuing a college education, but he soon found out he had other talents. The Bellefonte native's dilemma became public on July 13, 1877, when the Bellefonte Democratic Watchmen reported "Monte Ward... has become a hired baseball pitcher...Mr. Ward pitched in a trial game for the Philadelphia Athletics on Saturday, last week and won high praise." The Newspaper encouraged him to change his mind, stating "Nevertheless, Monte, quit it and go to your books again."

Why was the paper making such a fuss? No one had ever decided to play baseball instead of going to college. The money wasn't the same then, his first salary was $20 per week.

He might have never changed his mind, but he changed the game of baseball.

He pitched his first game in July of 1878 shutting out Indianapolis, a major league club at that time, 4-0. After his first six years, Ward was considered one of the best pitchers of all time, already winning 155 games and pitching 25 shut outs. Then something horrible happened.

In a pick-off play he tore his arm. Just when it looked like his career was over he asked to play second base. He soon became the best second basemen in the league. He could run, as proven by 600 career stolen bases, leading the league 3 times. He also collected 2100 hits and scored 1400 runs. He was easily the best defensive second basemen at a time when the players didn't use gloves!

After his playing career ended, Mr. Ward became a manager and organized the first players union. He also organized the Players League, to compete with the National League so that players could earn fair salaries.

The only player in major league history to win more than 100 games and collect over 2000 hits is Penn State's own John Montgomery Ward.

Wilkes-Barre Commons May Undergo Renovations

By: Kevin Kazokas

Faced with a need to alleviate the cramped conditions that exist in the Commons student lounge, campus officials are pushing forward with plans to expand the building, in hopes that renovations may begin within at least a year. Administrators view the project as an opportunity to make the Commons a more attractive area to students, citing outcomes that include a larger student dining section, a better equipped cafeteria kitchen, and an environment conducive to both studying and entertainment.

According to Eugene Danowski, Director of Finance and Business Services at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, the university has approved $15,000 in funding for the purpose of commissioning an architect for the renovation design. The money comes from central funding at University Park as part of its budget allocations for the Housing and Food Services division of the university.

So far, Danowski said, some preliminary design ideas, suggested by an architect during a walk-through of the Commons, are under consideration. One of those ideas involves flip-flopping the game room with the cafeteria, which would create the space required to add sixty additional seats to the student dining area. However, Danowski stressed that this concept remains just one of the several options presented to campus officials.

Over the past few years, seating shortages, a limited variety of food selection, and the lack of a quiet study area have prompted many students to dine off campus, in an effort to escape the overcrowded an dnoisy lunch periods at the Commons. Now, the proposed renovation project, which seeks to correct these issues, has some staff members envisioning a modern, luxurious campus lounge that would offer students all the necessary amenities.

"We could offer a much nicer assortment if we had an expanded display area," said Denise Galeano, who heads the cafeteria staff. According to Galeano, a spacious cafeteria would allow the staff enough room to expand the hot entrée table and provide students with a better selection of food. In addition, Galeano suggests the idea of incorporating various food stations, such as multiple pizza or coffee stations, throughout the dining area, in an effort to reduce the hassles of a single lunch line.

Currently, cafeteria workers must spend their days in tight kitchen quarters. Galeano hopes the renovation will yield a much less constructive environment. She said a bigger kitchen would mean more room for food refrigeration, as well as a better working area.

In addition to cafeteria duties, Galeano and her staff also provide catering services for celebrations and receptions booked on this campus. For these events, the staff must prepare food in a kitchen about the size ofa closet located in the Hayfield building. Galeano contends that the renovation project will facilitate both catering and the daily duties of cafeteria staff members.

For Jackie Warnick-Piatt, the Student Activities Director at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, a revamped Commons means a chance to provide students with more entertainment and activities on a regular basis. According to Warnick-Piatt, the space constraints prove cumbersome when she attempts to coordinate certain on-campus events, such as lunchtime concerts.

"A number of the performers I would like to book, I can't because of space requirements and lighting," she said. Warnick-Piatt hopes that a built-in stage will be part of the renovations.

"Currently we use risers, which are fine," she said, "But they just look unprofessional." Warnick-Piatt suggests that with a stage, a moderate sound system, a better lighting, the Comons would be an attractive venue for performers, resulting in more entertainment for students. She cited Marywood University's recently remodeled café, which includes carpeting and an eight-inch riser for performances, as a parallel for an ideally redesigned Commons.

Warnick-Piatt also hopes the revisions bring booths and freestanding tables to the dining area, with room to seat about 150 people. Beyond that, she stated the importance of adding a "good, secure storage area."

Galeano added that a tiered seating design would benefit students. She suggests adding another level of seats, possibly a designated study area, where students could do their homework in a quiet environent.

Most students agree that bigger is better. "A bigger bookstore would be nice," said sophomore Amanda Adams. Student suggestions range from expanding the cafeteria to enlarging the game room, to increasing the size of the radio club booth.

Both staff members and students stressed the need for air-conditioning. According to Matt Lieb of the radio club, the hot-water pipes which extend through the radio club booth, combined with the heat can "make it unbearable."

Danowski said recommendations from staff members and students will be taken into consideration before officials commission a final architectural design.

Three More Four-Year Degrees at Altoona

By: Steph Terrell
Altoona Collegiate Review Features Editor

Up until a few years ago, Penn State Altoona was only a two-year school. Students would come for their first two years, and then go to University Park to finish their college education, or graduate in Altoona with an Associate Degree.

In the past few years, things have changed around the campus. Majors such as Criminal Justice, English and Nursing were offered as four-year programs in Altoona. Now, there are ten majors that students can complete at Altoona campus. Three of these majors are new this fall semester: Environmental Studies, Integrative Arts and Science.

The goal of the Environmental Studies major is to help students better understand the relationship between people and the environment we live in. Already this semester the students in an Environmental Studies class took a trip to Youghioghney River and went white water rafting. This is just one of the many highlights this major has to offer. Internships are also available for those that are interested.

Integrative Arts is the only art major that is offered in Altoona. For those that don't know about Integrative Arts, it is a major where a student can take classes in more than one type of an art form. This is a rather flexible major. There are video, photo and computer design classes that students can take in Altoona. The job opportunities for an InArt major are vast. With a degree in this major, one could find a job anywhere from web development to theater performance.

The Science major offers four options: Life Science, Mathematical Science, Physical Science and General Options. These four options guide the students in the right direction for whatever path they choose to take later in life. One could go on to medical or law school after completing the Science major at Altoona.

Penn State Altoona is growing year by year. It is inevitable that in the coming years more four-year programs will be offered. This is good for those that want a degree from a well-known school,, but don't want the hassle of a huge campus.



OUR MISSION IS TO SERVE ALUMNI. BUT WE DON'T LET THAT STOP US.



While it is true that we are the Alumni Association, we've always felt it is our duty to help students get the most out of their Penn State Experience.

We don't necessarily like to brag, but we thought it was important to let you know what we do for students.

Of Course, we have mentoring and networking programs like FastSTart and LionLink. and there's the Lion Ambassadors, Penn State's award-winning student-alumni corps.

But besides that, we offer undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships, helping hundreds of students and totaling nearly fifty thousand dollars annually. We also encourage our 200 chapters, and our 30 college and campus societies to endow scholarships to help deserving students.

We've contributed millions of dollars to projects that are essential to all students - the University Libraries expansion for example.

Then there are dozens of student organizations that we sponsor or help with special projects - this issue of the Councillor, to name a good one.

What do we get out of it? We like to consider students as a worthshile investment... besides, we were students once ourselves.

Penn State
Alumni Association

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