**Guns on Campus?**

**Danielle Ramsay**

After evaluating this campus’s crime rate and meeting with students, the Campus Policy and Planning Advisory Committee has suggested that the Mont Alto campus police officers be armed. Upon approval from Tom Harmon, Penn State’s Director of Police Services, three of the seven current members of the Mont Alto police services department will be carrying a handgun.

Under the present system, the campus police are authorized to make arrests and are required to attend annual firearms training, but cannot carry a firearm and must rely on the state police for armed support. It can take up to thirty minutes for the state police to respond to a call from the Mont Alto campus. Some feel this is too long to ensure the safety of students. Attitudes about the move are mixed. Some feel the change is necessary to avert potentially life-threatening situations. Others argue that the push to arm campus police promotes a culture of fear and that arming campus police might actually increase the potential danger to students.

Mont Alto Police Chief James Sourbier claims that when students need help, they don’t expect “a marked police car, an officer in uniform who’s carrying his nightstick, and his pepper spray, and his handcuffs… and no gun.” One student was surprised to find that campus police officers were not already armed: “Police better be armed: “Police better be carrying a handgun.”

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**Students speak out**

**Debate over spending of SAF**

Andrea Christopher, Mont Alto’s Director of Student Affairs, sent out an email this summer informing students that UP had released $6000 in student activity fee (SAF) money to Mont Alto and asked for ideas about what to spend it on before the deadline. Christopher’s email stirred a heated debate between two highly-visible Mont Alto students: Zack Mentz and Jim Vomero.

Mentz argues that “with 1,100 students enrolled last semester, there should have been $42,900 to be allocated back to the students [in SAF]. Out of that money, according to Andrea, only about 85% was spent on the students … why did we not get this money sooner?”

Vomero explains that “the budget officer for the university estimates the amount of money we will have for SAF. This is the number Mont Alto’s committee works with all year. Unfortunately, this leaves room for error. In Mont Alto’s history, there has always been money left over.”

“So where is all the money from the previous years?” Mentz wants to know.

Vomero claims that “every cent since the creation of the fee has been tracked and is public knowledge. The money is kept official and have him or her mail a form to you. Within three weeks, you should receive a response telling you where you can vote and what time the polls open in your area.

If you are not going to be in the area on Election Day, absentee ballots can be downloaded and printed from either of the previously mentioned websites. You can also contact your local city or county election official or registrar and have one sent to you. This phone number can be found in the blue government pages of the phone book.

If you are away at school, you must obtain an absentee ballot form to you. Within three weeks, you should receive a response telling you where you can vote and what time the polls open in your area.

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Letter from the Editor

I have been working on this first issue since May when Jim Vomero, last year’s SGA President, approached me about establishing a campus newspaper. I have had to learn as I go, having no training in the newspaper industry. The experience I have gained from working on this project is invaluable.

There are several people to whom I owe thanks for helping me with this endeavor. Dan Mroz and Staci Willhide from IT have gone out of their way to provide equipment and support. Matt Hass and Josh Klenzinger from SGA have been supporters from the beginning. A special thanks to the library staff for giving us space to work. Certainly, this newspaper would not have been possible if it were not for the advice and encouragement given to me by Dr. Boon and Dr. Dendle.

Funding for the printing of this issue was provided by SGA, for which we are very grateful.

To the staff: It was your hard work and effort that made this newspaper happen. The Fourth Wall is fortunate to have such dedicated writers and looks forward to attracting more contributors from the student community.

Danielle Ramsay
Editor-in-Chief

Mission Statement

The Fourth Wall was established to provide a responsible forum for dialogue within the student community and for the free expression of considered ideas; to build community; to promote student involvement in activities and issues that have an impact on students’ lives; and to disseminate information about campus activities, organizations and events. This is our chance, as students, to say what we really think.

Announcements:

Currently seeking contributors

The Fourth Wall is seeking writers for all sections, including sports and arts & entertainment. We also need general writers on assignment and general article writers. There are openings for regular columns, such as a political column, humor column, advice column, and cartoons. All students are welcome regardless of major. Writers are not required to submit articles on a regular basis.

To make this paper successful, we need you to participate by writing in your opinions, concerns, and comments. Interested parties should send emails to fourthwall@psu.edu.

There will be a meeting for Adult Learners on Tuesday October 12 from 2:30-3:30 in the Wiestling Student Center.

This Month...

Cumberland Valley Women's Conference
“Healthy Women: Mind-Body-Spirit”
Saturday October 30
Workshops such as Making Memory Quilts, and Basic Feng Shui.
Also free blood pressure screenings, bone density scans and many more door prizes.

“Be part of a movement of realization of potential of women.”
Contact Alice Royer at 749-6234 or axr24@psu.edu for more information

Students wishing to place advertisements may submit them to fourthwall@psu.edu for consideration. This is a free service for students.

“The Fourth Wall” for the Fourth Estate

Prof. Kevin Boon

“The Fourth Wall” is a theatrical term referring to the imaginary wall between actors on a stage and an audience. The term refers to part of a proscenium theatre, one of three main theatre designs.

Most stages have historically been designed as arenas, thrust stages, or prosceniums. All three types refer to the relationship between a stage where performances occur and an audience. Arena theatres are comprised of stage surrounded on all sides by the audience. Theatre in the round is performed in an arena theatre. Thrust stage theatres use one wall as a backdrop to the performance and surround the stage on three sides with the audience.

A proscenium theatre positions an audience on only one side of the stage, leaving three walls to frame the performance. Nearly all modern theatres are designed this way, but the first permanent proscenium theatre was not built until 1618 when the Teatro Farnese was in the Palazzo della Pilotta.

The term “The Fourth Wall,” which came into vogue just after the American Civil War, refers to more than the missing fourth wall that allows the audience to view the performance. The term implies a relationship between the drama and the audience, one that is unbroken by direct acknowledgement of the audience’s presence. Prior to the American Civil War, it was common for actors to deliver speeches directly to the audience. In modern theatre this is referred to as “breaking the fourth wall.”

Since the growth of motion pictures in the twentieth century, “The Fourth Wall” has come to signify an imaginary separation between audience and performance, or between those who observe and those who are observed. Performers act as if the fourth wall is not there, as if their actions cannot be seen, while an audience peers through the fourth wall at the action. This relationship marks the term’s relevance as a name for a newspaper.

The strength of a news source in a free democracy is its unrestricted access to the actions of ruling bodies and its power to comment on those actions without fear of reprisal. A public press (sometimes referred to as the “fourth estate”) is both a platform for the free exchange of ideas and a “fourth wall” into the machinations of governing bodies. A free and public press has the power to observe actions and discussions that might otherwise take place in closed rooms. The press in a free society operates as a fourth wall through which that society’s citizens view the actions of its government. The fourth estate is a fourth wall for the people.

In naming the Mont Alto newspaper “The Fourth Wall,” the editors are putting the newspaper forth as a window into the Mont Alto campus society, a means by which students can view the inner workings of their campus and university and, conversely, a means by which the university can learn what is on the minds of its students.

The Fourth Wall

The Fourth Wall is the monthly student newspaper for the Mont Alto campus of The Pennsylvania State University. Letters to the Editor, comments, and queries may be addressed to Danielle Ramsay, Editor-in-Chief (dar262@psu.edu). Mail can be sent to The Fourth Wall, Campus Life Office, 1 Campus Dr., Pennsylvania State University Mont Alto, Mont Alto PA 17237.

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Artist: Zack Mentz (zdm104@psu.edu)
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Emails can also be addressed to fourthwall@psu.edu. Editorial offices are located in Library 204.
Kerry or Bush? Candidates Prepare for November Decision in Divided Nation

Travis Johnson

Somewhere, as you read this, President George W. Bush is campaigning for his re-election to serve a second term in the White House. Meanwhile, Massachusetts Senator John Kerry can be found in another location, speaking to the masses in hopes that his platform will appeal and win him the Presidency.

Formal campaigning began with the Democratic and Republican National Conventions late this summer. Held in Boston and New York respectively, conventions attracted party supporters and critics alike. President Bush, the incumbent Republican nominee, alongside Vice President Dick Cheney is focusing his campaign on the war on terror, his resolve in removing Dictator Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq, and his unyielding stance on the economy. The administration insists that his decisions have created a surge in job creation and economic growth. Senator Kerry, with running mate John Edwards by his side, is also an advocate of job creation and economic growth. He has continually blasted the President, highlighting key evidence such as the growing national deficit estimated at 422 billion dollars, and record unemployment rates across the nation. Kerry claims that once in office, he will cut the deficit in half by reducing Bush's tax cuts. He has also stated that he will create more jobs by offering incentives to workers and by making health care more readily available.

Kerry has criticized Bush's policy on Iraq. A former veteran of Vietnam, Kerry strongly recommends the gradual removal of troops from the newly liberated country and greater international involvement. Bush has remained unmoving on his Iraq policy, insisting that the job isn't finished.

President Bush claims that his administration's war on terror has made the world a safer place for the U.S. and its allies. He also states that Kerry has been a “flip-flopper” when it comes to national security and would not provide protection for the American people.

In response to Kerry's criticism of the Bush economy, the current administration states that job growth is now becoming evident and the economy is improving as a result of tax cuts.

SGA Supports Student Interests

Josh Klenzing

The Student Government Association (SGA) is a student run organization that supports the student body, its clubs, and campus activities; it is the voice of the student body.

Transferring into college life is difficult for any student. SGA is here to support students as they settle in to their new roles. Incoming freshmen have to become acquainted with the campus, clubs, activities, and their new roles as college students. Returning students can act as role models for new students.

A group of student leaders, including SGA officers, attended the Penn State Annual Leadership Conference last August. There they met Tony D’Angelo, a motivational speaker, who contends that “Most college students get a degree, but not an education.” Extra curricular activities and involvement in the campus community are part of that education.

Your 2004-2005 SGA Officers are: President, Matthew Hass (mch214@psu.edu), Vice President, Josh Klenzing (jlk482), Communication Coordinator, Megan Kuhn (mlk290), Treasurer, Andy Hess (ajh274), CAMP Chair, Tim Gaines (tgg112), Freshman Representative, Kristin Nielsen (kbn5003), Senator, Leah Mattei (imm345), Senator, Ian Moore (icml111), Senator, Nolan Fontaine (nfl135), and Senator Ian Wintemyer (irw101). The group is advised by Andrea Christopher, Director of Student Affairs.

Opinion from page 1

Why are you voting for that candidate?

- “I think they are both idiots and I personally wouldn’t vote for either”
- “Go vote!!!”
- “Bush rules”
- “I would vote for John Kerry because he will create jobs, money for social security and healthcare, and bring the surplus back up”
- “I think John is the best man for the job”
- “This is a key election for our future as college students. These men and the people under them will effect the rest of our future”
- “George Bush is the Devil’s Minion”
- “No real reason (they both suck). I know what Bush has done and I know where he sands on terrorism”

[27.5% of respondents claimed they were voting for the party, 50% because of certain issues, 22.5% other]

Survey by Tamara Clark

unless you plan to travel home on Election Day. Some states have restrictions such as requiring new voters to cast their votes in person, or restricting those who register by mail from receiving absentee ballots. Check with your local voting officials to see if any of these restrictions apply to you.

In most states, absentee ballots must be completed thirty days before Election Day. Check out www.vote-smart.org or www.npr.org/politics/issues 2004 to find out about this year's candidates and what they have to say about issues that affect all of us everyday.
Review

Christian Santos

Taking Back Sunday

Where You Want To Be

Those who have heard 2002’s Tell All Your Friends are familiar with the Amityville, Long Island band’s straight forward punk-emoc sound. This time around, however, die hard fans of that album might be a little disappointed to find something missing: the raw intensity and pulse pounding energy that established the band two years ago.

Where You Want To Be seems to fall short with its constant repetition of lyrics. Every single track on the album has some sort of annoying refrain. The final track “…Slow Dance on the Inside,” ends with: “tonight won’t make a difference” for what seems to be forever.

The ninth track on the album, “Number Five with a Bullet” resembles the sound of an MTV anthem with its extreme pop appeal.

The two songs that almost save this album are its opener, “Set Phasers to Stun” (with its powerful reggae-like guitar chops; reminiscent of a Police song on steroids) and “The Union,” simply because of its aggressive energy and personal lyrics: “Well who did you call to get this? Well is it who I think it is? I swear to god I’m gonna kill him”

Unfortunately, Taking Back Sunday’s sophomore effort with Where You Want to Be sounds like a softer, more commercial version of Tell All Your Friends. Unless you’re a proud member of the teeny bopper community, tell all your friends to stay away from this one.

Review

Christian Santos

1* To Die

James Patterson

James Patterson (Along Came a Spider, Kiss the Girls) delves into the head of determined San Francisco homicide detective, Lindsay Boxer, and invites the reader along on her search for a psychopath who is murdering newly wed couples.

Patterson’s style of describing every single detail builds up the kind of suspense and tension that evokes the reader’s total attention.

On top of her turbulent journey for the killer, Boxer also struggles with the fact that she has been infected with Negli’s aplastic anemia, a rare disease where one’s body gives up on manufacturing red blood cells.

Lindsay is accompanied on her investigation by three other women: Claire, a medical examiner, Jill, an assistant D.A., and Cindy, a crime reporter. Together, the girls form a club and meet up regularly to solve the mystery piece by piece.

Patterson also jumps into the mind of the disturbed killer who patterns the murders after a novel. The witty, sophisticated, and personal touches put in this book helped make it to the New York Times #1 bestseller list back in 2001 and proves it’s recognition with every page.

Review: “Exorcist: The Beginning” Hopefully the End

Christian Santos

Directed by Renny Harlin

Starring Stellan Stargard, Izabella Scorupco, Remy Sweeney

The film tells the story of Lancaster Merrin’s first encounter with the devil during an archeological visit to Africa. Though the premise of the film sounds promising, the directing ruins everything. After about four flashbacks of a grueling experience Merrin has during the Holocaust, the movie almost totally loses its appeal.

Writer Alexi Hawley loosely follows the same formula as the brilliant William Peter Bladdy once did; the devil uses Father Merrin’s guilt against him much like he did with Father Carass.

In one scene, a possessed woman straddles Merrin and gives him an ear full of profanity. Unfortunately, these antics don’t have the shock value they did years ago.

On top of being a little boring, the plot lacks much originality. Another version of the film was shot by Paul Shrader and will be released on DVD along with this exploitation.

It seems some people really don’t know when to leave well enough alone. Renny Harlin (Cliff Hanger) lends a hand in yet another horrible installment to one of the scariest films ever made. Exorcist: The Beginning is a prequel to the 1974 William Friedken classic.

Review: Taking Back Sunday – Where You Want To Be

Christian Santos

Where You Want To Be

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A Solid Phinish: Calling it Quits

Mehdi Raoufi

Phish has decided to retire after twenty-one years, nine albums, and a limitless number of bootlegs of their concerts and the art of the jam band by combining jazz, rock, classical, and folk - bringing music to a whole new level. Since 1983, Phish has used this art in their unique improvisational live shows to their benefit and they amassed a following.

Members of Phish thought it best to go out while still on top. They secured this position with a farewell tour in their hometown of Coventry, Vermont at the end of August, just two days after the release of their final album Undermind.

Phish will be missed; however, their many recordings will live on and keep the spirit alive.

“We all love and respect Phish and the Phish audience far too much to stand by and allow it to drag on beyond the point of vibrancy and health. We don’t want to become caricatures of ourselves or, worse yet, a nostalgia act...It’s been an amazing and incredible journey. We thank you for all the love and support that you’ve shown us.”

- Trey Anastasio May 2004
On Campus

Campus Comedian

Corey White

On Tuesday September 14, Comedian Michael Dean Ester performed in the new Weistling Student Center. The lounge atmosphere of the new interior added to the audience’s anticipation before the show.

Ester started the show off well, but with minimal response from the audience. When he lowered his guard and began talking about the interests of college students, he soon had everyone laughing.

Probably his best strategy was to ask the audience questions throughout the show and base his jokes on their responses. It showed his originality. Once he got the feel of the audience, he was entertaining.

Halfway through the show, he made mention to the topic of terrorism. He said that many comedians wouldn’t touch the subject out of fear for how audiences might react. He said that by attending college, enjoying campus events (such as his), making friends, and not living in fear, we were fighting terrorism. He acknowledged audience members who were part of, or had family or friends in, the military, and he applauded them all. It was a commendable approach.

The students who attended the show, many who came only because there was nothing else to do on campus, were shocked to find the show was better than they had expected from a place as small as Mont Alto.

The success of Ester’s performance should increase attendance at other campus events this year.

Students from page 1

“SAF money can only be spent on students. The [SAF] committee is two-thirds students ... our vote actually matters more than the administration.” Vomero recalls a particular situation last year when “the entire student group voted for the funding of the NYC bus trip and all of the staff/faculty voted against. The faculty/staff didn’t like that the trip was the day before finals. Students won.”

Mentz suggests that “we redistribute that money back to the students.” He proposes a kind of “tax return.”

Vomero says that “one of the goals of SAF is to allocate the fee to the students who generate it. As it goes, there is not a process for giving back money left over.”

On both sides, these students had an opinion, took a stand, and backed it up. This exchange between Vomero and Mentz shows that students on this campus are active and care about what is going on around them.

This newspaper encourages the expression of free speech and student opinion. Anyone that wants to comment on this, or any other issue concerning student affairs, is welcome to write to the editor at fourthwall@psu.edu.

Kickin’ It with the Soccer Team

Corey White

The first game Mont Alto’s 2004 soccer team played was an away game against Penn State Wilkes Barre on September 8. With only ten players, the team walked onto a wet field. The loss of Matt to an injured ankle was a heavy blow for the team. Not giving up, Jeremiah Manifold scored a goal, but it wasn’t enough for the team to pull all the way through at Wilkes Barre. The game ended 3-1, and we begin the season 0-1.

On Saturday, September 11, our second game was held at home against Penn State Delaware County. Even with a strong defense, Delaware was able to take a few shots. We blocked and recovered. Alex Stewart and Cole Daniel both scored and Mont Alto came away with a 2-0 win.

Another home game was held on the 14th against Penn State Schuylkill. Mont Alto started out slow. During halftime, Coach McKinney pushed the team to pick up the pace. Shin Goo and Jeremiah Manifold led the team to a 2-0 victory against Schuylkill.

Alfredo Gonzalez, the team captain, said, “It’s going to take a good team to beat us.

Planning for the Next 100 Years

Jim Vomero

Mont Alto Campus recently celebrated a century of educational excellence through a series of festivals and reunions. The series concluded with the Centennial Fellows Banquet, which recognized the accomplishments of students from the past 100 years. At the same time of this fanfare and celebration, the Alumni and campus community were also looking toward the future by developing the Ten-Year Campus Master Plan.

The Master Planning Committee conducted focus groups that included students, faculty, staff, local business leaders, local industry representatives, Alumni, and many Centennial Fellows. The mission of these individuals was to answer the question “what should Mont Alto Campus look like in ten years?”

The committee started with a vision: to become recognized as one of the best colleges in our region in teaching, learning, research, and outreach. These four areas of concentration became the guideline for the future of Mont Alto. Through a series of meetings, over a span of several months, the committee created the Ten-Year Program Statement. The Program Statement highlights the campus resources and ambitions in several sections including academic programming, student support programming, student life support, demographic influences, competitive pressure, and a property analysis.

Mont Alto currently offers eight associate degree programs and five bachelor degree programs. The most successful of the programs are Nursing, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Therapy. Approximately 25 percent of the students are currently enrolled in these Life Science programs. Continuing education has also played an extensive part of Mont Alto’s programming by offering Weekend College, traditional coursework, and nine credit certificate programs such as Administration of Justice, Health Care Supervisory Leadership and the Paralegal program.

The Program Statement was designed to strengthen the many current academic successes of our campus, while also bringing in new programs that meet the needs of the changing communities and markets. The campus hopes to build on its existing relationships in the allied health fields with the possible addition of an associate degree in Radiological Sciences and foster stronger relationships with area health care providers. Mont Alto also hopes to expand the Human Development and Family see Planning page 6
Where Does Tuition Money Go?

Since Mont Alto doesn't have near the operating expenses that UP has, where is your tuition money going? I haven't a clue – and apparently, neither does anyone else.

Ken Gill, Director of Finance at Mont Alto, was not able to give a breakdown of exactly where the tuition money of a single student goes. The most detailed explanation of tuition dispersion he has ever seen was for the Commonwealth Colleges as a whole and was unable to say where any of Mont Alto’s tuition money goes.

Penn State is comprised of twenty-four campuses across Pennsylvania. Tuition from each campus is pooled together and unequally disbursed to each campus, as decided by the ruling class at UP. The campus that can show the most need for money gets the money. Part of the technology fee we pay each semester goes to UP, because all of the networking equipment is there.

The students at Penn State Mont Alto help to support the students at every other Penn State campus, and vice versa. Your money may go to the Hershey Medical Center, while mine goes to help build the Classroom Building at Penn State Altoona.

The Fourth Wall will continue its investigation into where our tuition money is going.

Planning from page 5

Studies (HDFS) programs by adding an Early Childhood Option to the associate degree. Bachelor programs are also under consideration in this master plan. HDFS may soon be expanding its education option into a degree in Elementary Education with a Multicultural focus. A four-year degree in Arboriculture or Natural Resources Management is also being considered as a compliment to our already excellent forestry program. These forestry programs would also allow students to complete four years at Mont Alto and even allow for the change of assigned students from University Park.

Many sections of the Program Statement focus on the campus growth of adult and non-traditional students. The campus has recently established a four year English program, satisfying the requests of many non-traditional students seeking a Liberal Arts degree. Finally, the Bachelor of Arts in Business has already been added to Mont Alto's portfolio. This program is flexible enough to be satisfied through traditional class work or an integration of traditional, online, and independent study.

The addition of more four-year programs will require a different approach to student services and an increase in student space. The campus community is finding growth in under-represented populations. As Mont Alto takes on new endeavors and refines its mission, it will also have to consider the changing dynamic of the campus community. Several recommendations have been made to strengthen the student support services including additional resources for student internships and cooperative education, the addition of a multicultural coordinator, and continued support of student governance. The campus is also exploring a partnership with Head Start to provide an on campus childcare service.

Athletics are also an important part of student life. The campus currently provides for ten varsity sports as well as intramural and club sports. Mont Alto's athletic facilities mainly consist of the Multipurpose Activity Center, outdoor facilities, and natural landscape. The master plan focuses on strengthening the current facilities and programs, and the addition of varsity sports. Much feedback was made for the reinstatement of varsity baseball. The campus is currently finding resources to add a free weight gym as well. All improvements to athletics will become important as more sports are moved to four year eligibility and teams are considered for NCAA Division III athletics.

Student space is an ever-growing issue on campus. The Program Statement analyzed available space and needs and prioritized the use and future acquisition of the land.

Academic spaces were generally identified as outdated. The current Chemistry, Physics, PT, OT, Biology, and other labs were all considered inadequate due to aged technology, shortage of resources and space, and limitability of any expansions in faculty and student research. Dr. David Gnage, campus C.E.O., remarked at the spring town meeting, "Our equipment is state of the art, for 1975" and focused on the importance of updating these facilities as part of our focus of academic excellence in teaching and in research.

The growth of student spaces is another focus of the Program Statement. This past year the students of Mont Alto were left without a game room and meeting area through the creation of the enrollment management suit. Fortunately the renovations to Wrestling Hall took place over the summer and now allow students to meet and relax. The campus envisions many more cozy and comfortable spaces for students to relax all around Mont Alto in the future.

The Mont Alto library is another major focus of the master plan. The Program Statement says that the facility is currently unsuited for the technological needs and activities of a modern library. The building itself is uninviting and more like a "storage facility." The committee has recommended an addition to the library containing a computer lab, exhibit space, wireless laptop teaching lab, a cyber-café for 24/7 use, and major technology upgrades.

Now that the Program Statement is complete, the real fun of master planning can begin. Over the next several months the committee will continue to meet and decide what will best accommodate all of the campus's recommendations. These objectives will require a large amount of space and we can assume the addition of at least one new classroom building. Several programs will be added and facilities will be upgraded. The committee will also look at synergistic relationships between programs, facilities, and community relationships to make the best use of available resources. At the conclusion of the process the plans will be sent to the PSU Board of Trustees for final approval.

As a member of the master planning committee this past year I would like to proudly report that all of the group's work was made with our community in mind. Mont Alto has made a wonderful home for many students for over a hundred years and this master plan will allow us to embrace our traditions, build on our strengths, and boldly become our region's leader in a profession education.
Tips & Tutors:
What the Learning Center Can Do For You

Tamara Clark

The services offered by the Learning Center are invaluable tools to enhance a student’s learning experience. On the first floor of the General Studies building, you will find at your disposal: tutors, a quiet place to study, and computer labs equipped with printers.

The Learning Center is for everyone. Learning Center tutors are available for many classes, including English, Math, Anatomy, and Psychology. They help students prepare for exams, edit essays, and develop valuable note-taking strategies. One-on-one, or with a group, tutors can give you the edge you need to help you to improve your grades and give you confidence.

The center also hosts public art exhibitions. The artist usually attends the opening of the exhibition to talk about his or her work, and free food, drink, and live music are provided.

Tutors can help improve your grades. My math grades increased dramatically after I worked with a Learning Center Tutor. Some tutors are students themselves and understand the needs of other students.

In years past, the Learning Center was run by Dr. Nanette Hatzes. This year, Nan assumes a new position at Shippensburg University, and the Penn State Mont Alto learning center will be run by Jean Barlup until a permanent new Director is found.

What the Learning Center Can Do For You

Tuition from page 1

lower than an entire year at Iowa.

The rise in tuition was a result of funding cuts to Pennsylvania state universities. Even with the rise in tuition costs, Mont Alto is facing funding shortages in a number of key areas and student enrollments are in decline. The problem the campus faces is in order to get money for expansion and recruitment, Mont Alto must increase the number of students it serves. However, to attract more students, the campus needs to offer more programs, and more programs require more money.

Ken Gill, Director of Finance, says that each Penn State campus is given a specific geographic radius from which to recruit and cannot recruit outside of that region. This means Mont Alto cannot solve its enrollment problems by expanding the area it serves.

Harrisburg campus’s recent expansion into courses for freshmen and sophomores makes the situation even more difficult. In effect, Mont Alto must now compete with Harrisburg for first year students in addition to other colleges like Shippensburg and Harrisburg Area Community College.

Reduced state funds, increased competition, and higher tuition undermine the campus’s struggle for more students.

Enrollment at Mont Alto peaked in 2000 with 1,307 students. Since then, enrollment has declined annually to around 1,100 students.

There are advantages to earning a degree from Penn State Mont Alto. The classroom sizes are much smaller than one finds on larger campuses, and Penn State’s reputation makes a degree from Penn State much more valuable than a degree from some of the less expensive universities. Nevertheless, the cost of a degree for most students is turning out to be much higher than they previously estimated.

Get to know your way around campus

Christina Green

It’s time to start another exciting year at Penn State Mont Alto. To all the first year students, beginning your college career can be quite overwhelming, so knowing your way around campus will make your time here at Mont Alto a lot easier. To help you out, I’ve come up with a brief overview of places on campus that you should be aware of. This “Tour in Print” may be helpful to returning students as well, since many changes have taken place on campus over the summer.

Conklin Hall is the central location for student services, including Admissions, Registrar, Finance Office, Health Services, and Dr. Gnage’s (our campus CEO) office. So if you want to add/drop classes, pay your semester bill, receive information about scholarships or loans, find out what is going on around campus, or are feeling a little under the weather, visit Conklin.

Wiestling Hall is the oldest building within the Penn State system. The first floor has been recently renovated. You can now hang out in the cyber-café and student center. Police Services and the SGA office are also located on the first floor.

The Multipurpose Activities Center (MAC) is a key center for student activities. The gym, two racquetball courts, and fitness center (free to use) are located here, as well as the Multi-Purpose Room which is used for quite a variety of activities. The IT department is also in the MAC, so if you are having trouble with your email account or the internet, feel free to stop by IT for help.

The Millstream Café is open from 7 AM to 10:30 PM with a variety of foods to choose from.

The Barnes and Noble Bookstore on campus is the spot to buy all of your textbooks (new and used) for class, as well as the latest Penn State gear, school supplies or the newest bestsellers. Downstairs is a computer lab free to use for all students.

The Library is one of the best resources on campus for research assignments. As a Penn State student, you have access to ALL of the books at ALL of the Penn State campuses through the online LIAS system. There are also computers, quiet places to study, and DVDs you can check out.

The General Studies Building and Science & Technology Building are where you’ll probably spend most of your time in class. Both buildings have computer labs and student lounges (soda/snack machines). General Studies is home to the Learning Center where you can study or get assistance from a peer or professional tutor at no cost. Take advantage of the tutoring program; “D for Degree” shouldn’t be your studying slogan.

In addition to the Penn Gates and Mont Alto Hall, there are three other buildings on campus: Perry Hall, which houses the University Relations and Alumni Relations offices; the Student Annex, which houses an occupational therapy lab; and the Emmanuel Chapel, where church services are held.

I hope you enjoy your time here at PSMA!
The debate over arming officers is not new. It has been an issue on campus for several years. Prof. Steve Zemyan argues that “the crime statistics of the campus ... are just a bunch of zeroes. I don’t believe that it is necessary to give the campus cops firearms.” To those who believe the need to arm campus police is exaggerated, Sourbier says, “You’re not the one people will call and expect to take care of [a problem], knowing that you’re properly trained, but not properly equipped to deal with it.” Sourbier feels that the campus security staff has a responsibility here to assure the safety of the people that come here.

Prof. John Bardi says in the natural world there is a “landscape.” In the cultural world there is a “mindscape.” It is possible to pollute either one. One way we pollute a mindscape is to weaken the cultural efficiency of taboos. Ironically, we do this when we act pre-emptively to protect ourselves from taboo behaviors. Here is how. When we take practical steps to protect ourselves from uncommitted taboo acts (like arming policemen ahead of the need to do so), we simultaneously redefine the cultural status of the behavior we are acting to protect ourselves from, raising it out of the strict confines of “taboo” status into the much less confining category of “immoral and illegal.”

Unfortunately, to change the cultural status of a behavior from “taboo” to merely “immoral and illegal” is to destroy our best protection against that behavior ever happening in the first place. It is the same mistake we are making in the war on terrorism.

Applicants for an entry level police officer on this campus must have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice or a related field, be a police academy graduate, and have experience from another municipal police department. These requirements are higher than what is required for state police.

Woodsmen off to Good Start

Dan Erdman

The Woodsmen team began another competitive season October 2 in North Carolina with the Woodsmen’s Meet at the Cradle of Forestry in America.

The fourteen events, including the axe throw, orienteering, and horizontal speed chop, provided “a good learning experience for the freshmen,” according to team captain Kyle Furman.

This year’s team hopes to build on the recent success of two of its members at the Games of Logging in Antigo, Wisconsin. Joey Gilbert took first place and Furman fifth at the competition held September 18.

The Games of Logging focus primarily on the precision and finesse rather than on the power and speed that is typical of most competitions. Events such as Precision Stump, Precision Bucking, and Precision Felling forced competitors to rely heavily on technique and safety.

Each school was allowed to send two entrants to the highly competitive event and Furman and Gilbert did not disappoint. Gilbert won $1000 and a new chainsaw for taking first. Both won safety equipment for placing in the top five.

Tryouts for upcoming events will be held in the near future for anyone interested in joining the Woodsmen or participating in competitions. Those interested should contact Craig Houghton or Elizabeth Brantley or talk to any Woodsmen team member for more information.

Mont Alto Sports Schedule

October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Tennis</th>
<th>Co-ed Soccer</th>
<th>Golf</th>
<th>Men and Women Cross Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSU Schuylkill</td>
<td>EPCC Tournament</td>
<td>Co-ed Soccer</td>
<td>Saturday, October 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Away</td>
<td>Golden Oaks</td>
<td>Coach Ron McKinney</td>
<td>PSU Worthington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 7</td>
<td>Sunday, October 10</td>
<td>Monday, October 2</td>
<td>Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSU Hazleton</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>PSU Worthington Scranon</td>
<td>Thursday, October 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Away</td>
<td>CCAC/CAA Championships</td>
<td>Manor CC</td>
<td>Home</td>
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<td>Saturday, October 9</td>
<td>Monday, October 11</td>
<td>Saturday, October 7</td>
<td>Away</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSU Abington</td>
<td>CCAC/PCA Championships</td>
<td>Monday, October 16</td>
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<td>Away</td>
<td>Penn National</td>
<td>PCAA Championships</td>
<td>Delaware CC</td>
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<td>Wednesday, October 13</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 12</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 16</td>
<td>Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penn College</td>
<td>CCAC Playoffs</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Away</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 19</td>
<td>Reading CC</td>
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<td>Sat/Sun, October 16-17</td>
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Women's Volleyball

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<td>PSU York</td>
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<td>PSU York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCAC Playoffs</td>
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Coach Alan Smith  
Coach Bill Burke  
Coach Rob Harner  
Coach Mike Doncheski