

staffeditorial

# Campus maintenance preserves more than buildings

The Pittsburg State University campus has not been lying on the ocean floor for the last century. So why does some of our plumbing look like it's been recently salvaged from the R.M.S. Titanic?

Photographs taken this month for the Kansas Board of Regents show that pipes running beneath the Oval are corroded, downright moldy. (One doesn't need too many guesses as to why some PSU buildings occasionally boast brown tap water.)

But our plumbing isn't the only badge of age this campus wears. Look closely and you'll see that many building exteriors are slowly rotting away; some floors are buckling and swelling to the point where a few Grubbs Hall doors have had to be filed down just so that they might close; roofs and foundations are leaking during rainstorms and, as a result, students must deal with indoor flooding.

Of course, PSU isn't the only school with maintenance issues.

According to the Kansas Board of Regents, the six Kansas state universities are now dealing with a maintenance backlog equal to more than \$584 million. However, only \$15 million for maintenance was divided among the schools in 2006. The Board of Regents estimates that if this maintenance budget is not increased soon, the total cost of deferred maintenance for Kansas state schools could be as much as \$800 million by 2014.

There are numerous reasons

universities need (and ask) for funding. It's hard to argue that any given school-related issue or cause is more worthy of monetary support than another.

However, the foundation of any university's success is its sense of strong morale. If a school's campus is not maintained, there will be no campus pride, no campus presence, and eventually, perhaps, no school to attend.

We support the Board of Regents' proposal that more fund-

ing be allotted to schools for this deferred maintenance backlog. And while money might not grow on trees, it must be recognized that, although PSU is more than 100 years old, the school does not pride itself on tradition enough to leave its facilities untouched like so many biblical relics.

For the school to be preserved, the campus must be preserved. At the very least, so that we may be lucky enough to complain of further plumbing problems 100 years from now.

### Editorial Policies

Editorial views will not always be shared by the adviser, Student Publications personnel, university administrators, or the college as a whole.

Staff and guest columns do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Collegio as a whole.

# Blogger BEWARE

## Web journals deliver otherwise private lives to the court of public opinion

I started a blog on which I complained about my boyfriend. My boyfriend, consequently, started a blog on which he complained about me. I have friends who write blogs on which they complain about each other, and then complain about each other complaining about each other on their blogs.

And everyone and anyone can and does read every word of it.

Diaries used to be something stuffed under mattresses or hidden in drawers with false bottoms.

Keeping some things private not only prevented us from hurting those we cared about, but it forced us to interact with our peers — you'd never say: "Well, if you want to know what I really think, just read my diary." If a person wanted to know how you were doing, he or she would ask you instead of logging on to the Internet. And if you had something to say to someone, you'd seek that person out individually instead of broadcasting a beef on the World Wide Web.

Of course, we should be allowed to wax sentimental on friends and family when untangling our heads into the catch-all of a journal. But when we publicize the rawest of gossip-friendly thoughts on the Internet, it's no longer our own privacy that's being compromised — it's also the privacy of the people we're blogging about.

Many of us create online journals to keep a record of our lives. But is it possible to honestly document our personal experiences without hurting others, without letting our own hypocrisy shine through, without making it clear that no one understands us and we, in turn, understand no one?

It's hard to stray from being self-indulgent or insensitive when blogging can be such an ego boost. With blogs, we always get the last word in, and if someone argues with us, we can delete his comments from the page. Blogging allows us to stew in our own posts and imagine the whole world reading our words and nodding their heads in tacit approval. We create our own social reality, one in which yelling means typing in CAPITAL LETTERS and constant spelling errors can hurt our credibility.

What's more, blogging, in the wrong hands, can be miiiighty manipulative. A blogger might know exactly who's reading his blog, might thusly omit certain information and exaggerate other events to sway his readers into buying a one-sided version of life, a life that most

likely is shared with others, some of whom don't have blogs and therefore cannot reveal their side of the story so readily.

That's exactly why I can't separate many blogs from the graffiti-laden bathroom stalls and hiney-hiders at Wal-Mart. The most volatile of feelings are scrawled out for the masses, whether those feelings are love (BOBBY & JEN 4 EVER!), hate (CYNTHIA IS UGLIER THAN A RAT'S PATOOT!), or vehement modern political commentary spurred by our ever-changing economy (BUSH SUCKS!).

It's bad enough that kids are citing blogs in research papers or getting their news from conspiracy theorists who grasp a glut of html code. Those blogs at least have discussion-oriented themes and topics. When the subject of a blog becomes "MY LIFE," one is treading on more dangerous ground than perhaps even those who choose to type up reasons why Dick Cheney must be a Satanist.

**"I fear we are forgetting that, though no one may be with us when we're typing, the Internet is not some sort of black void. We are not screaming aloud in space — someone can definitely hear us, and if we aren't careful, he or she might just scream back."**



illustration by Rebecca Bauman



REBECCA BAUMAN

Opinion Editor

## COLLEGIO

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235-4901

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Jarial Franklin  
Rachel Marcoux  
Molly Cott  
Ashley Dugan  
235-4937

Web Masters  
Christina Bryant  
Don Conklin  
235-4900

To submit a guest column, letter or story idea, contact the Collegio:

e-mail  
psucollegio@gmail.com  
phone  
235-4901  
address  
210 Whitesitt Hall

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## this week's question

While appearing at a California legislative event on Monday, George Clooney received a number of questions from the press about whether he might run for president in 2008. The actor was told that fans are "clamoring" for him to put his name on the ballot.

A well-known political activist, Clooney has been urging Congress and the United Nations to help end atrocities in the Darfur region of Sudan. However, Clooney said it would be a "bad idea" if he were to run for president.

Which celebrity do you think could successfully run for president?

To learn more about this story and to share your opinion, visit [www.psucollegio.com](http://www.psucollegio.com)



"Tim McGraw. He's all for America. I think if someone's going to be the leader of the country, why not have it be someone who shows he loves the country."

Aaron Wilson, freshman in biology



"Mel Gibson, probably. He seems really intelligent. He's a director — he's accomplished a lot. I think he could probably do politics and succeed at it."

Kayla Blancho, undeclared freshman



"Oprah. She has a very large fan base and is well-known by a lot of people, even though she'd be both the first woman and the first African American in the office."

Mark Schmidt, sophomore in engineering



"I would say Madonna. She's always involved with one sort of organization or another. For a male, I would have said Mel Gibson before everything else happened ... but everyone's made mistakes."

Jennifer Alartosky, senior in commercial art

