

Voices

The Centre Region's Independent
Community Newspaper

© 2004 Voices of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.

October 2005

BOARD OF EDITORS

managing editor
Suzan Erem
suzan@lastdraft.com

politics and economics
L. Reidar Jensen
politics@voicesweb.org

community & lifestyles
Vivian Smith
community@voicesweb.org

university
Amber Fusiak
university@voicesweb.com

environment
Delia Guzman
environment@voicesweb.org

arts & entertainment
Peter Rambo
arts@voicesweb.org

opinions & editorials
Benjamin Brewer
oped@voicesweb.org

calendar & webmaster
Obi Nwoke
onn101@psu.edu

ART & DESIGN STAFF
graphic designers/layout
Emily Rowlands
Aziz Ali
Emma O'Brien

CIRCULATION

Suzanne Weinstein and Roxanne Toto
circulation@voicesweb.org

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
advertising@voicesweb.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

president
ARTHUR GOLDSCHMIDT, JR.
artg@voicesweb.org

vice-president
MARY LEE KERR
mlkerr@verizon.net

treasurer
KATHARINE DALEY
km.daley@verizon.net

member-at-large
MIKE CASPER
mcc4@psu.edu

member-at-large
PAUL DURRENBERGER
pauldurren@verizon.net

When leadership fails we feel it

from the desk of Managing Editor
Suzan Erem

It's been a hard month for us at *Voices*. It seems every one of our volunteers has been suffering with stress, loss, family problems, health trouble or other challenges of life.

I talk to shop owners, friends far and near, other activists and my own husband, and we're all feeling it. It's worse than malaise. It's an overall feeling of oppression, a weight on our shoulders, on our heads, that drains the energy right out of our feet.

Maybe it's the moon, or something in the water. It will pass, I know, because I've lived long enough to have experienced the ebb and flow of nature's forces.

But when this many people are feeling it at once, I find myself looking at the bigger picture and wondering. What I see is a country without an inspirational leader. I see a country whose elected and appointed officials are mean-spirited and selfish, who believe the best thing about our country is the ability to get ahead at someone else's expense. 9/11? We bomb the heck out of a country that had nothing to do with it, to get at its oil reserves. Katrina? Put incompetent people in charge so you can blame govern-

ment for being ineffective. Then send in the private sector so it can suck at the public trough until there's nothing left for the poor, the sick or the young. Supreme Court nominees? Praise them for their ability not to answer questions about their political positions. Call them "activists" if they protect the rights of women, but "moderate" and "apolitical" if they've written memos for a previous president that show absolute disdain for women and minorities.

I'm convinced that this kind of Orwellian message control is seeping into our daily lives. It takes so much energy for those of us who are aware of it to defend against it. But there are so many more, our young people for instance, who don't even appreciate it. They have grown up with it. It's normal to them, and they are showing it in their consumerism, their self-centeredness and their insecurities about the future.

It has to stop. National elections are still on the horizon, but local elections are com-

ing up quickly. This is my personal appeal to our local candidates. No public office is too small to do these things: Show leadership. Show compassion. Show kindness. Take risks. Be imaginative. Watch out for the little guy (and gal). Take care of the citizens who entrusted you with their governance. Don't be afraid to lead with humanity and courage.

I know it'll seem like you're swimming in poisoned waters, and in some ways you are. But our generation must do what we can to fix what we've done, the mistakes we've made, the policies we've allowed these so-called leaders of ours to implement that destroy our Earth, decimate any hope for working people to ever get ahead, put fear into the hearts of our elders who cannot afford to get sick and set up our children for failure.

This issue of *Voices* addresses in a small way some of the latest trends in education. It is our effort to keep the debate alive. Please write to us and tell us what you think about how we are preparing our children for the future we are handing them.

Top Stories in This Issue

| | |
|--|----|
| POLITICS & ECONOMICS | |
| Peace march draws 100,000 by L. Reidar Jensen..... | 3 |
| Intelligent design lacks scientific support by Peter Buck..... | 4 |
| Proposed landfill dealt a blow by L. Reidar Jensen..... | 6 |
| COMMUNITY & LIFESTYLES | |
| Parents, children prefer homeschooling by Delia Guzman..... | 7 |
| Sisters tell of escape from Katrina by Earliisa Granger..... | 8 |
| ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT | |
| Play addresses repercussions of 9/11 attacks by Peter Rambo..... | 10 |
| Marauders: Rockabilly resurrected by Kiernan Schalk..... | 12 |
| ENVIRONMENT | |
| Bat boxes a sustainable alternative by Megan Byrnes..... | 14 |
| Corporations use law to deny community rights by Jon Clark..... | 15 |
| UNIVERSITY | |
| PSU makes Katrina victims pay full tuition by Amber Fusiak..... | 16 |
| Penn State child care in need of reform by Lyndsay James..... | 17 |
| OPINION | |
| Katrina's lesson by Damian Tatum..... | 20 |
| School board candidates square off | 21 |
| COLUMNISTS | |
| Birdwatch by Alice Fuller..... | 13 |
| Bright Ideas by Andy Lau..... | 13 |
| Cosmo..... | 24 |

LETTERS POLICY

Voices encourages letters commenting on our news coverage and editorial policy. Letters should be typewritten, double spaced and a maximum of 250 words. Writers must include address and phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and to reject those deemed beyond the limits of good taste. Due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee publication of all letters we receive. All letters become the property of Voices of Central Pennsylvania. Email to oped@voicesweb.org.

ADVERTISING POLICY

Contact Voices for ad rate information. Voices reserves the right to refuse any advertising deemed incompatible with our purpose and philosophy as a socially responsible publication. Only publication signifies acceptance of an ad by Voices of Central Pennsylvania. Publication of an ad does not imply endorsement or recommendation by Voices of any product or service. Cancellation of an ad by the customer after closing date incurs full charge. Direct advertising inquiries to advertising@voicesweb.org.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Voices of Central Pennsylvania
103 E. Beaver Ave., Suite 11
State College, PA 16801

TELEPHONE:
(814) 234-1699

ON THE WEB:
editors@voicesweb.org
www.voicesweb.org

Submissions should be directed to the appropriate section editor.

Voices of Central Pennsylvania gratefully accepts contributions and bequests in support of its efforts.