

We are - Screwed!

Students won't be cheering if Ridge's budget plan passes

If Gov. Tom Ridge's budget proposal passes as is, students would be advised to transfer to another state, where they may be able to get a better education at a cheaper price.

Every year the state government and the University play a little game.

First, the University asks the state for about \$20 million more than it received the year before. Then the state says it will give about \$10 million more than last year but will also offer up to \$210 per student if the University does not raise in-state tuition more than 4.5 percent.

This year, the state decided not to play that game. Ridge decided there would be no extra \$10 million dollars out of the \$23 million the University asked for. And this year the state will only give \$100 per student to keep the tuition low.

The University has two choices - cut educational programs, faculty salaries and hirings or boost tuition above 4.5 percent to compensate for the lower funds.

Students have choices as well. If they don't want to seek out another school, they can contact their local representatives to lobby for more money for the state schools. This is an issue that will affect students not only now but in the future.

As a state-related school, the University depends on aid from the government for almost one-fifth of its annual budget. Without that money, the University is destined to become a second-class school.

This year, the additional money was intended to bring more faculty members to the University, give raises to some existing faculty and pay for continuing academic programs. Now, none of that will occur.

Ridge's budget, instead of giving more money to the schools, has added millions of dollars to the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, which will allow students to attend their costlier school of choice-including private schools.

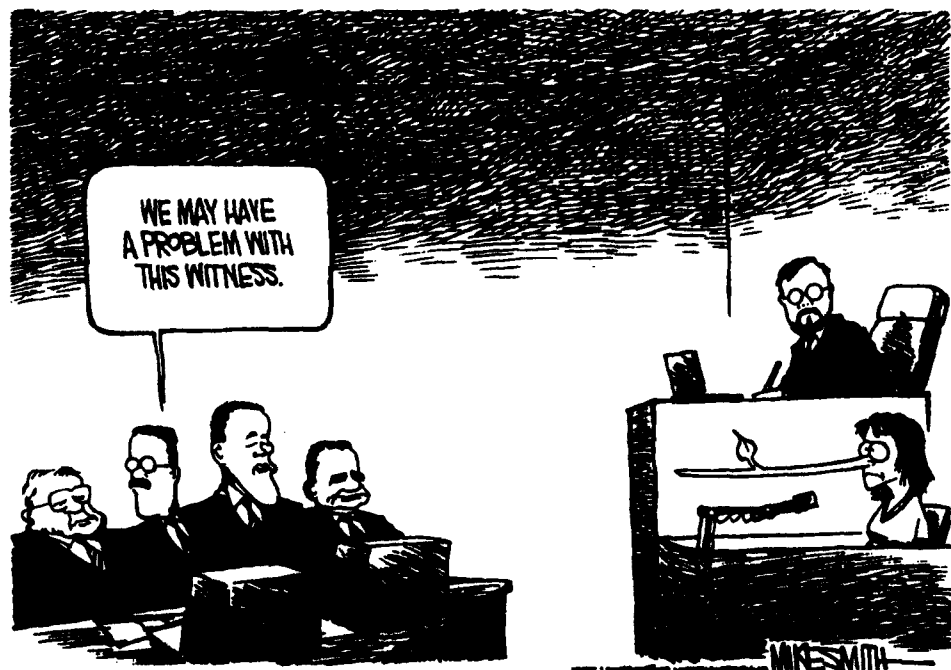
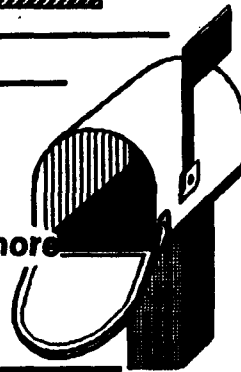
Private schools also receive and will continue to receive money from the state, which blatantly contradicts their positions as private. If Ridge wants to save money, he should channel the money proposes to spend on private schools into the state system of higher education.

-Ridge can be reached at (717) 787-2500.

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Letters to the Editor

The Collegian encourages Letters to the Editor on news coverage, editorial content, current issues and University affairs. All letters should be typed and signed by no more than two people and can be mailed to The Collegian office addressed to the Editors.



PATERNO KIDNAPPED!

At approximately 10:45 p.m. this past Friday, May 30, 1995, the man, the myth, the legend and leader of the 1995 Rose Bowl champions, Joseph "JoePa" Paterno was reported missing from the second floor in the Academic Building.

JoePa was standing in front of the hallway leading to Dr. Robert Tauber's office at the time of his abduction.

It is unknown why or how JoePa was abducted; foul play is not suspected. At this time, a search for JoePa is forming. The incident is still under investigation.

The question to ask though is not where, but why. Why would anyone want to steal JoePa?

Well, it's for the same reason why people steal anything. Because

they're ignorant and have nothing better to do with their time. Pretty sad, we'd say. Actually, such activity is rather juvenile.

Knowing that our own Penn State-Behrend students, or faculty for that matter, would never dream of stealing anything, it swells the mind with curiosity when attempting to unveil any potential thieves.

Maybe some students from the University of Nebraska came to cause havoc on our campus and chose to do so by abducting our hero. What a poor level of sportsmanship on their part.

The degree of stupidity we're dealing with here is unreal. If you feel the need to snag things from our campus, we feel the need to kick you off of our campus.



The Behrend College Collegian

Published weekly by the students

The Pennsylvania State University at Erie, The Behrend College

Editor: Mike Smith
Letter Editor: Robert E. Linton
Staff: John Stuber

Managing Editor: Mike Smith