

A View From The Lighthouse

A festival for what???

On November 18, 2000, Penn State University Park held an event that is still causing controversy. Two groups on campus held an event that they called "Cunfest." The Cunfest was held to "reclaim the cunt" as it was put by a student from one of the sponsoring groups.

The event has raised concern on UP's campus not only because of the controversial name, but for how much was spent on the event. The total cost of the event was \$9,519.64. While many things on this campus cost this much money, the total amount of people that showed up for this particular event was estimated between 100 and 200 people...with a campus that has 40,000 students.

If you do the math, that comes out to roughly \$47 dollars per person spent on this event. It may also surprise you that all of the money for this event came out of the Student Activity Fee, and that half of the Student Activity Fee that you pay to go to Behrend goes to UP. So yes, half of the money that you paid went to sponsor an event that only about 200 people turned out for when that much money was spent.

The majority of the money that was spent went to have a guest speaker for the day. The speaker was an author who wrote a book that was the inspiration for the event. Inga Muscio wrote the book *Cunt: A Declaration of Independence*. The rest of the money went to anti-violence poetry readings, self-defense workshops, a lesbian performance artist and a vegan dinner.

All of this has outraged some students at UP that the university is spending some of their money on events that they would rather not pay for. And it has upset some people here on our campus too for the same reason. It has affected one student from UP so much that he wrote a letter to Rep. John Lawless, R-Montgomery who in turn forwarded it to Governor Tom Ridge.

Gov. Ridge signs the budget approval for Penn State every



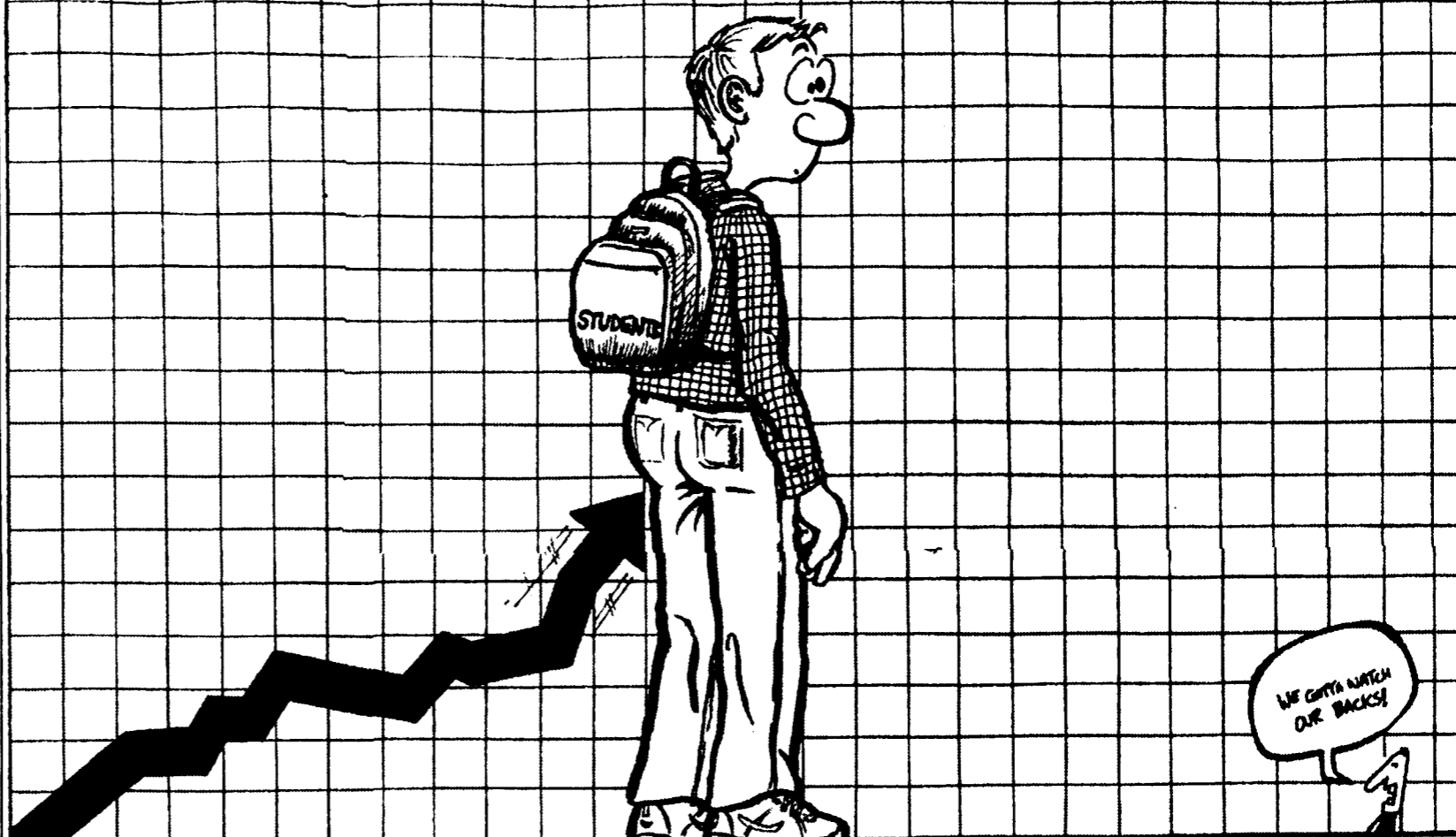
year, and now there is worry that Penn State will be cut in some funding due to this event. The letter that was sent made no mention of the name of the event; it stated what went on and how much was spent. However, the taxpayers didn't end up paying for Cunfest, the students did.

The question remains should that much money have been spent on an event that wasn't all-inclusive? For example, for something to be funded on our campus by the Student Activity Fee and/or the Student Government Association the event has to be all inclusive, not leaving any students out. This event would be a prime example of not including everybody, because while everyone was invited, only 200 people showed up and the event was very obviously not all inclusive, excluding 50% of the population.

Was the Cunfest in poor taste? Hard to say since we weren't there, however besides the events mentioned above, the Cunfest offered attendees a film called *Butt-F**ing Bunny* giving a graphic description of lesbian oral sex.

So, should we have had to pay for the Cunfest that we didn't even get to partake in? Obviously there are going to be people that don't believe what the 'Fest was trying to preach, so should we even have a say at all? Or is this simply another way for UP to keep us out of the loop?

BeatsRo



TUTION INCREASE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep it clean in Bruno's

Dear Editor,

By the time I was ready to go to my 1:00 class, I was hungry and had a taste for cookies. I went to the cafe outside of Bruno's to feed the need. I had to stand on line, so I patiently waited. Across from me, inside of Bruno's, I saw the manager of Bruno's touching the cookies with his bare hands. Now at first he grabbed one and ate it, which is ok, I guess (still not very sanitary). Then he continued to touch the cookies with his hands still uncovered. I was so disgusted by that. I mean, at least wear gloves. I understand that even when people do wear gloves, it doesn't really mean anything because they still wipe their faces and touch all sorts of things without changing them. But at least the customer "thinks" that they are getting food that was not

handled by any and everybody.

Anyway, I asked the person that was working in Bruno's at the time if I could get a cookie from the bottom that was untouched. Why is it that the dude gets an attitude with me? First of all, I had to call him three times. Then when I finally did get his attention and asked if the cookie was untouched, he answered me as if I had done something wrong. Now my thing is, he saw the manager touching the cookies that were on the top of the pile with his bare hands.

How would he have felt if I had touched his food with my hands, not knowing where they had been. I could have been coming from the gym where I had a very intense workout, wiped the sweat from my brow and touched his stuff. Even worse, I could have done what so many people at

Behrend do, come out of the restroom without washing my hands and served him his plate. How would he like that?

Of course he may not have known where my hands were, which is exactly my point. This was not the first time that I saw this man touch food with his bare hands. If the other employees must wash their hands, why shouldn't he? Besides, that's just nasty. And that really makes the place look bad. All I'm saying is, it's bad enough that I don't know what people do with my food when I'm not looking. I don't want to have to see them violating food safety codes.

Nicole C. Greene

Bush not wasting any time proving himself



Caught in the 'Spyder' Web

Jason Snyder
Editor-in-Chief

Those who doubted President George W. Bush's

ability to lead upon his Inauguration this past Saturday have to be somewhat surprised by the noise coming out of Washington D.C. this week. Granted, the ability of a leader shouldn't be measured by his first impression, but the "crash and burn" expectations shared by his critics before his swearing in have been somewhat silenced by the decisions coming out of the White House during this first week.

It's been well documented that the toughest job of the President who has to be a "uniter, not a divider" is to propose legislation that compromises with his Democratic counterparts while still appealing to his conservative base. Bush began with his conservative base on an issue that seems to change with control of the White House. The President, in his first major act as our leader, ordered abortion limits on foreign aid. The issue of abortion remained relatively quiet during his campaign late last year, but sparked front-page headlines across the country this past Tuesday.

Unknown to many Americans, taxpayers have been forced to send their money to international family-planning groups involved in abortion. Abortion, an act Dems like to call a woman's right to choose as opposed to a woman's right to kill, isn't a new argument in American politics.

It's just an argument with no agreeable answer. No matter how it's defined by Democrats and Republicans, Bush put an end to taxpayers' dollars being spent on the act. Utah Senator Orrin Hatch summed it up best, saying that it is time for the federal government to "stop pointing its finger" at taxpayers, forcing citizens to fund acts which they strongly oppose.

Even though the abortion subject was kept out of the American scope during the campaign, the underlying theme of this act wasn't. In Bush's Inaugural Address, he challenged Americans to "serve your nation, beginning with your neighbor." His first order echoed that, challenging the abortion-rights groups to raise the money for these neighbors in need, instead of working Americans paying the bill.

President Bush campaigned on education, "leaving no child behind." Already, a proposal has been made with even the most outspoken Democratic Senator Ted Kennedy talking about working with the proposal to get schooling improved for children in public schools. The only barrier now remains the issue of vouchers. Bush wants them, Dems don't. After one compromise by the President to limit the use of vouchers, Dems still want more leniency for schools that are failing, hoping to pour more money into these schools in hopes of "saving our public schools" instead of giving up on them.

President Bush's plan would give failing schools three years to improve. If the school will not change, "vouchers" or "payments" will be made to the parents so that the children can be bussed to passing public schools or have their tuition paid for private schools in the area.

It's time to stop giving public schools second chances to teach. Pouring more money into schools that won't use it to improve is like paying

Washington Wizards' players to start winning games. It just won't happen.

In a meeting with Democrats this past week, the President warned them, "I am not worried about my legacy." And why should he be? Anything short of complete destruction of the United States would be an accomplishment according to his critics. The bar has been set so low that progress in any aspect of the game is going to shock the American people that expected a government that won't function. So the handicap of Bush being "dumb" that critics and Democrats gave him during the campaign season has, so far, come back to nip them in the butt.

He has already got his ideas on the table, he's got the title as our leader, he's got Democrats working with Republicans for the first time in years on issues not touched in years. He's got Americans starting to think, "whoa, maybe he's not as dumb as we thought." He has the American ideals of character and civility in our government being acted out for the first time that most can remember.

And all this is happening after the media told us all that it will be a difficult task for Bush, who lost the popular vote and controversially won the electoral vote, to work with Democrats and govern people who don't really know if he was truly "elected" president.

Thus far, our new President hasn't faltered in taking charge and following up on campaign promises. He said this past Saturday, "I will live and lead by these principles: to advance my convictions with civility, to pursue the public interest with courage, to speak for greater justice and compassion, to call for responsibility and try to live it as well."

Mission accomplished...so far.
Snyder's column appears every three weeks.

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