

OPINION

Editorial Opinion

The Pennsylvania State University

If Penn State follows through with its possible plans to take over the Titusville Campus of the University of Pittsburgh, it would be the sole operator of 18 campuses throughout the state.

The idea of adding another campus to the existing collection may seem appealing at first glance, but there's much more to it. Although Penn State may be given the campus free of charge, there will still be an enormous outlay of financial resources to open it and to keep it open for the public.

Perhaps Penn State should re-examine its long-term plans. There are already six, two-year campuses on the western edge of the state. Why make it seven? And why Titusville?

The majority of Penn State campuses are very small (excluding Behrend College and University Park) and are considered lucky if they have one academic building and a gymnasium. The University should take what it already owns and improve upon it. It's quality, not quantity, that counts.

...and The University of Pennsylvania

Several weeks ago, a lecturer at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania was suspended for one term because he made remarks that some black students found offensive. Murray B. Dolfman, a lawyer who has lectured at the school for 22 years, was accused of singling out black students in his class for not being able to recite the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery.

Dolfman described himself as a Jew and "former" slave who celebrated the end of his slavery at Passover. He was surprised that the black students in his class, whom he called "former slaves" and "ex-slaves," could not recite the 13th Amendment. Well, the University was right in suspending Dolfman. Behavior like this is intolerable and should be treated as such.

Rod Luery,
Collegian Editor



Reader Opinion

Fall Schedules Aren't Worth Fifty Cents

One of the most asinine things that I have ever encountered is the 50 cent fee to purchase the fall semester class schedule. I have attended and visited various universities in many states, none of which charge for items so basic as a schedule of classes.

Supposedly, the fee has been assessed because the schedules at University Park cost 50 cents. In as much as the administration of Behrend College has fought for a separate identity, it is odd they are

now adopting University Park policies. Though I have never seen a University Park class schedule, I am sure a comparison between the schedules at Behrend and University Park would resemble the contrast between the Erie phone directory and the Manhattan directory.

Let us say, for the sake of simplicity, that the University Park schedule of classes is 100 pages in length. Then students'

cost per page would be one half cent. The cost of the Behrend schedule is currently six and one quarter cents per page. In other words, the Behrend schedule costs students 12 and one half times per page what the schedule at University Park costs. This is hardly fair in anyone's terms.

I do not mean to condone the action taken of charging for class schedules. On the contrary, it is very unethical for the administration to assess the charge. The class schedules are, perhaps, the most necessary item to a college student.

Consequently, I feel I am being taken advantage of, for without that schedule I cannot enroll in courses. The administration knows this. The administration knows students will be more likely to pay for the class schedules than anything else due to the importance of those schedules. In my book, such things are unethical and exploitive.

I pay tuition for such purposes as running and maintaining the necessary bureaucracy. I do not expect to pay increased tuition every year in addition to paying for all the incidental paperwork necessary for me to work effectively within that bureaucracy. Imagine if the federal government made us buy the tax forms that are necessary to file our tax returns.

I ask myself what it will be like by the time I graduate. Will I be charged for all the paperwork? The exams? Will I have to pay to use the gymnasium or the toilets? Where will it end?

Chris Anderson
Third Semester, 2 LAS

Behrend Should Take More Precautions With Off-Campus Housing

Next semester Niagara Hall, which currently houses freshmen through seniors, will primarily house freshmen. The reason for this change is to lower the freshmen to resident assistant ratio to better accommodate freshmen.

Perry Hall currently has about a 50:1 student to resident assistant ratio. Niagara Hall's ratio is approximately 32:1. We feel decreasing this ratio is a good move by the Penn State housing authorities. It shows both foresight and concern for incoming freshmen.

But what is Penn State-Behrend doing for freshmen who, not by choice, must live off-campus? Prospective freshmen who do not have housing are provided with the *Behrend College Off-Campus Housing List*, an inclusive list of residences in and around the Erie area willing to rent to college students.

The list indicates nothing about the quality or health standards of the residences listed. If you have ever visited or lived at a few of the listed residences, you will understand why it is an advantage for some of the landlords not to have their residences inspected and reported as such in the *Behrend Off-Campus Housing List*.

Many of the residences are dives. However, students are notified that "The listing does not constitute approval of the housing by the university." If Behrend

College doesn't inspect and report their findings of off-campus housing, they should not provide a list at all.

Instead, there should be a billboard in the Reed Building on which landlords can advertise their residences. This would make off-campus housing more competitive and force landlords to clean up their residences. Landlords know that if a freshman refuses to live in their dirty, unsanitary house, another student will rent from them.

The current list falls short of providing all information about off-campus housing. Therefore, Behrend should either provide that information or discontinue the service and leave it to the landlords to make their residences appealing to a freshman.

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