

# Perspectives Page

## EDITORIAL

### The People vs.....

*How badly do you want your college education? By the beginning of next term you may have to ask yourself that question - and, at the same time, you may have to face the cold, hard fact that maybe it just won't be financially feasible for you to continue it.*

*Then you can write your state legislator a letter and thank him for forcing you to quit school.*

*We all know how politicians can get when they want to. Well, with regard to the state budget, the politicians in Harrisburg have outdone themselves. And now it appears that they're not looking out for anyone's interests except their own come next election day.*

*What the issue ultimately comes down to is this: do the people of Pennsylvania - and in particular, their [our] elected officials - want high-quality, low cost higher education available in this state?*

*Everyone, from the Governor on down, talks about how indispensable a college education is in American society today. But it appears that now, when it comes time to put up or shut up, Pennsylvanians are going to cop out. Education is fine, they say, but we don't want to pay for it. The whole problem is money. Somewhere in the vicinity of 300 million dollars is needed for the state-supported colleges and universities to continue operating at anywhere near present levels. This money can not be raised by the state without a tax increase. And we all know what happens to any politician who votes for a tax increase.*

*He doesn't remain a politician much longer.*

*There is an exception to this rule, however. If more voters want the taxes than don't, he's got the numbers on his side; he'll go if he doesn't pass the increase.*

*Now that it's coming down to the nitty-gritty, we, the students of Pennsylvania, are going to have to convince our legislators that it's in their interest to give us the money we need. We, along with our parents and the people who are employed at the schools, are a huge voting block. We can throw out any legislator who we feel deserves it. It's time to flex our collective muscle.*

*SGA is presently planning some sort of action to get our message across to the folks at the Capitol. It may be a question and answer session, or a behind-the-scenes lobbying, or a demonstration. Whatever it is, it will have to be organized, and it will need bodies - people to be there, to show that they're interested, to bring home the point to the legislator that most of us can't afford to pay \$4,000 a year tuition.*

*So speak up. Talk to the SGA and let them know you're ideas. Ten years ago, the students of the United States became one of the most important political blocks around. We've all been much too apathetic since then. It's time for us to wake up - now, before we get stepped on. Don't let someone with the title "Senator" before his or her name run your life - run your own.*

*We may have to go back to the streets. We may have to call some people a lot of dirty names before we're through. We may have to find a little of the backbone we seem to have lost in the past few years. And it probably won't be easy.*

*But if you've got four or five thousand bucks laying around, don't worry about it.*

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The Capitol Campus Reader is the school newspaper of Penn State's Capitol Campus. It is published by the students who attend this school. We of the Reader Staff try to accurately represent the voice of the students, and keep them informed as to current events and relevant issues. We are published on a weekly basis.

## Here We Go Again

By David Nikoloff

Penn State University faces tough problems in the near future. The recent budget debate is one major incident in a continuing series of events that damaged higher education in this state. We must consider whether our state government is really committed to providing the public with a quality system of Universities that is within the economic reach of the middle and lower classes.

Several items can be pointed out as examples of the deterioration of our support in the minds of state politicians.

(1) Budget allocations for Penn State have not kept pace with inflation. The Governor and legislature have both taken part in limiting our allocation, despite requests for more support.

(2) The recent budget controversy led to the use of the state's universities as pawns in a political chess game. Loans have kept our school open, but high interest payments threaten us with more financial problems.

(3) State education grants have not increased substantially, though the governor says that the effect of higher tuition costs can be softened by those grant monies. Tell that to grant recipients when the next tuition increase shows up on their bills.

(4) Some senators have proposed that Senatorial Scholarships be discontinued. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship money may be lost at Penn State, and millions may disappear when the other state universities are included in the total.

(5) Some state legislators indicate that they support spending cuts at our university as part of an overall budget cut. What will that do to the quality of our education and the future of our campus?

Clearly the time has come for us to take action. Some of us are planning to bring together a coalition of students, faculty, and members of the local community. The SGA has given its total support for a program in which we can state our feelings and put ourselves on record in the state legislature and the Governor's office. The shape and magnitude of any student action will be determined by the support that our group receives from you. Please help us. Come into the SGA office and join a group that plans to take action as soon as possible.

We have several directions which we can take. We may demonstrate on the Capitol steps, send a delegation to the legislature, or invite legislators to Capitol and ask them to answer our questions. Let us know what you think.

## XGI Reporter

By Alfred Krebs

The XGI lounge was robbed last week by a still-undetermined person or persons. Someone had the audacity, the unheard of courage to steal the infamous photo outlay which adorns one of the walls of the lounge. Fraternity members wasted absolutely no time in putting new photos up. The XGI's don't really care what the motive was, they just wonder who the gutless soul is. Some of the opinions were: Bob Abbott said, "Well, let's see. We've got the others ones up so I feel secure now." Paul Russell thought, "An act like this amounts to nothing less than wholesale vandalism and will not be tolerated." Chet Kope

felt it was a "Communist conspiracy." Chet has volunteered to head a search party if he can keep the pictures when they are found. Other words expressing the loss were "obnoxious", "horrifying" and "inhuman".

Robert Abbott continues to remind of the November 7th blood drive. There will be a sign in the XGI lounge and a table in XGI lounge and a table in Vendorville next week. The bowling and football teams will be active again this week. Come out and support them.

The next XGI meeting is November 1st. Some one in the frat wishes to congratulate Joint Effort on their new sports shirts.

## Chess Club Meets

The Capitol Campus Chess Club elected officers at its Wednesday meeting on Oct. 19, 1977. Mark Servinsky was elected president and Kevin Heberle vice president.

Also at the meeting, was decided to hold a chess tournament on November 2 at 9 a.m. in the Gallery Lounge. The tournament is open to all chess players at Capitol.

As a service to the community, any student, faculty or staff member may receive free chess instruction at the regular meetings. Guy Antoine, David Barto and Roger Weist are willing to help you learn how to play chess or to improve your game.

Another service to the Campus is the free loan of chess sets, chess clocks, and books and magazines on chess. If you are interested in any of these services contact Mark Servinsky, 219 Church Hall, or leave a note in the Chess Club's mail box.

## MHBOG Thanks You

The Board of Governors is happy to announce that the recent Halloween Party, co-sponsored with PSPE, was a smashing success. That is, most people were successful at getting smashed.

We would like to thank the many student organizations that participated in this event, as well as our contest judges: Doris Hughes, Clem Gilpen, Maria Krieger, Linda Lambusta and Charlie Voltz. Also, many thanks go to our co-sponsor, PSPE, for taking charge of the costume contest, assisting at the bar, and helping with all the other essentials. A special word of thanks to Brewers Outlet, Kresges, McDonalds, Pizza Hut and Original Pizza for donating

the prizes for our costume contest winners. And, of course we can't forget Beta Chi, who was kind enough to lend us their rubber stamp to use at the door since our's wasn't made in time.

There's one more person we'd like to thank - you, the student. Though we've mentioned you last, you are nonetheless the most important element of any campus activity. Without you no activity can be successful. Thank You. Hope to see you at our next event - the Thanksgiving Communal Dinner, November 21.

Many thanks to all.

Meade Heights  
Board of Governors

## Beware!

On October 21, 1977, Chief James H. Paul and Patrolman Edgar E. Mitman of the Capitol Campus Department of University Safety and Security Police were awarded their certifications as Breathalyzer Examiners upon completion of a 40 hour Class "A" course of Chemical Testing for Intoxication, conducted by the Pennsylvania State Police Training Academy, Hershey, Pa.