

EDITORIALS

Budget slash hurts Penn State

In January Governor Casey cut \$731 million from the state budget for 1990-91. Penn State and all other Pennsylvania public universities were hit hard. Penn State's total cut amounted to \$12.6 million which equals 5 percent of the funding the University receives from the state. In fact Penn State, minus the \$12.6 million, received less funding this year than last.

"For a lean university such as Penn State which has experienced years of public underfunding, cuts of this magnitude are severe," wrote Penn State President Joab Thomas in a letter to the University Community. "It is even more difficult to face them seven months into the fiscal year when they have the impact of a 12 percent reduction in funding."

Taking money back seven months into the fiscal year seems outrageous. A better solution may have been to labor through the remaining five months of this fiscal year and limit funding next year. It just seems more logical not to appropriate the money in the first place rather than give it out only to take it back. Little kids have names for people like that.

This funding cut comes at a bad time for Penn State Harrisburg. The legislators call for a four-year school in Harrisburg with PSH being the best option, but the state apparently cannot even support the one's it has. And what next untimely event will push the new library down the list of priorities? First the Camp Hill prison riot pushed the project back and now this. Some students are having to pay for in-class handouts and we actually expect to receive the money for a new library. I'll probably never see it in my lifetime.

Thomas states in his letter that Pennsylvania was not the only to slice education funding. He said the cuts have been even more severe in other states because of their own budget dilemmas. So much for President Bush going down in history as the Education President.

Jon Fleck
Editor-in-chief

Vietnam veterans still feel wounded

Pat Byers
Capital Times Staff

The winds of war subside but the crack of gunfire remains. The Vietnam veteran returns a wounded patriot forever marked by a stray bullet, camouflaged by the underbrush, and wounded by a country who forgot his name. There were no parades, praises or flag-waving homecoming celebrations.

Decades have passed but the scars remain. Can the Vietnam veteran feel the emotion of a grateful nation during the Gulf War homecoming? Emotions regarding this question were mixed among veterans at Penn State Harrisburg and elsewhere.

However, Bill Woodworth, a combat pilot over Hanoi during the height of the Vietnam War expressed little discontent toward recent homecoming ceremonies and said he is glad people are happy and proud.

But he admits, times have changed. Upon Woodworth's arrival at Travis Air Force in 1972, he was told by military personnel to "get out of here," in order to avoid the hostile crowds that awaited the soldiers outside of the gate. He was met in an empty Pittsburgh airport terminal by his wife and there were no balloons or confetti.

Woodworth said he went home and painfully watched television reports

showing pictures of buddies he had seen only days before. Friends who were now listed as missing-in-action.

He said he also heard about troops who had been spat upon the moment they stepped off the plane. In many cases he said it was not the physical spit but the sentimental spit that made it emotionally unbearable.

"I've read stories about guys who were rejected by the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) of all places," he said.

Tony Martinez, a volunteer at the Veterans Administration office in Harrisburg, experienced some of that rejection. Martinez was a sergeant in Vietnam and said he arrived home a "bewildered young man."

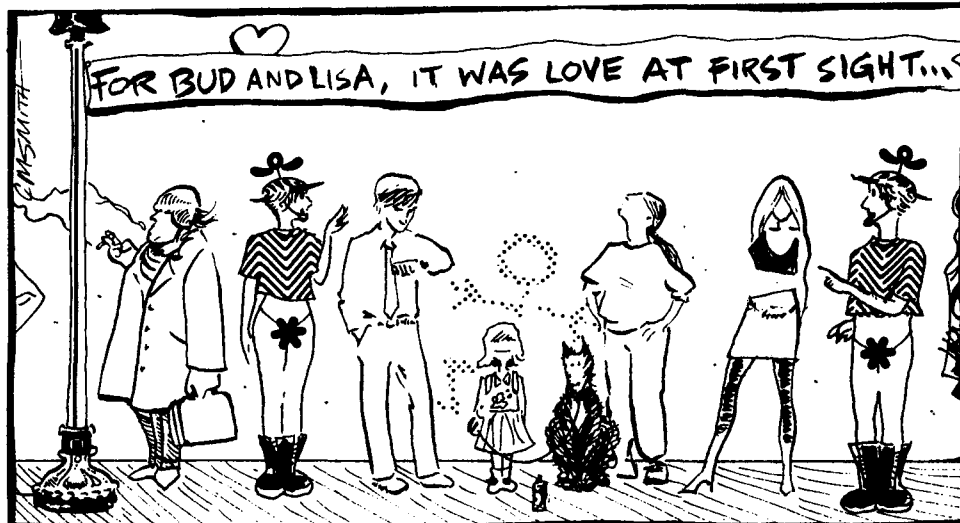
"We should have received parades and welcoming committees back then, but instead they called us baby killers."

Woodworth said one of the things that upset him during the Gulf War were the myths told about Vietnam. False myths that told of cities and family dwellings torched by American units for personal gain and satisfaction.

Penn State student, and veteran Keith Van Orden, agreed with the other veterans that the electronic media had a tendency of over playing the war the last six months.

"They are now saying that we should

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Capital Times Staff Meeting: Please plan to attend the staff meeting on Tues. March 19 at 12:30 p.m. in the office. Attendance would be highly recommended and greatly appreciated. If you cannot attend please contact Jon, T.J., or Dr. Parisi.

Express your views!

Letters to the editor are always welcomed and encouraged.

Submit your letter in Room W-341 or place it in our mailbox in Room 212. Typed submissions are preferred. Please include your name...we cannot print anonymous letters.

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