EDITORIALS

College celebrates 25th in style

Happy Birthday Penn State Harrisburg! At least that's what the billboards scattered throughout the area say. "25th anniversary. Penn State Harrisburg: education, research, service," the blue and white billboards spell out for all of South Central Pennsylvania to see.

A dinner dance and tailgate party will take place before the end of this year along with other events that are still in the preliminary stage.

The dinner dance is scheduled for April 28 at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg. Joe Paterno, who is also celebrating his silver anniversary as the Nittany Lion football coach, and the Penn State Blue Band are slated to appear. Also an Alumni Homecoming weekend is planned for Oct. 4-6. After the Oct. 5 Penn State-Temple football game, a tailgate party and dance will be held.

Other events planned include an academic convocation, various events centering around Earth Day, and other dinners and dances.

Some people might say big deal. So what if Penn State Harrisburg has been around for 25 years? Yes it is a big deal. At least that's what Associate Provost for Administrative Operations James South said in a recent interview.

"Placing established high-quality graduates out in the working world is a way of getting recognition," South said.

Recognition, of course, means money. Which in the end, isn't that what everything's about? Speaking of money, how can the college afford to celebrate anything while under the gun of a budget crunch?

Fortunately the billboards were a donation. The rest of the silver anniversary celebration is being funded through a combination of gifts to the college and money from the general funds budget, South said. He said that the funding from the latter source has been reduced considerably and some events may require money from the attending patrons.

With students flowing in and out of here every year, the first 25 years must have flew right by. As the students come and go, the administration, faculty, staff, and buildings remain year after year. The next 25 years will probably go by as quickly. When Penn State Harrisburg celebrates the big 50, at least we can be assured that Joe Paterno won't steal some of our limelight. That's probably the only sure thing as we tread into the always uncertain future.

Jon Fleck Editor-in-chief

A newspaper for the student body

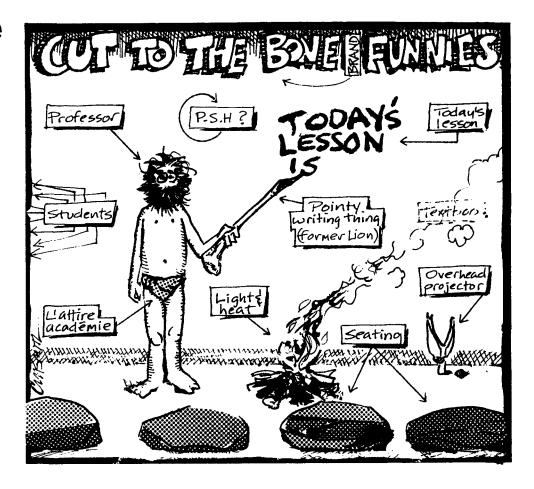
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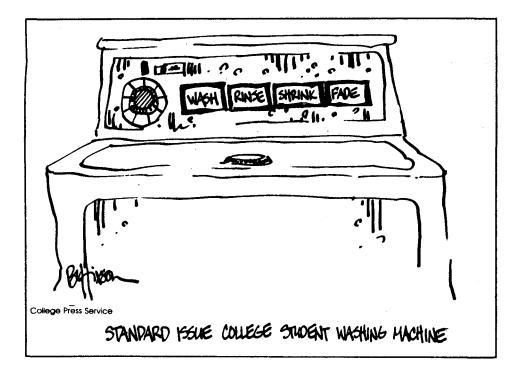
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