

Faculty Advisor
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COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

By PETER STRELLA, EDITOR IN CHIEF

Some of you may have seen the article in the Patriot-News on Oct. 22, but for those who have not, I'll summarize it for you: According to the College Board's annual Trends in College Pricing study, college costs for public schools have risen 47 percent in the past decade. This fall alone, the cost to enroll in a public college was up \$578, the steepest yearly increase in over 25 years.

And, my personal favorite, according to the Patriot-News, a student who had to borrow money to attend Penn State at the current rate would owe \$54,644. That's a payment of over \$550 a month for the next ten years.

Wow!

For those of you like me, who have never seen that kind of money, I will attempt to put that last figure in perspective. With \$54,644, you could buy three new Volkswagen Jetta's, or 910 "He Hates Me" Rod Smart football jerseys, or 3,241 cases of Yuengling Lager.

My point is not to scare anyone (although these figures are scary), but to say that community college is the way to go.

The study also pointed out that students at 2-year colleges are paying \$591 less than they did in 1992, while students at public schools are paying \$343 more after scholarships and grants.

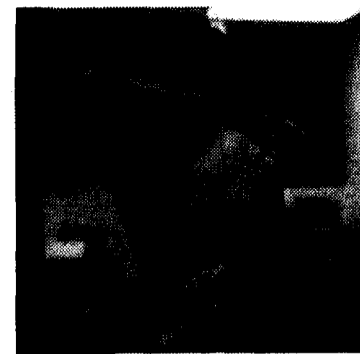
Attending a good community college will save thousands of dollars while allowing students to decide what they want to major in. I've seen so many people go off to an expensive 4-year university, not knowing what they want to do. They ended up wasting a lot of money on credits that didn't count towards their degree. Why? Because there is stigma that community colleges are for second-rate college students.

I remember when my parents wanted me to attend a 2-year school. I called them every bad name in the book. I would have probably been less angry if they wanted to send me off to military school or the local prison.

After months of painful negotiation, I finally gave in. I'm glad I did because my student loan debts will be nowhere near \$54,644. Some people viewed me as a second-class student because I attended community college, but after comparing student loan debts, I was a second-class student with a hell of a lot more money than they had. (Unless they were those damn filthy rich people)

"But Pete," you ask. "Why are you telling me this now? Community colleges don't offer junior and senior level courses."

I'm glad you asked. Statistics support the fact that you will have children at some point in your life. And being a college student, you'll probably want to provide them with a college-level education. So when it's time for your kids to go to college remember what I said about community colleges. It'll be here sooner than you think.



"The article pointed out that students at 2-year colleges are paying \$591 less than they did in 1992."

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