

Piccola questions tax on college students

Piccola cont'd from 1

districts, 'ever-increasing appetite for higher spending way beyond the rate of inflation,' said Piccola. 'Unfortunately, students are not getting quality education in return.'

Another issue of great concern to PSH students is the price of tuition, increased by 6.6 percent this past 2004-2005 academic year. Piccola is highly critical of Penn State's increasing tuition rates.



Photo courtesy of www.bipac.net

PA Senate Majority Whip and State Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola

"Penn State, I think, needs to look at its own books before they start looking at the tax-payers for more dollars," said Piccola. "They just charge whatever the market can bear and they seem to be able to get it. Then, they come and point their fingers at the Commonwealth and say that we're not giving them enough, when in fact, we have generously increased the appropriations. PSU continues to just jack up their tuition rates."

Penn State is considered a state-related university. State-related universities, such as Penn State, Pitt, and Temple, receive fewer contributions towards tuition from the Commonwealth then

do state-owned universities, like Millersville, Kutztown, and Shippensburg.

"State-owned universities are funded through direct appropriations," said Piccola. "The people that work there are state employees and these universities receive a higher percentage of funds. Those appropriations to the Penn State's of the world (state-related universities) have always gone up, but the percentage of the amount that the Commonwealth contributes as a percentage of the total tuition has probably declined, mostly because the tuition charge by Penn State has grossly exceeded the rate of inflation."

Piccola, who earned a law degree from George Washington University Law School, is no

"I think the bigger issue is the school districts, not just Middletown but all school districts, 'ever-increasing appetite for higher spending way beyond the rate of inflation."

-PA Senate Majority Whip and State Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola



Photo by Justin Shellenberger/Capital Times

The Middletown Area School Board recently passed a new tax resolution that affects students that park on PSH campus.

stranger to public service. He served in the 104th Legislative District (Dauphin County) in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1977 to 1995 and has been representing the 15th Senatorial District since November 1995. He was elected

to his third four-year term last November.

When asked whether or not he will run for re-election in 2008, Piccola laughed and then said, "Oh, it's too early to tell."

Feel free to contact Senator Piccola in his Harrisburg district

office at 717-787-6801 or toll-free 1-888- PICCOLA. He also has a comprehensive website in which you can gain access to all kinds of information, including a link to send email directly to the senator himself. Piccola's website is www.piccola.org.

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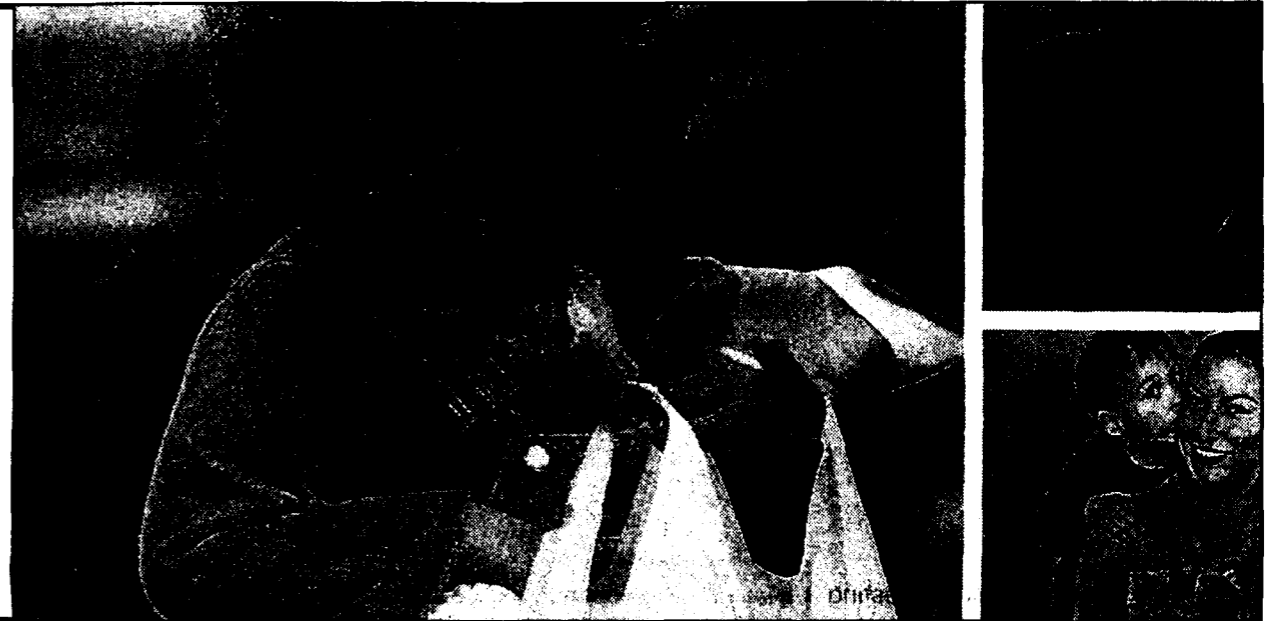
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