

Editorial Opinion

Too Many People

Enrollment at the Hazleton Campus of the Pennsylvania State University has risen to approximately 930-940 full time students as compared to 850 full time students last year. This approximate 10% increase in enrollment, together with increases at other Commonwealth Campuses and University Park, helped boost enrollment six to seven per cent university wide.

Two contributing factors which led to enlarged enrollment include an increase in high school graduates over the past several years and a shift of students from more expensive private colleges to cheaper, public ones. Because of economical pressures, many students and parents find they cannot afford \$4,000-\$5,000 for tuition and room and board. Even Penn State's tuition increase did not seem to affect prospective enrollment; partly because it was expected and partly because many other colleges raised their tuition by an equal or greater amount.

Vocational programs are taking the brunt of the growing enrollment. The number of engineering majors has risen 45% since it is at present one of the few areas in which jobs are available. The College of Business Administration, also due to openings in the job market, has a greater number of students enrolled than a year ago.

However, because of increased emphasis on the job market, registration for the College of Liberal Arts has declined. The reason for this decrease is the realization on the student's part that the availability of jobs for English or History majors, for instance, is limited. Teaching has usually been the alternative for Liberal Arts majors; however, the great influx of teachers into the job market has severely limited that possibility.

The possible consequences of an enlarged student body is cause for concern among many students and faculty members. There are now more students per class than last year or the year before, which may well make crowded classrooms a commonplace this year. How will this affect the teacher's capability to instruct all these students? Can a teacher really say that he or she has been able to devote time to more individualized attention other than the posting of office hours?

Registration, always a problem in the past, will become even more difficult. There has always been the problem of courses closing, although many students needed or wanted that particular course. Certain courses are required and it is frustrating for the student who finds that he cannot get several of his courses. With the increase, students will be left in the cold with regard to classes.

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Letters to the Editor serve as a forum of exchange among students, faculty, and administration and are most welcome. All letters must be signed and left in the Editor's mailbox, located in the SGA office (Commons). Names may be withheld by request.

No Confidence

Recently, the Student Government Association (SGA) has been fraught with personal conflict, something which does not belong in an elected representative body. The more unfortunate aspect of the matter is the involvement of several SGA officers, which raises grave doubts as

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THE HIGHACRES COLLEGIAN

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