

Editorial Opinion



The write thing to do

More for your money, honey? Bah, humbug!

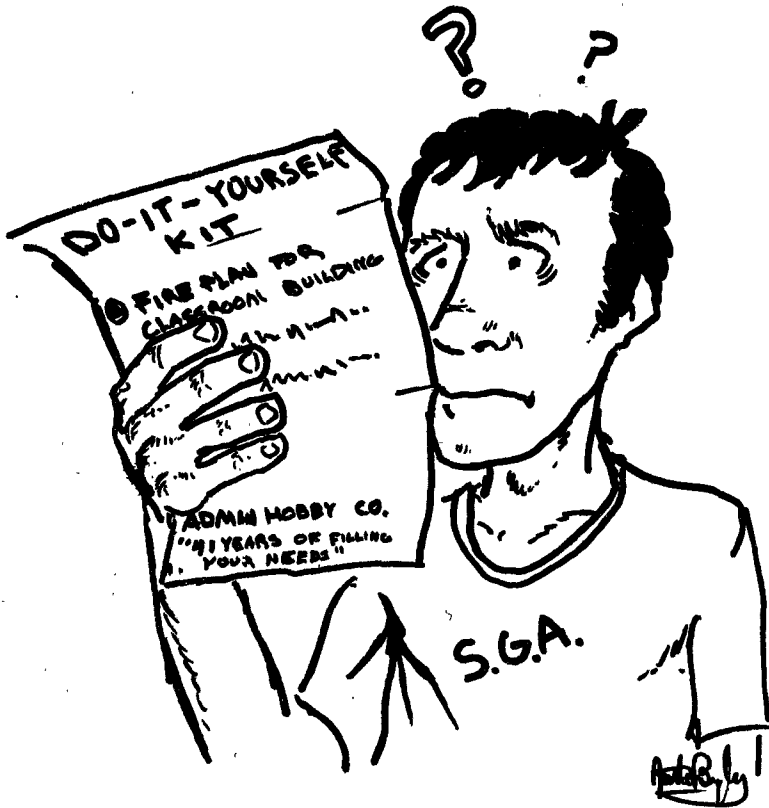
The news from University Park is that it's time once again to play the tuition increase game. It seems that Governor Shapp's allocation to Penn State falls \$10 million short of the University's budget request. To make up for this loss, tuition is scheduled to increase \$180 next fall.

Funny thing about increases--we tend to accept them as a fact of life. The reasoning behind this is that because inflation has caused a decrease in the worth of the American dollar, an increase to meet the cost of inflation is inevitable.

But tuition at Penn State has been increasing far beyond the rate of inflation. In 1966-67 tuition was \$450 per year; it is currently \$1095. Using the 1967 dollar as a base year, today's dollar is worth 62 cents. If tuition increases had been solely inflationary since 1967, tuition would now be \$750 per year.

Then why the increase? Misuse of funds is a common accusation which has some merit. The University's controversial "general expense" budget jumped from \$4.2 million in 1967-68 to \$22 million in 1972-73. Since then, the University has refused to open its books for a detaild audit of this vague budget.

It's been suggested that students write a letter to their state Representatives to protest the proposed tuition increase. This should be carried one step further by also writing to Penn State's Board of Trustees. Trustee Stephen Shiller has said, "Somehow or other, we could find a way, if we were told to go without a tuition increase." Letters from thousands of Penn State students might force the Board to find that other way.



Do it yourself

At long last, a fire plan has been established for the Classroom Building. Congratulations, SGA - and shame on you.

Congratulations for investigating the fire hazards report to determine what indeed was hazardous, and bugging the administration until something was done about the existing hazards (to refresh your memory: the fire hazards report, written by a Speech 200 committee, showed cases of possible fire hazards on this campus). Thumbs down for carrying the job one step too far by designing a fire plan for the Classroom Building, therefore doing a job that the administration should have taken care of years ago.

SGA has fallen victim to the old "do it yourself" ploy, which operates in the following

manner: A job is not being done so someone complains to the responsible party. Those responsible don't have the time to do their job (or would rather not do it) so they suggest in various ways that the complainant do it himself. The complainant feels that if he doesn't do the job, no one will, so he ends up with the workload.

Yet when a child has been scolded by his parents for not doing the job of taking out the garbage, does his mother turn around and take out the garbage for him? Not if she wants him to learn his lesson. In the same respect, then, should SGA do a job that is someone else's responsibility?

Hopefully not. When the administration is concerned, SGA should be the student's watchdog - not the administration's workhorse.