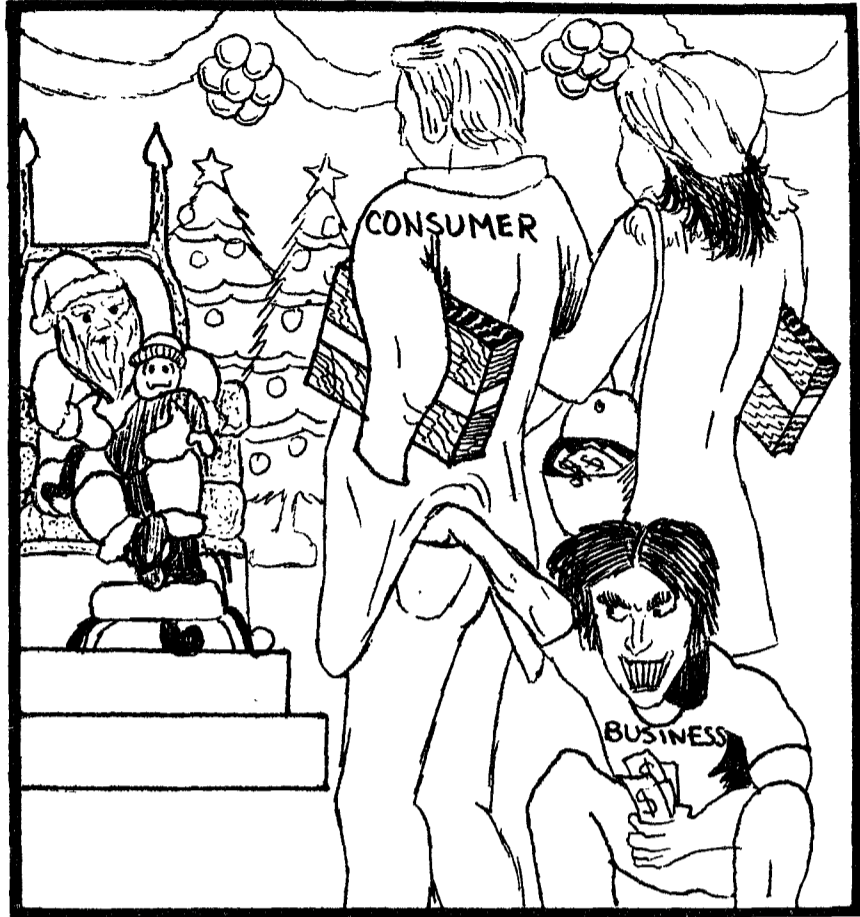


EDITORIAL OPINIONS



'THE CHRISTMAS COMMERCIALIZATION PAYOFF'

Tax Hike Necessary?

The Pennsylvania Law makers are trying for a tax increase in the Keystone State to balance the spending request. They are doing a good job of it also. After weeks of deliberation the House passed a bill. If approved by Governor Shapp, both the personal and business income taxes would increase.

This new bill if made law would raise the present personal income tax from 2 percent to 2.2 percent and the corporate income tax from 9.5 percent to 10.5 percent. This increase in the personal income tax would mean paying an extra 20 to 40 dollars over a two year period.

The question the taxpayer must ask now is will it ever end? Colleges today are in operation to make money. They are "BIG BUSINESS" oriented and if increases are allowed to continue in all facets of the higher educational system, they will eventually price themselves out of business.

To implement a law of this nature is ludicrous. Why should the taxpayer time and time again suffer the burden of mismanagement of funds by higher officials? The answer is not "TAXES". Our entire educational system should be revamped and competent budget controllers employed to seek out and formulate ways to cut foolish excessive spending.

Let's put emphasis right now on tighter controls! If future budgets are allowed to continue to increase we will never see an end to unacceptable and dishonest taxation. Also by raising corporate taxes to help subsidize the state colleges, Pennsylvania now becomes the second highest state in the union for taxing industry, the backbone of the state's economy.

This corporate tax will force industries, that are already paying high taxes, to disband and the prospect of outside industries settling in Pennsylvania will be virtually eliminated. The effect will be disastrous for the economy of the Commonwealth and employment figures will rise substantially.

It is time to revert back to the traditional college setting, where the educators role was in the correct formation and molding of the individuals character. All sense of empathy has been removed from present day teachings.

It is a sad fact that the educational system today is in the field to make money and many times standards lowered to up enrollment to fulfill their quotas.

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Eight Week Drop

By Professor
Harold Aurand
Collegian Guest
Editorialist

The "eight week drop" is a prime example of academic folly; it is, at best, unnecessary. If it were only another useless exercise in bureaucratic red tape the matter would be laughable. But the concept cannot be dismissed lightly, it contains a dangerous potential for undermining the future of the students.

Students occasionally confront uncontrollable situations which, if not corrected, could adversely affect their scholastic careers. Some students, for example, find themselves enrolled in a course which they should not have taken. Other students discover a personality conflict with their instructors frustrates their interest in the course. At times personal problems such as a death in the family or illness prevents a student from finishing his other course work by the end of the term. Justice demands that the student should have mechanisms for correcting each of these situations at a minimum academic cost.

The "eight week drop," however, is not necessary to protect students caught in such predicaments. The drop-add period provides the escape mechanism for students who enrolled in courses they should not have or who find themselves locked in a personality conflict with their instructors. The deferred grade allows ample time for those students who, for valid reasons, are unable to complete their course work within the term.

The only purpose of the "eight week drop" is to protect students from adverse grades. The rule enables a student to maintain a high grade average by dropping any course in which he or she may have a C or lower two weeks before the final. As a grade protective device, the "eight week drop" is ineffective; a more efficient and equitable protection could be achieved by a University Senate rule prohibiting grades lower than B.

But grade inflation, whether arrived at by an efficient manner or by the clumsy "eight week drop," is a disservice to the student. In the long run, Penn State grades will become so meaningless that employers and graduate schools would not consider applications from this University.

In the short run the "eight week drop" encourages behavior that undermines a student's opportunities. Under the rule students are encouraged to keep a high grade average by substituting a C or D or F with a W(). Yet the only grade I had to justify (and I had several F's) was a W(P). I quickly discovered that many personnel and graduate school officers viewed the W() as demonstrative of a flawed character. They interpret the W() as an indication of a person who quits when the going gets rough. Usually this is exactly the type of person they do not want!

Everyone associated with Penn State has a vested interest in maintaining the integrity of its grading system. The "eight week drop" undermines the integrity of that system and, in so doing, jeopardizes the future of the students. It is an extreme piece of folly that should be repealed at the earliest possible moment.

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