

The Highacres Collegian

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An attempt was made to join together the longest chain of pull tabs. A record was set with a chain of 40,000 pull tabs.

Oswald Asks For Additional Appropriations

Harrisburg, Pa.—Testifying before the Senate Appropriations Committee, Dr. John W. Oswald, president of The Pennsylvania State University, asked for a reassessment of priorities and equitable treatment for the University in the Governor's proposed budget for 1978-79.

"The recommended General Fund Budget for the State contains a 7.2 per cent increase for the operations of State government, with zero increase devoted to our colleges and universities," Dr. Oswald said.

Penn State did not receive any increase in its state support for this fiscal year, and the Governor again proposed no increase for next year, 1978-79.

"The less-than-equitable treatment afforded higher education in the Governor's proposed budget for 1978-79 is counter to trends in many states," Dr. Oswald explained.

Of ten comparable states analyzed, Pennsylvania is the only one to limit higher education to no increase, he said. For those states where data were available for two years, every state except Pennsylvania provided increases for higher education in both years.

The percentage increase in appropriations for higher education is greater than the increase in the total state budgets in eight of the ten states for at least one of the two years. In seven of the ten states, the increase for higher education is equal to or greater than the projected 7.0 per cent inflation rate for at least one of the two years.

"Other states recognize that higher education is an investment in the future and that it is critically important in maintaining a sound state economy," Dr. Oswald told the legislators. He emphasized that Penn State and other colleges and universities in Pennsylvania are the principal source of the highly trained men and women so desperately needed to restore the economic health of the Commonwealth.

Dr. Oswald told the Senate Committee that Penn State faces two critical problems and seeks the help and the under-

standing of the members of the General Assembly.

"First," he explained, "there is the immediate and urgent need to repair the damage caused by the traumatic experience of the past year.

"Elimination by the Governor of the \$2,135,000 in the present year's appropriation from the amount passed by the Legislature came as a complete surprise not only to the University but to many if not most members of the Legislature. The removal of this very minimal increase (some 2 per cent) caused Penn State severe problems in dealing with absolutely unavoidable cost increases.

"In the absence of any increase in State appropriation support, internal budget cutbacks of over \$5 million were made along with an unprecedented second round of tuition increases. The problem was and still is compounded by the huge interest costs—estimated at over \$1 million—which are resulting from the delay in the passage of the 1977-78 appropriation in late December and the delayed payment schedule.

"Secondly," Dr. Oswald continued, "Penn State must cope with the severe financial pressures it faces in the year immediately ahead, 1978-79. The problem of inflation and mandated cost increases are as unavoidable for the University as they are for agencies of State government and for every other sector of our society.

"Penn State has been losing ground in the fight against inflation. The cumulative impact of inflation on Penn State has been some 51 per cent over the last six years. Support from State appropriations will increase less than 30 per cent over this same period if the Governor's recommendations for next year are followed. To keep the University operating and solvent, it has been necessary to make a total of over \$16 million in internal budget cutbacks and reallocations.

"There has also been a sharp escalation of tuition charges to students and their families by some 60 per cent over the last six years.

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Award Winners Celebrate At Annual Banquet

By DAVID KRAFT
Editor-in-Chief

The eighth annual Highacres Awards Banquet was held on Friday, May 12, at 6:30 pm at the Gus Genetti Hall of Presidents. The banquet began with introductory remarks by Nancy Klotsko followed by dinner and the presentation of awards.

The Eric A. and Josephine Walker Award was presented to Brian Horwith for outstanding leadership and academic achievement. The 1977-78 student "Teacher Of The Year" Award was given to Dr. Jerry Covert. This award was voted by all Highacres students in which each faculty member was given a grade ranging from "A" through "F". The sophomore and freshman of the year Parnassus award was received by Nancy Klotsko and Kathy Dobash, respectively. The Samuel Pritchard Memorial Faculty Academic and Leadership Award was presented to Chris Kokinda, Associate Degree, and Brian Horwith, Baccalaureate Degree.

Dr. Harold Aurand announced the academic honor awards of those students with high academic achievement in their college: Business Administration, Danny E. Smith; Engineering, John Herr; Science, Don E. Burgess and Sandra J. Randis; two year Business, Joanne Wagner; two year Nuclear Engineering Technology, Julie Evarts; two year Electrical Engineering Technology, Thomas Daise; and two year Mechanical Engineering Technology, Lisa Lathrop. The Professor Andrew Kafka Award for The Liberal Arts was presented to Elizabeth Dougherty. The Professor Andrew Kafka Award For Excellence In Creative Writing was received by Steve Neri. Mark Rovito was presented the First Annual Maria Rovito Memorial Essay Award.

Representatives from the various Highacres student clubs and organizations presented awards to their outstanding members for their contributions during the year. A special award was given to Lisa Sonner for her involvement with the establishment of a world record made with the longest chain of pull-tabs.

The ceremonies concluded with the oath of the new Student Government President, Mark Rovito followed by singing of the Alma Mater by Kathy Dobash accompanied by Lisa Sonner.

Festival Had Something For Everyone

By LESA BAGLEY
Collegian Staff Writer

The Greater Hazleton Creative Arts Festival was held at the Hazleton campus May 5-7. The festival began on a rainy Friday night but by the time the festival was over on Sunday, they had finally had a sunny day and a bigger turn out than last year. Everitt Binns was the house chairman of the festival with Student Union Board helping to set up things up. The festival seemed to have something for everyone as the parents browsed through the many outdoor exhibits. The children were drawing pictures of clowns for next year's program and munching on their free candy bars that were awarded to them for entering the contest. The festival began on Friday night with a dramatic presentation entitled "I Was Thinking." There was only an average turnout due to the rain.

Saturday's highlights included such events as Pennsylvania Balalalaika, ethnic folk dances and songs, and Broad Mountain featuring Blue Grass music. For those of you who were here last fall you may recall Broad Mountain at the square dance. SUB plans to have the group back again this fall if possible. The demonstrations held were also well attended—especially the disco dancing.

Sunday's highlights included Pioneers Ancient Fyles and Drum Corps, a vocal and piano recital which was performed by our own Mr. Joseph Jumpter and Mr. Leonard, Shaevel and Valley Vocals. Sunday also seemed to be kids day with two children's theater workshops and two demonstrations of ballet and tap dancing.

Many people feel that the Art festival is one of the biggest events in Hazleton and Dr. David sums it up with something he said. "I believe that the campus and community need to interact together and the Art Festival is one way to accomplish this idea."

Spring Week A Success

By CHRISANNE CASTELLANI
Collegian Staff Writer

"The Walk-a-thon was a success and I'd like to thank H.C.A.C. (Highacres Club Advisory Council), the Repeater's Club, and all the students who spent their entire Sunday helping out," said Student Government President, Nancy Klotsko. Over 500 persons, both young and old, participated in the 22 mile walk. This successful event ended the festivities of the annual Spring Week 1978 which was sponsored by the Student Union Board at Highacres April 17-23.

Getting off to a slow start, the week's events rapidly picked up enthusiasm. The dance, in the commons, sponsored by the Student Union Board, was well-attended by high school and college students who

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"As soon as the rush is over, I'm going to have a nervous breakdown. I worked for it; I owe it to myself; and nobody is going to deprive me of it."