

We are really Penn State

Name withheld by request

I am writing this article in response to the editorial written by Richard Danner, which is causing an outrage on this campus with faculty and students alike. Do not get me wrong, I do understand the points which Mr. Danner touched upon and respect his opinions, but on the other hand I feel that his brief stint with college life has left him somewhat bewildered with what the real reason for college is. I am in my third semester here at Penn State University and carrying a Biology major, therefore I have experienced the ups and downs of college life on the academic level. Do not get the impression that I am a book worm, or spend constant hours studying a week. I also have an active social life and compete in almost every sport, but that is not the issue. What the main reason, I feel, for Mr. Danner's discontentment is the idea that he was not accepted to the University Park campus. This, I think, cannot be blamed on the high school guidance counselor (Personally, I filled out my own application, and took it to my high school, in late August or early September, to be checked over and sent to Penn State with my transcripts, which is what I am sure most of the students who were accepted here have done.) If Mr.

Danner actually did need to go to the University Park campus, for reasons other than athletics, I'm quite sure that they would honor his request (this is a fact). If he was qualified to go to the main campus he would be there, no matter how late the application was sent in. One of my best friends in high school, who is extremely intelligent, applied to the main campus in late October and was accepted instantly.

The facilities at this campus may not be as good as other university branch campuses, but it's not really the facilities that make the campus; it is the people, faculty and students together. I also cannot seem to find the negligence constantly spoken of by Mr. Danner. For some reason, he feels that he has been treated unjustly. I chose this campus as my first choice, and I'm sure that many people ask why. I have been to the main campus many times, for football games and fraternity parties, and I realized the immense size of the campus. Actually, I liked this facet, but it was the idea that I would be treated as a number, in a class of 250 or so, and never even be able to see the instructor with any problems I might have, be sent to see my assigned grad. student instead.

Here at this campus, finding faculty is as easy as finding your best friend, and most are willing

to help with any problems you may have. It is also not realized by some freshmen here that to find your advisor at University Park means tracking him down for a week or so. One of my high school friends, who attends the main campus, told me last year that it had been three weeks into the registration period for the next semester, and he had yet to find his advisor. Actually, I think that a campus like this allows for the college adjustment to be much easier, even though Hazleton is not a booming metropolis.

I would also like to touch on another "fact" pointed out by Mr. Danner. He stated in the article that the freshmen year of college is simply nothing more than a high school review. I would like to ask one question Mr. Danner, what is your major? I'm quite sure that most of the sophomores, and freshmen, on this campus would be interested in the answer to this question (I have talked to many people on this subject of freshmen year being a review, and not one could even come close to agreeing with this. Perhaps with more experience in the area of "higher education", as you put it, your blindness will recede).

The final point I would like to speak on is the issue of the University not caring for its students. I'm sure it is unknown to most students on this campus, that offi-

cials from University Park come to the branch campuses periodically to check on problems that they may be having, and anyone may attend. Another thing to realize on this campus is the fact that it is expanding. The new bookstore is just the beginning, and another residence hall, and classroom building are on their way to transform this campus into a four year college.

All in all, I feel that the article written by Mr. Danner was unjust (simply stated, the article was written without all the facts clearly at hand.) I hope that this article can settle some angers and make people take a better look at this campus for what it really is, a preparation for students who need some time to adjust before moving out to the main campus. I am very glad that I attended the Hazleton campus because now I truly feel ready to go on. I'm sure that for every sophomore, there was a period of adjustment, yet we all made it through, but could you imagine if you had to adjust to an incoming class of 10,000 students rather than that of 600? The students on this campus are some of the best around, and I feel Mr. Danner should get to know some of them before judging them.

When Vote Rhymes with Joke

By Beth Breznak

This was the year I finally got to vote. I actually hadn't registered until two months before "the big day." I had waited that long because, I'll admit, I didn't care. Would my vote really count? Would either candidate really care if some college student in Pennsylvania gave him her support? Then I realized that this president will determine how much I receive in college aid, if I'll ever drive 65 legally, or if I'll eventually have to pay more taxes. This president will still be in office when I graduate and will affect me one way or another. I have the right to vote. People in other countries literally die for this right. I might as well exercise it.

So off I went on November eighth. It was a rainy, dreary day, but still I trekked to the fire station that doubled as a polling place. I walked, excitedly, inside, positive that my vote would make or break a candidate. I strided up to the woman who would have my voter's registra-

tion and who would consequently give me the fabulous ballot that would help me change the future of the nation.

What? I wasn't listed on the precinct register? I can't vote? I won't change the fate of the nation? Okay. What's going on?

I soon learned that my voter's registration was lost somewhere amidst all of the "voting stuff" at my county seat, the "headquarters" for the precinct. Needless to say, I was quite disappointed. I also later found out that my case wasn't unusual. This type of situation more often than is let known.

So, this made me wonder, is voting really worth it? Every registered voter is encouraged to vote by such people as Nancy Reagan and Jodi Whatley. The polls expected one of the lowest turnouts in the history of America. But whose fault was this - the apathetic voter, or the voter who turned apathetic thanks to the system? I know that I won't look forward to the election of 1992 due to the needless consequences of the election of '88'.

