



# The Fourth Wall Omnes vocem habent

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## Students in Disagreement Over Benefits of Proposed Tuition Freeze

**Bobby Casiano**

Penn State President Graham Spanier has agreed to freeze tuition for all Penn State campuses, except University Park, for the 2006-07 year if the state will appropriate the requested \$354.4 million.

Some Mont Alto students do not agree that this is a good idea. Mont Alto

Student Association Government Information Technologies Representative Benjamin Orr believes "hiding the problem for a year doesn't get rid of it completely." This will only "stall and cause for tuition percentages to increase." Freshman Erica Panico believes that it's "a

band-aid over the problem" and "there is no guarantee that it will be continuous." Panico states that by "lowering tuition, the perception of the degree is at stake" and "graduating with a degree from Mont Alto would be perceived as lower than graduating from University Park."

Penn State Mont Alto Chancellor Dr. David Gnage is "for the proposed tuition freeze." Gnage feels that we have "nothing to lose." Gnage says that "one of the purposes of the satellite campuses is to aid lower income families and communities. Why not give it a try?" Gnage states that even if the proposed tuition freeze is not long term, it will "provide a year advantage for lower tuition for the students at the satellite campuses."

Mont Alto Freshman Crystal Jean states that "if the tuition keeps going up, there are

going to be less students enrolling." This impacts the economic contributions that Penn State provides for the state of Pennsylvania. A study published by Tripp Umbach, a leading provider of economic impact analysis for universities and health centers, revealed that Penn State Mont Alto is "a major part of the total economic impact of more than \$44 million alone at the 1,028-student campus. In addition, the campus contributes

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## Restructured Business Program Concerns Students

**Danielle Ramsay**

The former Commonwealth College, of which Penn State Mont Alto was a constituent campus, made a strategic decision in the past couple of years to seek accreditation with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), an international accreditation program, for the Bachelor of Business Administration Commonwealth College (BBACC).

Francis Achampong, Director of Academic Affairs, says, "This is the most prestigious business accreditation program... and will improve enrollment and retention." Achampong states that there are only 506 business programs worldwide that carry the AACSB approval; there are over 1,500 business programs in the United States alone.

In order to achieve the standards set by the AACSB, changes had to take place in the

business program. The BBACC, as it is currently known, is the former Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Any student entering the business program in Fall 2005 or later will enter into the BBACC. The BBACC requires students to complete Math 110, a higher math level than was previously required. This is causing some anxiety among many students. Senior Chance Cailone says, "...[the] added courses are unnecessary; you don't need calculus for business." Business instructor Michael Labalokie says that he is pleased with the change, especially for those students seeking a masters degree which will require Math 110 for admission.

According to Achampong, there were a total of six business programs offered by Penn State with many similar courses required for each, along with some variations depending on

the program. The first three years of a business student's coursework is very similar and only in the second semester of the junior year and the senior year does the student take courses that focus on a specific business degree (marketing, finance, accounting, management, international business, etc.).

Labalokie explains that if the first two years of each campus have the same course schedule, transferring will be easier. Mont Alto's BSB program was liberal compared to the more conservative programs of the UP or Harrisburg campuses and some credits (such as principles of management, marketing, and finance courses taken at the 100 level) would not transfer. These program changes will give students time to decide where they intend to finish out their

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## Penn Gate Residents Finally Win Struggle for Game Room

**Nolan Fontaine**

Everyone who was anyone was in attendance at the grand opening of the Penn Gate game room. In celebration of this special event, the Resident Hall Council provided free pool. There were also cookies, chips, and refreshments courtesy of Residence Life and Housing & Food Services.

Jessica Smythe, CAMP Chair & Penn Gate RA, comments on the new game room and what she thinks about it: "I think it should be open more, but I understand why it isn't. The prices are also higher so we may need to evaluate that in the future, and when the air hockey table

comes, it may attract more people; in addition, I really think the television is extremely nice!"

The struggle for the game room can be traced back long ago to last semester, when it was SGA Senate who spearheaded the campaign for a game room and brought the idea to the attention of Housing and Food Services. At that time though, the idea was put on the backburner because of the newly renovated Wiestling Student Center. More focus was put on promoting

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