

Where'd the Money Go?

By Erica Panico
Assistant Editor

Being a returning student I am aware where my tuition money goes. Last year I wrote an article on that very important subject, tuition money. The feedback was incredible. Students I did and did not know were coming up to me and thanking me for answering those extremely significant questions that seemed impossible to answer, but in reality they are not difficult to answer we are just not looking in the right place. So, once again I am reviewing where our tuition money goes and seeing what has changed since last year. To the entire freshman class it's important to know where your money is going- please "pay" close attention.

Kenneth Gill, director of Finance, broke each part of our tuition money into major categories. There are 5 categories: Tuition, Room and Board, Tech Fees, Activity Fee and Housing and Food Services. Since last year our tuition was raised about 3 1/2%. That raise in tuition went to salaries and utilities.

Everyone who has a car knows that gas went up considerably, and every time you go to the gas station you wonder, "oh no how much this time", well take that concept and apply it to school. We use gas and electric as well and every time our administration gets the bill I'm sure they have pretty much the same reaction. University Park had an increase of 6 1/2% due to the same reasons as Mont Alto and also because enrollment enlarged as well.

Our football team, The Nittany Lions, won the orange bowl leaving the students with more money to pay, that leaves us with another question: Do we want team spirit? Oh I'm just joking, of course we do. Go Penn State!

Here are the 5 major categories broken down:

Tuition:

- 75%- 80% of the tuition bill is put towards the staff's salaries and wages.

- 20% or less of the remaining money is put towards the utilities bills. (including maintenance and renovation).

Tech Fees:

- Every year the price of the Tech Fee changes.

- The money is split between the university and campus- 45% is used for Mont Alto.

- The Tech Lab is classified as open laboratories (as in the General Studies Building)

Activities Fee:

- The Activities Fee goes for events that the campus sets up for all students, such as dances, mall trips and comedy shows.

- The whole amount goes towards Mont Alto.

- Now the Activity Fee is \$54.00, an increase of \$10.00 since last year. Room and Board:

- What most students are not aware is that Mont Alto has a mortgage of 40 years with each dorm that is built. Mont Alto borrows the money to build the dorms and sell's their bonds on the stock market. A part of our money goes towards paying off the interest of the bonds being sold.

- Non- Pennsylvania state residents must pay more, because Pennsylvania students pay taxes towards the state. Non-Pennsylvania residents pay taxes towards their own state, leaving

non- state residents with an extra fee to study in Pennsylvania.

Housing and Food Service:

- This pay for your food, the Dining hall workers, and Utilities There are a few more important facts that all students should know about their campus:

- University Park only gives all campus \$4,000 each year to be used in their own discretion. Mont Alto uses that money for Transportation. (4,000 dollars are considered pennies for over all costs to run a campus.)

Students during major breaks are charged to be driven to Harrisburg Train/Bus station. Those students are charged \$10.00. There a few reasons why those students are charged extra. One reason is because if the trip was free, students would sign up for the bus and not even show up. That causes Mont Alto to loose money. Another reason is that \$4,000 can not be spread equally. If only a few amount of people need rides, it is unfair to use most of the money of the Harrisburg trips, if only a few students go from Mont Alto to Harrisburg.

Winnie Kastroll, a sophomore living in Mont Alto Hall, says, "I don't think it's unreasonable that our tuition went up, because it is a state ran school. But, I do believe that Penn State should offer more scholarships or loans through them and not the state so we can help pay our tuition each year. I don't think I know any student that has \$20,000 to pay each year for school without taking out a loan. Everyone struggles and Penn State should offer more for their students." Mr. Gill says, "I don't think tuition will go down, because inflation isn't going down anytime soon. I believe that next year tuition will go up higher than this year, because everything else is going up like gas." If you feel like Winnie, there are people on campus to talk with. Get yourselves familiar with the Financial Aid department and your advisor. It takes alot of money to manage Mont Alto. Each department is working their best to help each of us, and our education.

In the Eyes of a Freshman Lion

By Justin Zickar
Editor

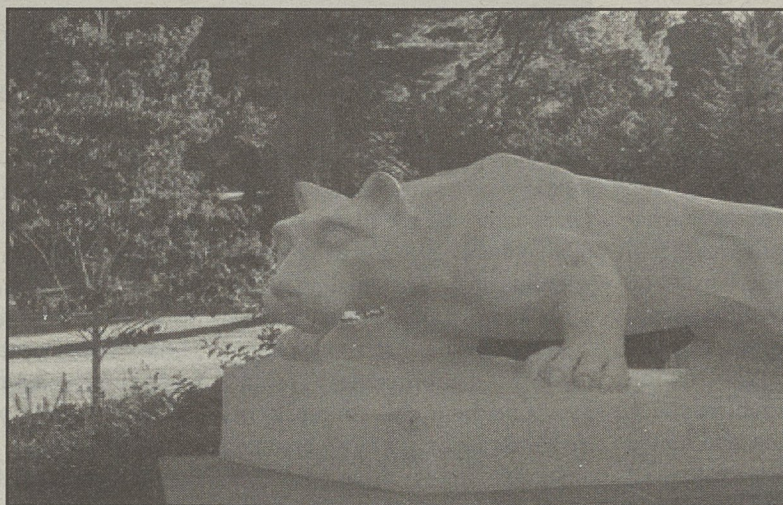
Everyone's been there, the new kid in town, not knowing anyone, trying to adapt. As a freshman, for the second time in your life, you are scared, nervous, and excited for a new start. What do you do? Who do you turn to?

It comes as a surprise that you would actually fall into the college trend a little easier than expected. After moving in, unpacking, and gaining friendship with your roommate or others in your hall, you have a basis to get acquainted. Then the orientation begins, the eight hour torture, or so you thought. Unlike what you pondered, you discover new friends in your Pride Groups, finding refuge in them to help you get through the day. Even your group leaders are right there with

you, knowing how you feel, and wondering too, "Why 7:45 in the morning?"

Even if your orientation experience wasn't right for you then you had an even greater opportunity awaiting you. Now you have the chance to sit among total strangers, making new friends, yet again, and watching Penn State football.

Or maybe football isn't your thing; maybe you are anxious to discover the town and places that surround your new home? At this point Wal-Mart and fast food places are the easiest and fastest



to get to, moreover your new best friends off campus. But be cautious, you're in a strange environment; don't risk getting lost or even a speeding ticket. Watch how late you stay out as well. Mont Alto Hall parking is very scarce at night during the school week, but completely empty on the weekends. Penn Gate is rather

different, with a v a i l a b l e parking almost always after 5 o'clock in the evenings and on weekends.

That brings up the magical w o r d , "weekends." What is there to do around here on the w e e k e n d s ? Well, as some

of you may already be aware, weekends at Mont Alto are filled with different campus oriented options. Although some students may not want to partake, there are various other ways to stay busy over your two day break. This is mainly where your interacting with new people and being social comes in handy. Along with not

having anything to do on the weekend, except work, your new friends are in the same boat. Take advantage of the day trips offered by the college or even go with a group of friends. Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington DC aren't too far away, and can be traveled to and from for a day trip.

A lot of students find that they venture home during the weekends. More explorations arise if you decide to tag along, or even take someone home with you. Anything can happen on campus or off campus over the weekends, as long as you keep your ears open and involved you'll find your niche.

By the end of your first day of college, the opportunities to interact with people should be endless. Remember, you have to be open-minded. Being friendly and interacting is pivotal for a successful transition.