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## Editorial

# This Is Not A Welcome Letter

Well another vacation draws to a close, and we must once again end the merriment of our summer solace and begin our enlightened journey down that brightly lit scholastic corridor in our search for knowledge. And I'm sure a tired few of you in desperate hopes of escaping the tedious routine of registration and orientation, have in some quiet part of the lounge or under the shade of the apple orchard turned to my editorial for a few moments of diversion, knowing full well in your heart that this is sure to be yet another "warm welcome" to our illustrious campus. Well it ain't!

I'm sorry, but I just couldn't bring my-self to do it. You see, whether you know it or not you've just completed the last summer of your youth. Those irresponsibilities that were once frowned upon and waved off as the innocence of youth are now viewed in much harsher terms. And no matter what you hear, college does change you (whether for better or worse is for you to decide), as the excited red glow of your senior year turns to a rose colored haze, your out-look on life takes some pretty nasty blows. And here you sit, more than a little apprehensive as to what your future holds and strangers keep coming up to you with forced smiles telling you "your gonna love it here" and I know your feeling slightly nauseous. Which is why this is not a welcome letter, because it does the image of this paper no good if the faculty sees students throwing up onto the editorial page. So I won't tell you of the wonderful time you'll have here, nor shall I talk of the competent faculty and staff that is on our campus. And I won't even mention our modern facilities and outstanding academic record. I'll even go so far as not to tempt you with mouthwatering details of the occasional parties our students are known to throw. No, you'll get none of that from me, 'cause this isn't a welcome letter; instead this is a sort of survival letter.

Oh, I know you got a student hand book to "inform you of school policy" but they didn't give you quite enough information. They didn't tell you those little details like: If you want change and your in the lounge, forget it! If your allergic to dust and you want to sit in the lounge, forget it! (just slap one of the couches and you'll see what I mean) If your going to register late and really believe that you'll get all the classes you want well . . . "To dream the impossible dream . . ." they also left out such important information as: Every Tuesday Burger King has Whoppers for half price. And always pick up a sheet of coupons (located in the front of every entrance to the mall) when you go to Granite Run (there's always a good deal from Scotto's). The coffee in the cafeteria is three times better than that in the vending machines. And, until we get the new building, that little brick shedlike building next to the tennis courts is our physical education building. They didn't tell you not to ask anyone why there is electric bell music on every hour and half hour; no one seems to know. And finally, something I'm sure was puzzling you: Gordon Cameron is president of the U.S.A. and R. Reagan is president of the U.S.A. . . . one is pres. of the United States of America and the other is pres. of the Undergraduate Student Association (we'll let you figure out which is which) and they are not to be confused.

So there you have it, some of the more pressing matters of college life (food, beverage, and entertainment). I'm sure you'll find some I didn't add (I don't want to take away all the fun of finding these things out first hand) and some I couldn't add, but these should get you through the first few weeks of your ordeal. Now go out there and get ready for registration (remember here the alphabet begins with P (how tricky) which confuses the hell out of us here at the newspaper) and have a good year. Oh, and come see me at the "Lions Eye" sign up table. Good luck . . . the Editor.

# Campus to Get New Building

by Christopher Conti

The Pennsylvania Department of General Services has begun planning our campus's new building. The new multi-purpose structure is being designed by the architectural firm of John S. Sabatino Associates, of Philadelphia, and tentatively may include, a main gym (of 15000 sq. feet), an auxiliary gym (of 3600 sq. feet), rac-

quetball courts, a weight room, locker rooms, showers, classrooms and offices. There is also talk of it housing an auditorium, a full cafeteria, and possibly even a new bookstore.

The building will be approximately 48,000 to 50,000 sq. feet and will be located between the modulars and the present Physical Education Building (thankfully the apple orchard will not be destroyed).

The project is expected to

cost seventy dollars a sq. foot. Which comes out to roughly 3.2 million dollars for the actual construction. The project was approved by Gov. Thornburgh late in 1981 as part of the capital construction bill. The request for the new campus building was co-sponsored by Sen. Clarence Bell and Rep. Joseph Loeper. A starting date for actual work has not been set.

## — Letter to the Editor —

Actually that title is a tad misleading, this is a Letter From Your Editor. You see I think that over the years some of my predecessors have forgotten exactly why we have a school newspaper. Its to better serve the student body, and we can't do that if we don't know your views. So if you have a legitimate 'gripe', complaint, or

compliment we'll print it, and not only will we print it but we'll do every thing in our power to find an answer to your problem. We need your views and ideas to survive so please do not hesitate write.

If you do have a letter to the editor you can place it in the Lions Eye mail box located in the mail room (the mail room is

in the main building across from the admissions office and next to the nurses office). Your letter does not have to be typed but it would save us alot of trouble if you did.

Thank you  
 Christopher Conti  
 Editor-in-Chief

# Pennsylvania Native 1st Black Astronaut

University Park, PA — Pennsylvania native Guion S. Bluford Jr. will be the first black astronaut ever to fly in space next month, and his undergraduate alma mater is making sure the event won't lack symbolic value.

The Pennsylvania State University, from which Col. Bluford graduated in 1964 with a B.S. in aerospace engineering, is sending along two football jerseys emblazoned with Col. Bluford's name and year of graduation. A cassette of Penn State fight songs has been submitted for Col. Bluford's wakeup calls on the shuttlecraft Challenger.

In addition, Penn State has submitted a copy of the Morrill Act signed into law by Abraham Lincoln on July 2, 1862. The Morrill Act donated "public lands to the several States and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts," giving rise to the 70 U.S. land-grant colleges and universities such as Penn State.

"Because you exemplify the pioneering spirit in which our University was founded, we are sending along with you an archive copy of the original Morrill Land-Grant Act," Penn State President Bryce Jordan wrote in a letter to Col. Bluford.

Dr. Jordan noted that ". . . the Morrill Act democratized higher education by encouraging men and women of the so-called 'industrial classes' to attend the new land-grant colleges. In promoting practical as well as liberal education, in-

stitutions such as Penn State and the other great land-grant universities have played a major role in establishing our nation's agricultural, scientific and technological leadership.

"The land-grant university movement, in addition to research and instruction, has emphasized the importance of serving the American public," Dr. Jordan concluded. "In a very real sense, your mission in space is an extension of the land-grant university spirit because it is a profound service to humanity."

Aboard the next shuttle flight, scheduled for mid to late August, Col. Bluford will be a flight engineering or mission specialist between commander Richard Truly and co-pilot Dan Brandenstein. It is the same job performed by Sally Ride, America's first woman to fly in space, during the seventh shuttle mission, which ended June 24 with a perfect landing in California.

Col. Bluford's main responsibilities on mission eight will be to launch an Indian communications satellite and operate a space medicine experiment that will test live proteins.

In addition to carrying the first black American into space, the mission will feature another first — a night launch and night landing.

In mid-December, Col. Bluford visited Penn State and was given the Outstanding Alumnus Award of its College of Engineering. In early June, he was made a Distinguished

Alumnus of the University — the highest honor Penn State bestows.

Col. Bluford, a native of Philadelphia and a 1960 graduate of Overbrook High School, came to Penn State with a clear goal in mind:

"I wanted to be an aerospace engineer," he says. "That was a dream I had even when I was in elementary school. Penn State was one of the few state schools that had a good aerospace engineering program, so it was my number one choice when I was looking at colleges."

He came to Penn State when the University enrolled very few blacks. Despite having a black roommate for two years, he found a very slim support network for minority students.

"You really had to make it on your own," Col. Bluford recalls. "The academics were tough and there were so few of us out there that you were really isolated. And the only time you got together was at weekly social functions at black fraternities. One of the things I'm pleased about now is that there's a Black Caucus for students, a system where they can support each other."

Col. Bluford, who enrolled in Air Force ROTC at Penn State, found that minorities were underrepresented in the professional world when he graduated in 1964. "I remember working in the flight dynamics lab. There were 600 engineers. Of the 600 engineers, 15 of us were black. Of those 15 blacks, two of us were in supervisory positions."

## Title Changes

by Christopher Conti

If during the course of the year something arises which causes you to seek out the Campus Director, or the Dean of Student Affairs, or any one in Student Affairs for that matter, forget it they don't exist. Now before you go off flaunting your new found freedom, I think I should clarify my statement a little. It's not that the people don't exist its just that the

titles have been changed. In fact in all the Penn State campus's across the commonwealth titles have been changed in order to more accurately reflect the duties of the individuals.

So John Vairo Campus Director is now Campus Executive Officer John Vairo. And Edward Linder Dean of Student Affairs is now Director of Student Programs and Services (the entire Student Affairs has been changed to Student Pro-

grams and Services). Among other title changes are Edward Tomesko who changed from Associate Director for Student Affairs to Director of Academic Affairs, and Joseph Biscontini who is now Director of University Relations.

These title changes do not entail extra work or responsibilities. They are simply to help clarify the jobs of these individuals.