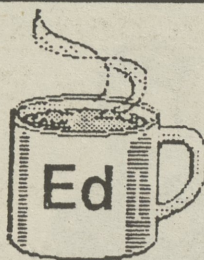


Opinion & Review

THE FRONT DESK

by Ed Tomezsko
Campus Executive Officer



Almost a month into the semester, time flies. As some of you know, we are in a planning process which will make the decisions on how this campus will be about three years from now. John Terrell and I will be inviting you to have lunch. Some of you know John as your accounting teacher or your academic advisor. I know him as one of the great faculty members here and currently chair of the Campus Faculty Senate.

However we know him, John and I want to know what is on your mind. What we would like to have happen is to have an opportunity to sit with about twenty students and faculty and talk over this campus: why you are here, what you would like to have here, and what should disappear. Some of you will be invited by us to lunch, while some of you, I hope, will simply tell us you want lunch, and lunch you will have.

Students have a lot of authority, believe it or not, at Penn State. We do respond to your wants and needs. For example, Amy McCarthy, President of the SGA, has asked that the old tennis courts be made over into sand volley ball courts and into a street hockey rink. We can do both of those things. You should see these additions by early Spring.

Some of you asked that you be able to study here for the complete baccalaureate degree program. We added the General Arts and Sciences and the American Studies baccalaureate degree programs to our offerings. There are three additional programs coming to our campus: English, Speech Communications, and Elementary Education.

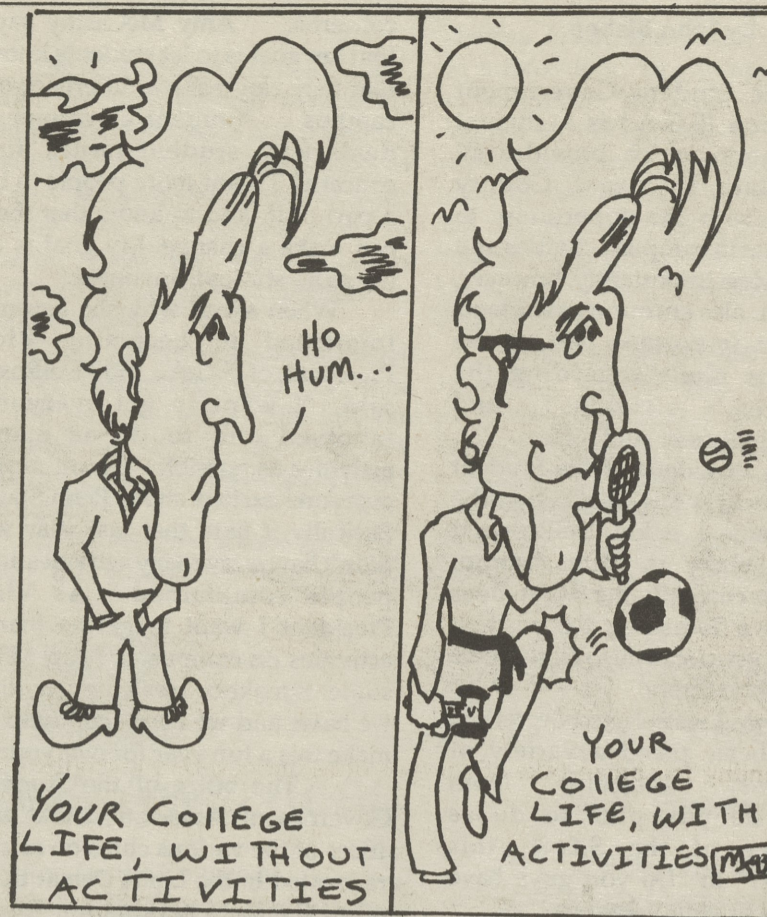
Access to international programs will begin soon. We have an agreement with Thames Valley University, London, to exchange students. Are you interested in going to and studying in London? To do so, you'll need a ticket to London and your living expenses. You will only pay the Penn State tuition. Are you interested? Let me know or watch for the announcements on the bulletin boards.

If you want to stay near your home and obtain a Penn State baccalaureate degree here on our campus, what do you want to study? We know that there are other academic programs which you would want here on campus and which would be valuable for you to have here. What are these programs?

Also, the baseball team will be added to our intercollegiate athletic program.

What else is needed by you? Our lunches will be an opportunity to talk about what you want here on campus and the topics are not restricted unless you want to restrict them to a special subject. If you have an opinion, we want to hear it. If you have a need, we want to hear about it.

Here's the point: the futuristic vision of the campus is a "community of people learning." This means that all of us are capable of learning *only* if we take the time to listen to each other. See you at lunch. Call John or me for an invitation.



Editorials:

To Join or Not to Join

By Jennifer Holland

Have you ever noticed that the student involvement here on our campus isn't quite the same as the high-spirited activity which most of us experienced during our high school days?

In case you haven't even thought about it, many of us here at Delco have. It seems as though some of us tend to isolate ourselves from school activities. Sure, many of us have after school jobs to attend and just cannot find the time to commit ourselves to additional work. However, there are those of us who just don't feel it's the "in" things to do.

In reality, the words "in" and "cool" have become the latest words over the past couple of years. Some of us direct our interests at the opinion of other students. We become overly concerned whether we'll be considered a "nerd" if we join a certain club others see as "lame".

When I spoke about this problem with faculty and students, their thoughts were similar. They mentioned that students seem distant from others, as if they are somewhat afraid to approach each one another.

Faculty, especially, seemed concerned about the feelings students seem to take on when dealing with such school issues. We are all here together and there is no reason why we cannot socialize with each other. I was asked by the faculty if it wasn't the "cool" thing to do, since school involvement has decreased. Penn State offers many different activities which interest students, so maybe we should work on it and become more involved.

Soph Year: Hell or Heaven?

By Mike Jamison

"The future's uncertain, the end is always near." It seems that my life can always be summed up in a verse or two from a Doors song. For me, starting my sophomore year in college, the future is truly uncertain, and the end, it seems, is coming upon me very quickly. What will life be like this year, as I shrug off the binds of freshmanhood, and venture into the void that is being a sophomore.

Now, you may be thinking, hey, you're being a little too paranoid about this, c'mon, you've got years in college left to go. Well, that may be true, but this is my sophomore year. The rest of the way, it will be harder and harder to find light at the end of the tunnel. Freshman year was like a practice drill, a year to get acquainted with college and to get a feel for college life. As I now begin my sophomore year, I find myself overburdened with high expectations of maturity and leadership. To some, mainly parents, instructors, and freshman friends, I'm seen as a veteran, a survivor of that inaugural year, ready to take on the world. Why is it that I feel my knees beginning to shake.

I have never fit well into the mode of leader or example. In grade school, I wasn't the class clown, I was the guy who wrote jokes for the class clown. I've always found it uncomfortable being in a position to set an example for others, and this year is no exception. As a sophomore, I and my fellow classmates are expected to reflect the maturity gained from a year in college. We are to be the students incoming freshman are to become. I know I sound like a school president making a speech, but spoken or unspoken, this is what is expected of myself and my fellow sophomores.

Now, I'm not saying these expectations are warranted. It's tough being in college, whether you be a freshman or sophomore, or a junior or senior for that matter. No one can tell the future, the dark swirling mist that lies ahead of us. All we can do is face the uncertain future head on, trying to get through the bumps and roadblocks that lie ahead. The future may be uncertain, the end always near, but there's also another famous quote to remember: "There's always light at the end of the rainbow".

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