

Opinion

Will the madness only stop after we've paid our bill?

By SHAWN PETTIT
Assistant editor

Okay, we can all admit it. There are some of us that haven't paid our tuition bill right on time. Between school, work, and any activities that may be remotely important to us, some of us have missed paying our latest tuition installment. It's one of those little things we miss from time to time, even if it is something we're required to do.

We just end up paying it when we remember to have the check to the Bursar by that all-important late bill due date. We pay an extra twenty-five bucks and life goes on. No big deal. Right?

Wrong. Now it's a very big deal. At the beginning of this semester, Penn State adopted a new policy that deals with late tuition payments. Every Penn State student must have their bill paid by the bill due date or their classes will be cancelled and they will have to re-register.

The consequences of missing a payment now are, in a word, extreme. After the bill due date, a student has until the following Monday to pay their bill and re-register or their classes will be officially cancelled. What does this mean for late-paying students?

This means that they won't receive any credit for work they do in those classes, attendance in class will not be recorded, another student can take that spot in the class for themselves, and all ACCESS privileges (internet, E-Lion) are suspended.

After going to the Bursar to

pay the late bill, the student then must report to Registration to re-register, re-schedule all classes (if the spot hasn't been taken), and have ACCESS privileges reinstated.

What's the University's reasoning behind this new policy? Apparently, Penn State Delco lost over \$175,000 in funding due to late tuition payments. That comes out to be about \$100 in funding

for every student.

Personally, I think this whole policy stinks. Now instead of just paying a late fee, a student must be burdened with dire consequences for making a payment a couple of days late on top of that fee.

Not only will Penn State lose students through this new policy, but they will also chase potential students away when they find out what can hap-

pen to them with one late payment. The school should lose this policy before they lose any students because they are irritated at the school for not only taking more money from them, but for putting them through hell for accidentally paying their bill a few days late. Penn State, take your twenty-five bucks and give us our sanity back. We need it for our classes.



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New route better for us or the community?

By KHEMARA UN
Staff writer

When I heard about the new entrance, our highway to an education, I thought "what wonderful idea! My tires are no longer condemned to constant re-pumping every time I enter and exit school ground." But after I spoke to Lisa Colwell, I realized I have yet to weigh the pros and cons of constructing this "safer" route.

The entrance sounds like a dream come true. We'll have traffic lights that will substitute the screeching sounds from tires that rush to turn onto Yearsley Mill Road before the opposing traffic can collide. The light will be our "electronic crossing guard," which will also aide us back onto Route 352 safely. We also have options now; to take the new route or the old one. We are living the life.

However, what kind of discomfort are we providing to others as a result of our luxury? Light from the vehicles of students attending evening classes peek into the windows of the surrounding residence can disturb their dinner or nap. "Peeping toms" are annoying, especially when they are in your eyes. I also forgot to mention how long the construction will take. If it takes two years to finish, then that will be two years of drilling that the neighbors' ears will have to endure pain.

After many days of pondering I have concluded that I advocate the safer alternative but I am against the process. I understand that there can be a better plan. For instance, enlarging the entrance we have now. It will be more cost efficient, less time consuming, and it doesn't disturb our neighbors.

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