

Opinion

Letter to the editors

Less For Your Money

The idea expressed on page 6 of the 26 September issue of 'The Lion's

Eye' that prices are set by the quality of a product evidences a gross misperception of the marketplace. In truth, prices are set according to what the market will bear.

A good example of this is store brand versus name brand cereal on the shelves of grocery stores. The contents within the respective boxes are identical. Yet one, the brand, carries a higher price because its recognition value is able to command it.

Not only has the quality of gasoline not advanced over the past several years, neither has that of bread, toothpaste or milk. Nonetheless, their prices have also escalated due in general to the inflationary effect (i.e., the costs of raw materials, labor, manufacturing, etc. have all gone up).

The two largest cost components to a gallon of gasoline are the raw material (crude oil) and taxes (federal, state and local). Governments dictate the latter while OPEC in general and the Saudis in particular set the former.

-Prof. Lindsey Murdah

Letter from the editors

Diversity Award Needs Support

Currently in progress, I've been working with the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) at University Park to create and implement an award benefiting students only at the Commonwealth campuses (That means YOU). This award in-the-making is aimed towards individuals on campus who foster diversity. What this means is that individuals on campus who hold events to increase cultural and ethnic awareness, or simply go out of their way to understand others and their cultures, would be eligible for this award upon its implementation. Each campus would nominate a person at the end of each academic year who would first, have to accept the nomination, then submit an essay to CCSG; the Diversity Committee at CCSG would then be responsible for voting on a winner. That student would receive an award of \$1,000. Collectively, the Commonwealth has been able to amass \$1,000 towards this self-renewing scholarship. Our total needs to be \$20,000 in order for the interest to roll over the \$1,000 each year, allowing for the next person to be awarded the money. In the future, look for updates on the award in the paper and possible fundraisers on campus. Donations are also always welcome. If you or anyone you know is interested in helping out with this cause, please feel free to contact me.

-Andrew Walter

People Poll

Staff writer Frank Friday asked:
What's your favorite scary movie?



Nightmare on Elm Street

Kate Larkin
Marketing



"Halloween 3"

Josh Phillips
English



"The Others or Hide and Seek"

Tyler Harvey
Landscape Contractor



"The Exorcist"

Kelly Griffith
DUS



"28 Days Later"

John Kerns
DUS



"The Evil Dead Trilogy"

Nikita Sergeivic
Yurkovsky
LA

Download Music and Destroy Your CD Drive

Music. Downloading. Copyrights.

I'm sure you've all heard these words recently, especially if you are an avid music fan. The Record Industry Association of America (RIAA) has been doing everything they can to stop the illegal transfer of music. Napster, once the champion of illegal music acquisition, is now a pay-to-play company. Kazaa, another popular downloading program, is so full of viruses it would make Bill Gates' head spin. The next step was to attach anti-piracy software to the CD's themselves.

About a year ago, I was talking with a friend of mine in the cafeteria. We were talking about new albums, and he brought up the Velvet Revolver CD, "Contraband."

My friend is an avid music fan, and likes to make backup copies of his albums. Unfortunately, the Velvet Revolver didn't want to be backed up.

Apparently his CD drive started making strange noises, and refused to read the CD. He tried other CD's, and the CD drive continued to make weird noises. The RIAA "Slither"-ed their way into the computer, so to speak, and disrupted his CD drive.

In order to repair the drive, he had to restore the system, effectively putting the computer in its original state. Thankfully, he backed up most of his files. The system restore did fix his CD drive, but it must have been at a great inconvenience.

So the RIAA's solution to the downloading problem is

to mess with the computers of people with good intentions. Okay, so they can't readily discern between those who upload CD's for distribution purposes and those who upload CD's for personal use. In such a large world with such advanced home computer technology, such a feat is nearly impossible. I think that disruption of a system which people pay upwards of a thousand dollars for is absolutely ridiculous.

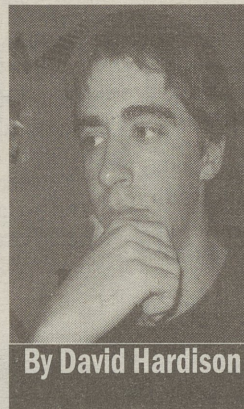
How can the RIAA justify randomly throwing out programs that are harmful to people's computers?

My guess is that their philosophy has something to do with "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Internet piracy has caused harm to the RIAA's income, so their response is to cause harm to the mediums used in piracy.

But this is a careless tactic, as evidenced by my friend's situation, People whose intentions are good get caught up in the storm. And it is now that I ask you this: What next? Will CD's soon contain some sort of sensor that whenever a CD is placed into a computer with Internet access, a message will be sent to the RIAA?

Oh, by the way, the FBI also has a new tactic.

They've created a brand-spanking new anti-piracy logo. I suppose all the music-pirates are shaking in their pirate boots, knowing that the FBI's grand scheme to cut back on piracy involves different color arrangements.



By David Hardison

MISSION STATEMENT

We are the newspaper of the Penn State Delaware County campus, serving the students, administration, faculty, staff, and visitors to our campus. We vow to entertain and inform all of our audiences, and we will strive to make each edition better, so that we remain a vital part of the Penn State Delco experience. We also strive to be professional, and to follow the highest standards of good journalism.

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