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The Daily Collegian

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Penn State Series: Let's Get the Facts

A plan to subsidize—and, thus bring to life—culture at the University was tabled by All-University Cabinet Thursday night so that groups represented on the legislative body could discuss it.

The plan has merit at first glance. But it raises a host of questions—questions that must be answered before it advances.

Students would be assessed a dollar a year to support a Penn State Series, which, it is promised, would bring to the campus outstanding speakers and musical programs. Names such as Victor Borge and the Boston Pops Orchestra were dropped on the floor of Cabinet when the plan was proposed. The Series would replace the defunct Community Forum and the unappreciated Community Concert Series.

The committee which proposed the creation of the Series, represented by H. Diehl McKalip, former chairman of the Board of Publications, substituting for Kirk Garber, chairman, indicated that "six, seven, or eight" such "performers with class but also with culture" could be secured for the Series.

But, it was admitted, no research was done to see if six, seven, or eight such programs could be afforded on the estimated budget of \$12,000.

Before the plan goes further, students should be told what they can expect for their dollar. This means the committee had best do some shopping to find if Boston Pops Orchestras would be within the budget's means or if this is simply a pleasant dream which could become a troublesome nightmare when the time came for producing great names.

Would Recreation Hall be available for such a program? With few exceptions, Rec Hall is booked months in advance with intramural sports. The already crowded IM schedule would have to be somewhat curtailed. We think the committee should not even consider use of Schwab Auditorium for the Series.

If 12,000 students are supporting a program, as many as possible should have the chance to participate. This, unless we greatly overestimate the number of students who thirst for culture with class, rules out Schwab. The audi-

torium seats only 1230.

Indeed, the question whether it is fair at all for all students to support a program that only some can participate in must be answered by Cabinet before this plan is approved.

Nothing was said Thursday night about faculty and staff members participating in the program. We can find no reason to bar them from the opportunity.

Would the extra dollar tacked on student fees be harmful? Doesn't the University have an obligation to keep down the price of the education it offers?

The committee can argue that the extra dollar won't make a difference to the average student, that it means only one less movie a semester. Nevertheless, to some, a dollar does matter. Fees, some feel, should be lowered if possible, not raised.

The suggested program duplicates one proposed by the 1954 Student Encampment. It failed to make much headway when it was brought back to campus last fall. But the situation was different then; Community Forum was still alive.

If Cabinet passes this proposal, it will go before the University Board of Trustees. And Trustees wisely frown on new fee proposals. The committee will need more convincing figures than it has so far produced to move the Trustees to approve one more fee boost.

One of the most convincing arguments the committee could present both to Cabinet and the Trustees is that students are behind the idea and are willing to pay an extra dollar for culture's sake.

Are they? The opinions of the student body should be polled by the committee before it next faces Cabinet. But before an intelligent public opinion can be formed, the public must be informed.

Thus the committee has a triple job ahead of it: to find out the facts about this program, to inform the student body about the details, and to then determine if students are willing to foot the bill.

—The Editor

Joe and Mary: Let Them Eat Together!

Suspension is not the answer to the problem of panty raids. And the dean of men's office seems to realize this.

The office has shown this by approving extended recreational facilities for the West Dorm area. However, extended recreational facilities alone will probably not do the job.

Added to this should be co-educational dining. Granted, it just isn't done by universities as large as Penn State. Granted also, it might not work. But there seems to be a good possibility that it would work in the West Dorm area. At least, it deserves a try.

James Kennedy, former president of West Halls Council, probably came as close as anyone for discovering the cause of the demonstration of April 19 by opining that "there is not enough contact between Joe Doe in Hamilton and Mary Jones in Thompson Hall."

Co-educational dining should do much to relieve this situation.

However, there are several problems that would have to be ironed out before co-educational dining would be possible in the area. But we believe solutions to these problems could be found.

At present, women in Thompson Hall get less food than the men. Also, they have waiter service and the men do not. Another problem, cited by the food department, according to Dean of Men Frank J. Simes, can be thrown out the window immediately. It is that men and women like different types of meals. We doubt this. The majority of people like meat, two vegetables, a salad, dessert, and beverage for their meals.

There seems to be no reason why service could not be continued for the women under co-educational dining. The men could still carry out their own trays. And we cannot see why women students could not also continue to get the same amount of food under the proposed setup.

The plan deserves a try—not an outright remark that it will not work.

—Ed Dubbs

A Day Well Earned

This is the time of year when children the country over put aside their petty parental grievances and cast affectionate glances at a gal simply called "Mother."

After 364 days of wiping running noses, patching skinned knees, cajoling Dad into sending extra greenbacks to their "destitute" college student, and otherwise smoothing over the ills of her "kiddies," Mom at last must have her day.

This weekend the campus will be swarming with mothers, mothers, mothers, and more mothers. A host of activities have been planned to greet the family's "first lady."

A program of open houses, teas, concerts, sports events, plays, and the annual May Day ceremony has been scheduled to entertain the weekend visitors.

This is the weekend when the "ugly men" will again put their best face forward, students will be on their best behavior, and fraternity houses will allow "women upstairs"—all for one of the world's greatest necessities—Mother.

—Marilynn Zabusky

Is Froth Necessary?

Froth, for no good reason, comes out Monday. The foolish little rag has been doing so all too often this year. We admire its spunk; someday, we feel sure, it'll be funny.

Someday, too, the Pittsburgh Pirates will win a pennant, the leaning tower Pisa will stand erect, and, someday, Marilyn Monroe will be a grandmother.

We can hardly wait.

Froth, this month promises to expose things for what they really are. Goody. Let's hope it starts with itself.

But, from sad, painful encounters, we know Froth will expose itself only to the gullibility of Penn State through the medium of its aggressive circulation staff.

We're resigned to the inevitability of all this. Froth, like garlic's odor, is not easily gotten rid of.

But when it is, it's worth the effort.

—The Editor

Gazette...

Today
NEWMAN CLUB DAILY ROSARY, 4:30 p.m., Church; Choir
Student Center
Tomorrow
OUTPOST, 7 p.m., rear of Old Main
NEWMAN CLUB, choir practice, 2 p.m., Church; Devotions, 7 p.m., Church

Monday
PENN STATE SCALE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, 7 p.m., 19 HUB
NEWMAN CLUB Radio Program, 7:30 p.m., WMAJ
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Gerson Alexander, Morris Cramer, Robert Allison, Francis Markland, Kenneth Sommers, Douglas Pease, Glenn Heasley, Archibald Gentles, Peter Hirsch, Margaret Allan, Lorraine Cobosco.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"May we introduce ourselves? My fraternity brothers and I just couldn't help but notice you're wearing our pin."

Centennial Lore

University's Budget Reflects Its Growth

By DON BARLETT

The University, in requesting a \$25,194,060 budget for the 1955-57 biennium, has increased its request more than 100 times over that of the first budget appropriation the University ever requested, which was \$25,000.

During the first years of the University's history, money was hard to find, even more so than now, if that is possible. In April of 1861 the General Assembly approved appropriations amounting to \$49,900.

However, this was the last the University's officials saw of the hard-to-come-by green stuff for another 11 years. This has been the longest period of time that the University has gone without appropriations from the state.

One of the most interesting facets of the University's budgets over the years is the diversity in the amount of money which is set aside for "general maintenance."

In the 1917-19 budget, the University received \$3,523,800, and of this amount, 39 per cent was used for maintenance.

For the biennium of 1921-23, the University received \$2,352,300 from the general assembly. Of this amount, 74 per cent was pigeon-holed for maintenance.

General maintenance includes such expenses as salaries for faculty members and employees of the University, repairs on the campus, fuels, supplies, etc.

In 1949 the appropriation from Harrisburg amounted to \$18,386,000. And from this amount 53 per cent was laid aside for maintenance.

The 1953-55 appropriation of \$21,500,000, which the University is currently working under, the amassed sum of 92 per cent went for general maintenance.

Whether the meaning of "general maintenance" is changed from year to year is hard to tell, but it seems to be the only plausible explanation for the unstatic amount of money which is set aside for maintenance.

However, all of the University's years at obtaining a budget were not easy ones. In 1926 it looked for a while as though the University was going to suffer a tremendous loss at the hands of Governor Pinchot. The governor, an able man with the knife in slashing budgets, brought the following response from Dr. John Martin Thomas, president of the University at that time:

"Operations at the Pennsylvania State College will have to be curtailed along all lines during the next biennium unless the legislature appropriates more funds than is given in the budget estimates submitted by Governor Pinchot." Evidently,

however, the University survived the budget cut.

Although most people are aware of the Morrill Land Grant Act, few are cognizant of the fact that there was a second Morrill Act which was passed in 1890. This act provided that \$1500 yearly be given to the University and that \$1000 be added annually until the total reached \$25,000.

The University has progressed in a rapid fashion since its first budget appropriation of \$25,000. During its 100 year history, the popular green stuff in the form of budgets, has been amassed until the present day budget request of \$25,194,000, which is now before the legislature in Harrisburg.

\$10 Prize Offered In Writing Contest

A \$10 prize will be awarded the winner of the Interfraternity Council writing contest, Carl Saperstein, public relations chairman of IFC, announced Wednesday.

The contest, "Why Fraternity?" will end May 21. Entries should be between 2000 and 2500 words, typewritten and double spaced, Saperstein said.

The essays will be judged on originality, content, and persuasiveness.

Entries should be submitted at the Hetzel Union desk.

This Weekend On WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES
Today
7:25 Sign On
7:30 Kuster's Last Stand
8:15 BBC Feature
8:45 Just for Two
9:30 Hi-Fi Open House
10:30 Thought for the Day
Tomorrow
7:25 Sign On
7:30 Third Program
10:30 Thought for the Day
Monday
7:25 Sign On
7:30 Phil Wein
8:15 Top Drawer
8:30 Progressions in Rhythm
9:00 BBC Weekly
9:15 New
9:30 Symphonic Notebook
10:30 Thought for the Day