

Editorial Opinion

Tax on Texts: How Much Longer?

The beginning of each term sees book buying at a peak and thoughts turning to the application of the state sales tax to these textbook purchases.

A local establishment has added to the question by encouraging its student customers to sign a petition protesting the tax as "discriminatory in nature."

The ruling which applies tax to texts sold by private concerns, we are told, is not part of state law but an interpretation of the law under which the Department of Sales and Use Tax operates.

We agree with Keeler's president, who has said he feels the ruling was an oversight in that exemptions were granted on texts sold to students by stores operated at educational institutions.

We are inclined to wonder, therefore, how the governor's office could be so western-oriented as to overlook the state's largest university, private or not.

Tax exemption would pose new questions, though, in the definition of a textbook plus limitation of purchases to students at either a University or commercial establishment.

As for this University, we must one day face the dilemma of asking for a tax exemption while repeatedly requesting increased allotments to run the school.

While we realize that Keeler's has not injured its public relations by sponsoring a petition to the governor's office, nonetheless we commend its efforts.

Emphasis on Research

The more than half-million dollar research contract awarded recently for crystal preparation studies points out the increased emphasis on the role of research at the University.

Maybe we on the student newspaper are merely becoming better acquainted with the varied research projects or perhaps these vital studies are finally getting the campus-wide acknowledgement they deserve.

Both the basic and applied research conducted in University laboratories and in the field merit a salute from students and faculty alike on the efforts to make a better Penn State in a better world.

Summer Collegian

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meandering

Memorization U.

by Joan Mehan

Television classes, large lectures, elimination of vacations and condensation of vast amounts of material into short periods of time are all becoming a significant part of Penn State.

Efficiency and practicality are the call words of the term system. The purpose seems to be to get overwhelming numbers of students into the University, jam as many facts as possible down their throats and get them out in the shortest amount of time.

Such educational "frills" as small discussions and live lectures have been replaced with more practical arrangements.

This would be fine if a uni-

versity was a factory striving for great speed in the production of its final product. However, a university should strive for quality.

The effects of the term system have been shown in many ways. Granted more students make better averages; however, scholarship is only a part of an education.

Spring Week has already been cut down to practically elimination with the float parade being moved to the fall when many students still feel they won't have time to work on it.

able to assume leadership positions in campus organizations? No wonder people complain about nothing being done.

These things are all a part of education if we want the Penn State graduate to be more than an automaton.

The concept of the "educated man" who is interested in something outside his field is hardly enhanced by the Penn State system.

What has he been doing—attending 75 minute lectures, three- and four-hour labs, writing term papers and trying desperately to get caught up for the next bluebook.

Thinking has not been completely eliminated. However, if the rate of practical expansion of the University's educational philosophy is continued, it is only a matter of a few years before that detail should be accomplished.

kaleidoscope

The Magic Box

by Kay Mills

Summer television fare is notoriously repetitious in the strictest sense of that word. And for that reason, I don't begrudge in the least giving up viewing the little box for warm weather studies.

Television is a marvelous invention of a marvelous age. Where else can you watch your daily life mirrored in soap box specials? These are the programs for the little lady who has no problems of her own to worry about.

Soap operas are likewise the only shows which admit that the advertising is more important than the performers.

Then there are the TV situations which simply do not happen in our humdrum daily life. For example, tell me how many times you have walked into a dark room to find some-

one waiting for you with a gun. Chilling thought, perhaps, and thankfully unrealistic.

Let's not even consider the cops-and-robbers roles but just think of the average Joe who walks on and off the magic screen. How often do you drive a car down the highway and have someone rise from the back seat? Bet you'll check that area tonight now, huh?

If you are a city dweller, how often do a lightfooted criminal and his pursuers cavort across your roof and around the ol' TV antenna? Makes ghosts on the screen all the time, right, sonny?

Then there was the time you were held hostage to prevent the police from recapturing a desperate criminal. We have that one marked on our calendar.

To switch motifs, you can hardly forget the day your horse started to talk or the time your dinosaur cried because you put him out at night.

Your kid brother may cause crises in your home, but can he top the staggering totals amassed by Dobie Gillis or Dennis the Menace?

Enough of this tongue-in-cheek action. Everybody needs an escape. Some prefer golf or a good book; others gaze at the television screen.

The only danger is that TV will not remain a novelty. Despite the fact that TV sets have been on the market at fairly reasonable prices for many years, they retain a newness for numbers of customers.

Campus Beat

HUB Hour Lacks 'Zing'

My HUBology seminars have been lacking some of their old atmosphere. There is definitely something wrong, I said to myself one day last week, so I began evaluating the course content.

No, that hadn't changed. Coffee or coke and conversation conducted in my ol' casual way. Then it finally hit me. Two problems have definitely caused my summer regulars to lose their zing.

The most obvious is that the afternoon HUBology groups face that blank wall instead of the usual friendly faces behind the Lion's Den counter.

The other problem is that students fear something is up somewhere and they can't pin it down. Morale is low among these old timers who wonder precisely what is going on—why the departmental exodus? Tell you one thing—I like my staff (me) and I hope to ease the worried minds by remaining on the job.

Prof Wayne

Letters

Survival Odds Hit by Senior

TO THE EDITOR: Citizens, unite and worry. This seems to be the theme of Miss Mills' article "Which Way Out?" in last Thursday's Collegian.

My own opinion is that the country must maintain its maximum striking power. Mr. Khrushchev is keenly aware of the power balance between the USA and USSR.

If you are looking for the most important dilemma facing the country, Miss Mills, ask yourself which hits home harder—your own survival or a distant chance of a shortened life for children yet unborn.

David Sigman '62

LETTER POLICY

Letters to the editor must carry the full name of the author and identification of the author will be verified before any letter is published.

