

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." We echo our stand in agreement with the petition and call for increased hammering at the governor's door about this problem.

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. An exemption would therefore face only indirect politicking rather than the maneuvering and rather certain defeat it would encounter on the floor of the legislature.

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. The University, having no bookstore, cannot take advantage of this decision. Area merchants must collect the tax or face fines and/or imprisonment.

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. There is also the problem of whether exemptions should cover only textbooks or benefit all town merchants who sell school supplies.

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. To achieve both goals, we will undoubtedly have to re-educate Pennsylvania citizens to the plain fact that good education costs money.

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. The more taxpayers and even "collectors" who indicate interest and stir student support, the sooner the idea that the University community commands attention may dent the Harrisburg armor.

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. We feel it is the latter.

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. It is about time that some officials around here finally realized that they are dealing with people and not just numbers on IBM cards.

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. How many students have time to read books other than required course work? How many students would like to attend Artists' and Lecture Series programs but find they don't have time?

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. How many students are

able to assume leadership positions in campus organizations? No wonder people complain about nothing being done. No one has time to do it.

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. Ask most students a question on world affairs and they'll give you a guilty expression and a quiet, "I haven't heard any national news in weeks."

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. The joy of learning and discovery that the philosophers talk about is seldom felt at old Memorization U.

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. Who knows, by having classes around the clock for about 6 months, maybe Penn State could prepare a million clock-punchers a year.

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, the woman who uses her precious spare time for this "self-improvement."

Soap operas are likewise the only shows which admit that the advertising is more important than the performers, both in quantity and quality of programming. Wait, maybe the "live" all-nighters can claim more commercial than comment time.

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. Or the week you toured Jellystone Park with your parents and were greeted a thundering, "Oh-ho-ho, Yogi!"

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. People are almost tragic who become so obsessed with the personalities and events in the magic box that they fail to enjoy the best of a real and vital world.



MISS MEHAN

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. Well, we realize this is an economy measure so we don't mind that much. Just a mite depressing, that's all.

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. Yessir, I'm here to stay, fans.

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. I was extremely amused at the 6-4 odds Bertrand Russell is giving for survival. I understand that Las Vegas is giving 6-5 and take your pick.

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. Given a tilt in his favor, he will inevitably refer back to the Communist Manifesto.

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. In most cases, letters over 400 words will not be published. The Summer Collegian reserves the right to edit any letter if it is deemed necessary. The decision to publish or reject a letter lies solely with the editor; letters containing obvious misstatements or lacking in good taste or fair play will be rejected.

