

The right to know

The Controller's Report is the only official public disclosure of expenditures at the University. But this report won't, for example, tell the public how much money any athletic team spent for travel expenses last year. And the athletic department couldn't release a list of its expenses even if it wanted to because it's against University policy.

It looks as if there is no way the general public will ever find out how much, and if too much money is being spent. And the University is making more and more people suspicious about expenses not mentioned in the controller's report.

The controller's office says its report would have to be a book 10 inches thick to contain specific expenses for all departments in the University.

Some departments wouldn't mind making their expenditures public on their own. Dean Robert Scannell admits the cost would be small but says he can't disclose many figures because it's against University policy.

University policy again. It seems any time administrators don't want to do something they cite University policy. And in most cases the policy isn't a written one, but a "feeling," as the controller's office called it.

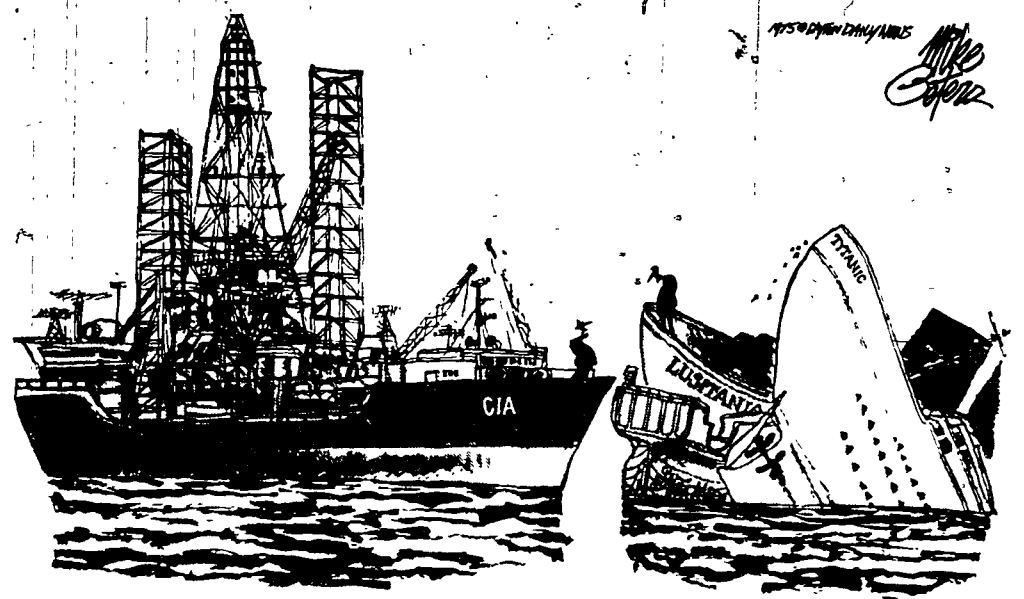
If the controller's office would let individual departments release expenditures at their own expense and discretion, it could solve a lot of problems. Departments would be more watchful of their expenses. They could even get some good money-saving suggestions from the public.

The controller's office doesn't

want to take the responsibility if individual departments release incorrect figures. But the controller uses the same records the departments use to add up expenditures. And if departments make it known that public releases aren't official University reports, the controller wouldn't be responsible at all.

Again the controller's office hides behind the vague University "feeling," that individual releases stated as unofficial aren't allowed.

The "people's right to know" is a popular journalistic phrase, often misused. There are sensitive issues that don't call for publication. But if the University is so needlessly protective about how University departments spend their money, something's wrong, and the people have a right to know about it.



"No, No, . . . It's Gray and Cigar-Shaped With a Little Periscope on Top . . ."

Letters to the Editor of the Collegian

Comedy of errors

TO THE EDITOR: I am writing this in response to the offensive letter of March 25, sent in by Lisa Watson in regards to Froth Magazine.

I personally have not read this issue, but Ms. Watson's description of it seems to make it worth while and interesting. Her reaction to it is typical of the self-righteous fervor which caused the destruction of Lenny Bruce as a comedian, and the denial of his freedom of expression.

Ms. Watson seemed to base her letter on the idea of Christianity, yet the morals which she, as a Christian, must follow, seem to have been conveniently cast aside. "If My Lord Jesus were alive today," with which she began her comedy of errors, is blatantly opposed to the proper philosophy that Christ is indeed alive today. Sort of reminds you of the God is Dead syndrome of some years back, doesn't it? Also, in demanding that Christ would have the books burned, I noted the close similarity she has endowed Christ with to such upstanding men of history as Adolf Hitler. In fact, this sees Christ as a man of violence.

In her last paragraph, she then personally convicts the editors and writers as being unhappy, ego-centered, and not Christ-centered. A more perfect description of the writer of that letter could not be worded more accurately if she meant all that she said. In one breath she has judged (which is against the teachings of Christ) these other people because she personally does not see eye to eye with them. In fact, has used her own bird's eye view of morality to do it. Each person has his own morality, and it's un-Christian to damn them. In fact your entire letter, Ms. Watson, reeks of a non-Christian self-centered overly righteous attitude. In complete agreement with the eleventh commandment of St. Paul, "Thou shalt not think.

In the future, please don't disgrace Christianity by writing such letters in His name.

In the words of Lenny Bruce, "To-ooooo is a preposition. Come is a verb." Look up the rest of it.

Michael C. Mahan
12th-medical technology

Confined to rooms

TO THE EDITOR: I live in Beam Hall which is located in North. On March 18 at 9:30 I happened to notice the lights in our quad go out. I find this quite distressing. As you know, there have been numerous reports of campus females being raped and indecently assaulted within their dorm areas at night. This has not helped the campus female to feel more secure when a particular meeting is scheduled during the evening. There is a wealth of activities going on in various buildings all over campus and due to the lack of facilities and convenient times during the daylight hours, these activities need be scheduled

for the evening. Limiting out activities to daylight hours by having a dangerously low number of lights on at night is highly unfair as it limits how much we can get out of the University experience. We should feel safe traversing this campus at anytime of the day or night. Adequate lighting is essential. It has already proved itself to be a deterrent to assaults on this campus. To turn off the lighting at 9:30 is surely detrimental to personal safety. It is even too dark to see the passageways to the dining hall snackbar.

Surely we are not to be confined to our rooms at 9:30. Surely the safety of everyone living and using this campus should be the prime concern. I should think that even with the energy crunch, the cost of additional lighting would be well spent. Isn't your safety worth it?

Patricia O'Malley
6th-journalism

Time for unity

TO THE EDITOR: To waddle in our own egocentricity as a pig in his pen is the latter's business as well as the former. There is nothing wrong with being self-centered when it does not conflict with anyone's rights. However, an important election approaches and it is time that the student populous crawls out of its shell. It's your right.

Some of the candidates involved are good speakers with boring ideas and others are boring speakers with good ideas. But most of the ideas, however good, are as unrealistic as the student body is apathetic. The problem branches into two parts. The first problem is the diversified factions that exist at this university. There may be too many people attending Penn State to create any unity. Instead, unity is created within our respective factions and we live in our own little worlds. The factions consist of clubs, organizations, ourselves and nothing. Secondly, the candidates think in terms of veracity but know not what it is to experience. I've heard several different stories on issues from as many candidates. I've listened to unrealistic proposals involving major changes on campus costing plenty of money, minor changes that are irrelevant and promises with the effect "If I'm elected, I will do this and that." Be realistic—the issues are not inanimate objects, the issues are the students. The candidates are nothing without the student populous and the students are nothing alone.

The Pennsylvania State University will function without us, because we are not united. This university could care less about the individual student and therefore the individual student cannot demand or want or desire anything by himself. The candidates need the student and the students need leaders. Presently there is neither. There is no prestige with the positions offered and nobody cares. As long as this condition exists, we are the sheep amongst ourselves. We are the fuel for the fire, the University is the heat.

In conclusion, I want to make a few simple suggestions. My advice to the candidates is 1) be realistic, 2) be relevant, 3) be yourself. Students, we are gone when University presidents, board of directors and treasurers remain; we are transient. We are here for a purpose, an education, and graduate for a purpose, to exist, survive or flourish in life. While we are at this institution, let us flourish in a united orderly manner. Maybe together we can make a dent in the system. Divided, we don't stand a chance. There will be no credibility by the administration toward the Undergraduate Student Government without all the students being involved and the students are not a viable force without government. It's time for a change, it's time for unity, it is time to vote. April 2nd and 3rd will soon be here.

Gary D. Romanic
9th-environmental resources management

Parking rip-off

TO THE EDITOR: In these days of mass student apathy and egocentrism, it is nice to find that a handful of students do care about this University and folks, I'm referring to none other than those boys and girls employed in the services of the Campus Patrol. Since the bygone days of student unrest and militant activism, these fine young Americans have primarily been engulfed in a major conflict with a devious adversary known as the "parked car." Like Patton's boys in Europe during World War II, these junior servicemen have, do, and will meet their objectives in an orderly, precise, and methodical manner. The goal—annihilation of all parked cars on this campus. Well, let me get to the point. I received a ticket on my car last Sunday at 7:55 in the morning for parking on Fraser Road. My compliments to the patrol person who caught me. Anyone willing to get up 7:00 Sunday morning to hand out parking tickets must be very disciplined. I realize these people are only doing their job; that means that the real problem lies in the policy-making administration. Too often, the administration forgets that PSU exists for the students, and that we deserve a little "wining and dining" also. I think it's about time that this University stop ripping off its students with parking tickets.

Alan Sherman
7th-pre-med

Cloud of despair

TO THE EDITOR: There are few things more irritating than listening to someone else laugh at your own copy of Froth. Michael J. Slobodnjak, a former friend, illustrated this quite well. He walked into my room, and it seemed as if a cloud of despair followed his arrival. "It seems as if a cloud of despair follows my arrival," he said, which wasn't surprising under the circumstances. He needed cheering up, but first we engaged in

some small talk. "Heard your house burned down, Chris. Too bad the fire department was changing tires when it happened, eh?"

"It was rough: Two doberman pinschers were playing 'maim' in the front yard when an Army escort appeared out of nowhere. Geez, Mike, you know those soft recruits we're getting these days—they pulled up to watch the whole thing, deciding if it was safe to pass, when a seven-year-old native of Dayton, Ohio, jumped on top of a Sherman tank and dropped a plutonium bomb down the hatch, screaming, 'Gotcha last!' Well what do you know, the shock waves were enough to knock down a chocolate candle I had just lit, setting fire to my stamp collection. After that it was sheer horror. But now I'll have to apologize to George: I was a little skeptical when he sold us that policy. What's new with you?"

"Nothing. Where's your copy of Froth? Some guy in sackcloth is running around the campus with a blowtorch...."

Whereupon Mike grabbed my copy and started laughing hysterically, having read only the price. I was so annoyed—he should have bought his own—that I pushed him out the window, and he became one with the sidewalk.

Christopher Fotos
3rd-liberal arts

Reminder

The deadline for letters to the Editor about the University discipline system, has been extended to next Wednesday at 6 p.m. Bring all letters to 126 Carnegie. Letters must be typed, double-spaced and accompanied with an identification of the author.

Letters will be printed on a special topic page of next Thursday's Collegian.

the Collegian

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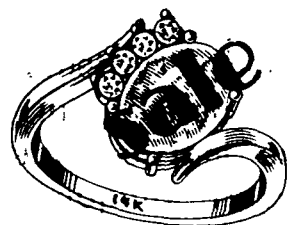
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