

Consequences

State Auditor General Al Benedict does not approve of how the University receives its state funds.

Benedict calls for a change in the basis for appropriations to the University. He wants the state legislature to clearly define "net cost" or "change the appropriation to a more objective criteria." Currently, the appropriation is based on plain "cost." Apparently, the "cost" criteria is based on all of the University's expenditures but excludes consideration of any of the University's revenue.

The University does make money. Just consider its football game receipts.

The "net cost" and "cost" controversy has plagued the appropriations proceedings since 1974 when the audit report for the University first recommended clarification of the "net cost" problem.

No one really seems to understand what "net cost" means, so you probably are no more confused than everyone else.

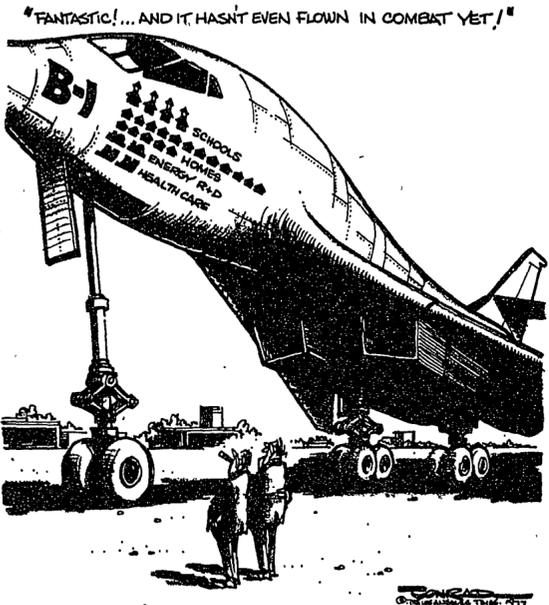
Every year the University sends voluminous documents detailing its finances.

Every year the University is audited to discover if it receives sufficient state funds and if it is spending the funds appropriately.

Every year politics enters into the decision for state appropriations to institutions of higher education. This year the State Senate's appropriations committee chairman threatened that the University would not receive an increase in its appropriation.

Every year legislators and University administrators squawk and quibble until it is difficult to determine their legitimate arguments from show.

There is one unfortunate result of this tangled and often ridiculous process that is certain: Students must live with its consequences.



Open meetings: a public concern

At last Wednesday's press conference with University President John W. Oswald, I asked if he would permit the Student Advisory Board to open its meeting to the public.

He replied that it is not his decision, but that of the students on the board.

After the press conference, the president requested a letter explaining my criteria for what meetings I believe should be open to public inspection. Because I believe the issue of open meetings is one of public concern and not a private feud between the administration and The Daily Collegian, I am printing the letter I wrote to the president. The letter follows in full.

Dear President Oswald, Please permit me to be frank in order to reach what I hope will be a sincere understanding with you.

I have not attacked the closed door meetings of the University Council and the Student Advisory Board merely as a means to embarrass the University administration. Rather, I am defending the principle of access to public information.

I believe the recommendations

reached by these advisory councils are public information. The members serving on these boards are acting as representatives of the student body.



Jeff Hawkes

These councils ideally channel student sentiment as advice to the administration. True, the administrators may or may not consider the recommendations seriously. That is the administration's prerogative. Nevertheless, these advisory councils play a role from which the average student is removed. Students must trust that these councils are acting in their best interest. No doubt the councils succeed in their tasks of expressing student concerns. The problem with closed meetings is that students cannot be assured that

these advisory councils are acting in their best interest unless all are permitted to observe the councils' proceedings.

I am a student who is curious about how the councils arrive at their recommendations. As an editor, I believe I have a responsibility to let all the students know what happens when these advisory councils convene.

I certainly do not suggest all meetings you have with students or your administrative staff should be open to public inspection. On the other hand, when a board such as the Student Advisory Board has an official status as a spokesman for all students, then I believe both students and administrators benefit if the unnecessary mystery surrounding closed meetings is dispelled by sunshine from an open door.

Excuse me for drawing the inaccurate conclusion that you had the final decision as to whether these advisory council meetings are open or not. As is often the result of closed proceedings, I was misled by partisan information, i.e. by information dispersed by in-

dividuals to serve their private—not the public's—interests.

I was pleased to see the University Council open its meetings at the end of last term. I encourage the Student Advisory Board to do the same. I would hope that you would suggest that consider open meetings.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Hawkes

Oswald said an open Student Advisory Board (SAB) will degenerate into an ineffective rap session. He said he intends to tell the SAB that closed meetings are more effective.

I disagree. Closed meetings enable the participants to cover up poor decisions or to sit on their hands and accomplish nothing.

I am disappointed that Oswald did not accept my invitation to reply to my letter. Perhaps he has good reasons for desiring the SAB to remain closed.

Without an explanation, his lack of faith in an open SAB sounds like a threat to student members to keep it closed.

Letters to the Editor

A question of money

Certainly Dr. Oswald is correct in feeling that an understanding of Penn State's fiscal situation would aid in an early settlement of the teamster-PSU contract, but as a voting teamster I feel that I need more information before I can make a decision on such an important matter.

Firstly, how do I know that a 5 per cent increase of my salary is "Fully comparable with increases received by other groups of university employees," since these salaries are not public knowledge?

Only salaries of union workers are open for all to see. If we, as union employees, are to base our decision on whether or not to strike strictly on the amount of the state allocation, the salaries of all Penn State employees should be made public.

Secondly, since the state's allocation is but one-third of Penn State's total budget, how does the remaining \$200 million affect my salary? Some months ago The Daily Collegian quoted the director of Penn State's Office of Public Information as saying that even that office's budget is not public

information. I realize that obtaining my strike-no strike decision is like achieving the impossible.

As a top level skilled tradesman (electronic technician), my salary is about the same as a part-time postal worker, or, as another example, thousands of dollars per year less than equivalent workers at Kent State and The University of Kentucky — and their salaries include eyeglass prescriptions and dental plans.

The union demand of an 8.5 per cent increase in pay, in my opinion, is very conservative.

I wish to commend the Collegian for the fair and unbiased reporting of this situation.

Earl W. Lutz Jr.
electronic shop-maintenance and operations

Boycott

It is perfectly clear, by now, that the Pennsylvania State University, Inc., does not deal with students, or attend to student issues and input. As we have exhausted all of the so-called "proper" channels, in a frustrating-and-futile attempt to meet with administration people, and to have them reconsider and/or explain their failure to rehire a superior educator, Dr. Jo-Ann Farr, I suggest that concerned persons refuse to deal with the administration.

Let us consider, organize, and implement a boycott of psychology courses.

There are, I am sure, persons, psych majors who will claim that they "can't possibly afford" to boycott psych courses; apparently, the issue is not really all that important to these people.

If no effort is made, if nothing is done, things will not change.

Alternatively, some people might better spend their time getting to like the system as it is. I suppose that was always how the system perpetuated itself.

Jan C. Guertler
graduate-solid state science

Throw away the key

One reason that the 21-year-old drinking law in Pennsylvania doesn't keep people under 21 from drinking is that our society is replete with crooks like John Martellaro who not only disregard and break the law but openly brag about it in public as well. The major injustice I see at this point is that John Martellaro is here at Penn State instead of in jail where he belongs along with all others who wish that the laws that contribute order and sense to society would conveniently evaporate and thereby exonerate them.

James L. McDonel
assistant professor-microbiology

'New morality'

In the June 27 article, "living together," the comments of the subjects point out what is wrong with this world. Ian and Sylvia, for instance, express no knowledge about their future and so find several present-oriented reasons to justify their arrangements.

They do not know why they are getting an education, what they want to do with their lives, having thought little about the future. Small wonder many people today have no real appreciation of the energy crisis and other political problems we face.

Morality can make no sense without some idea of how to cope with the future. That is the secret of the "new morality" — it is based on ignorance and blindness. We can point to many institutional reasons for this behavior — social fragmentation, huge organizations such as this university that deny the intelligence of its participants (why can't we see a budget?), and the prospect of boring work that needs "psyching" to get oneself to perform well.

But the individuals who are 'victims' of this system carry the burden of their blindness, and it is they who can decide to resist.

Name withheld

Be sensible

Some years ago when The University of Singapore hiked its tuition it applied only to new entrants to the University and not to those already enrolled and in the process of completing their education.

To me this was a most sensible approach as it allowed for the fact that families which had planned ahead for their children's education would not be penalized for something that was not their doing.

It's a pity that some students will have to discontinue their education if unable to keep up with the pecuniary travails of the times.

And what about the foreign students who have come from thousands of miles and at great expense?

I would suggest that the proposed increase in tuition be applicable only to new students beginning on a degree course. This way those coming to join the university will be able to plan ahead their expenses accordingly and those already in the university to complete their studies without interruption.

Nav Tej Singh
graduate-journalism

the Collegian

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Detective solves the case of the reluctant recruits

Of all the cases that Detective Nero Fox ever took, the one that netted him the most amount of money for the least amount of work was, surprisingly, not a murder.

It was a government job. He was hired to discover who was responsible for the decline in the nation's military recruitment.

He received a phone call from a military representative at nine o'clock Friday morning and a certified check for \$20,000 at 10. What follows is a transcript of his conversation with that same representative at one o'clock that same afternoon.

The doorbell rang. I crossed the hall and looked through the one-way front door glass. Outside stood a uniformed gentleman of the military persuasion. I counted the bars on his uniform, decided he was a sergeant, checked my watch and opened the door.

"If you're looking for the residence of Nero Fox, detective, you've come to the right place. No need to salute. May I say who is calling?"

"Recruiting sergeant John Spangler. Maybe you'd like one of these pamphlets? A young guy like you, why the Marines could..."

"Sorry," I cut in, "I don't think I'm Army material. All that saluting would get to me after a while. Besides, green just isn't my color. This way, please."

I led him down the hall and into the office. He seated himself in the red leather chair in front of Fox's desk.

I faced my employer and waited as he marked his book and set it on the desk. He looked at me, I announced Sergeant

Fox readjusted his three-hundred pound frame in his chair and asked Spangler, "I take it, sergeant, that your problem is the same as that you related to me over the phone?"

"Yes, sir, the same, sir. Our recruiting methods just aren't working. We offer scholarships, training programs, rank incentives, and other privileges never before available to young men entering the service, but we just aren't getting recruits! We can't understand it. This has never been quite the problem that it is now. We are sure that the commies are behind this. Either the commies or some other group of mindless subversives. We want you to find out exactly who is behind this."



MARK VANDINE

Fox looked at me and said, "Archie, the sergeant's check is in the safe?"

"No, not in our safe. In the bank's safe, maybe. I walked

"Excellent. The reason I asked Mr. Goodrich the question, Sgt. Spangler, is that I have discovered your 'group of subversives' and I am not entirely sure you will be happy about my discovery, and I am sure you will not want to pay for my services when you hear it."

"Nonsense, sir! It is essential that this group is discovered and destroyed! The very fate of our country depends upon it!"

"Hmm, yes. I won't argue with that," muttered Fox. "But I'll not detain you longer than necessary. Quite plainly, the enemy is yourself."

"What? Is this some kind of a joke?"

"It is no joke, sergeant. Look at the facts. You represent a group whose greatest asset is its aura of potential aggression. In wartime, of course, it represents a cut and dried rationale to kill other human beings in order to obtain some transient desire or to administer some current political ideology. In peacetime it projects an image of military might that induces peace only through the fear of that aggression. A fear, I might add, that lasts only as long as it takes to build enough guns and bombs and the like to alleviate that fear."

Spangler was mad, hopping mad. He hopped from his chair and yelled, "You're being ridiculous! It's more involved than that! Everybody else is doing it! Those goddamn Russkies and Red Chinese don't sit around all day making daisy chains!"

Fox scowled and said, "Your argument contains a rather blatant fallacy, sergeant. Ad Hominem circumstantial, I

the same way does not rationalize that betrayal for yourself. Indeed, it does not rationalize that betrayal for anyone."

Spangler sat down. "All right, all right, we could argue this all day. Just tell me how this is turning people away from our recruiters."

"Given that premise, sergeant, the reasons fall into place. Why should someone join an organization that blatantly goes against his ideals? The new genre of social ideas spawned during the sixties, though they have been trodden upon and practically suffocated over the last few years, are not completely dead. The extensive television coverage of the country's military activities during the Vietnam war removed the glory associated with war. Why would anyone support a system when he is convinced there is a better way to run things?"

Spangler muttered, "Not everyone has turned away."

"I do not ascribe my conclusion to everyone, I cannot. You have asked me to discover the cause of a trend and I have done so. The problem lies with the underlying purpose of your organization. The most elaborate facade of scholarship incentives and the like cannot sufficiently hide that purpose from view. People are looking at you harder now, and the more they look, the more they..."

Spangler wasn't listening. He was marching towards the door shouting something about how wrong Fox was and how he wanted his money back and how, by God, if we didn't give him his money back he was going to send a tank around to the