

Homecoming

Homecoming weekend begins today. So who really cares?

Good question. Homecoming has been called an anachronism by many, a foolish waste of time by others, a chance to make big bucks by still more.

But Homecoming can be so much more than just selling an extra few hundred Big Macs, or breaking your back in pursuit of a trophy for best float or best window.

Although many of us present-day students look at the returning alums with a sense of benign neglect, or worse, disdain, and laugh at what we consider to be their ridiculous second-childhood antics, there is something we should stop to consider.

We have never been in their shoes, but some day we will be.

The time will come for each one of us to leave Penn State. Although we often complain about it, and say we can't wait to leave, most will change their tune soon after going out into the cold, cruel "real world."

The Happy Valley lifestyle cannot be found anywhere in the world of work. After graduation, the responsibilities and pressures become greater, the good times fewer and further between.

All too soon after graduation, all of us will hanker to return to Happy Valley, to relive these idyllic days. Knowing full well "they can't go home again" for real,

In an effort to write a concise editorial, The Daily Collegian omitted an important aspect of the Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group funding system.

We said students would be obligated to indicate on their tuition bill if they did not want to pay the PIRG fee. We also said, "If you forget to check the bill or don't know about PIRG, you're out two bucks." That's only half true. Under

the alumni return to try to relive, for just a short while, a small portion of the best days of their lives.

But what, then, can homecoming be for the undergraduate?

Actually, Homecoming can really be considered more of "a day of sharing" than Gentle Thursday.

On Gentle Thursday, you share what you bring to the HUB lawn with the people

around you.

On Homecoming, you can share your life with someone who wishes he was where you are now.

So, as you party this weekend, and you look at the guy with the receding hairline and slight beer belly running around with a lampshade on his head, don't laugh. Show a little tolerance.

And don't forget. The lampshade will be passed.

Omission

the reusable-refundable system that PIRG advocates, students have the opportunity to obtain a refund later in the term if they forget to check the bill.

The Collegian's omission however, does not take away from the central argument of the editorial. A study of the Minnesota PIRG, a particularly well-run PIRG, indicates that at least 10 percent of Penn State's students would not know a

PIRG fee is optional. That means they would fail to check their tuition bills and they would not know about the refund either.

Adding the refundable option to the reusable (or negative) system would not prevent the uninformed from paying the PIRG fee, possibly against their wishes.

We think a consumer group like PIRG should not depend on the uninformed for part of their funding.



"THIS IS A BOMB!"

Letters to the Editor

Bumbling fools

Could someone please tell me what bumbling fool is in charge of what letters are to be printed in this column? Last week, there were at least three letters from angry Indian students who were irate about the editorial cartoon depicting a baby developing in a test tube with bowl in hand for an already empty stomach.

Every letter against the cartoon (and all of the letters were against the cartoon) deplored its "distortion of scientific achievement" in India. WRONG! The cartoon simply states how stupid it is to develop a human life in a test tube in a country which has too many children to feed already.

True, the scientific community in India is quite advanced. The problem is that their priorities are totally screwed up. Instead of developing another mouth to feed, why don't they make something to put in all the other mouths that are already there?

Gregg A. Stone
10th-speech communication-broadcasting
Oct. 19

Editor's note: The editorial editor and assistant editorial editor are responsible for the selection of letters printed.

Ignorant

We would like to comment on two issues that appeared in Thursday's (Oct. 19) issue of The Daily Collegian. First of all, we agree with the editorial opinion.

At least 10 percent of the student population probably is ignorant — especially those students who wrote the Editorial Opinion on PennPIRG. But their grounds for urging students not to sign the PennPIRG petition are based on incorrect information. The editors have confused a negative check-off form of funding with the reusable-refundable method. They are against negative check-off. As a matter of fact, so are we, and so is PIRG.

PIRG has not set out to establish itself with monies collected from students unwilling to support it. (You won't be "out two bucks" automatically.) Reusable-refundable gives students two chances not to support PIRG: (1) by "checking" the NO box on their estimated bill and (2) by requesting a refund if they should change their minds after they have paid the \$2 or if they paid the \$2 in error.

Reusable-refundable is NOT negative check-off. If the

editors can't get their facts straight, how can we "ignorant" students ever raise ourselves from our folly?

Finally, we would like to educate L.R. Sollenberger. Cars and guns are not similar in many respects and, therefore, should not be compared to such a great extent. Cars transport people to various places, like Happy Valley — that's the reason they were made.

Guns kill things: like animals and humans — that's the reason they were made.

Chuck Marcic
7th-pre-law
Su Ruglovsky
7th-marketing
Oct. 19

Doesn't get it

How many Pops does it take to screw in a light bulb? I don't get it. Wouldn't it take the same number regardless of his ethnic background?

T. Malczynski
7th-food science
Oct. 19

Misleading

The editorial in The Daily Collegian berating the PennPIRG fund-raising mechanism does not present all of the facts. The article neglects to mention one of the most important aspects of the reusable-refundable method — the protection for the minority of students who don't wish to contribute. The funding mechanism provides a simple procedure for those who don't wish to participate.

If a reusable-refundable system is enacted, students will have the option to financially support the organization when they pay their tuition bill because it will be included on the bill itself. Students who don't wish to contribute only have to cross out the option printed on the bill. A card describing PennPIRG and the funding procedure will be included with the tuition bill. If students inadvertently forget to do that or aren't certain if they would like to contribute at that time, a specified date and time will be set up to provide refunds.

PennPIRG is designed to protect the free choice of students. It is a student directed and financed operation. "The purpose of PennPIRG shall be to articulate and pursue through the

media, the institutions of government, the courts, and other legal means the concerns of students on issues of general public interest."

It is unfortunate and misleading that the editorial did not include all this information.

Harriet Glass
11th-community development
Oct. 19

Penn State's own

I remember numerous rainy, cold fall and winter afternoons in the past doing my running on the indoor track at Rec Hall while the Penn State basketball team practiced on the floor of the main gym below. At times it made a pleasant distraction from the boredom. But now I will have to do that running outdoors, rain or shine.

Why? Because Penn State's own version of Woody Hayes has decided that no one may watch the basketball team practice. Now I sympathize even more with our ice skaters and hockey players who have lost their ice rink.

As usual, it's athletes first and students, faculty and the community last. But in this instance I fail to see the purpose in closing off the track, since the basketball team does not use it. Perhaps they are trying to simulate game conditions — that is, playing before an empty gym! They may have to occasionally chase people off the track during their practices, but it is doubtful if there will be any need to do so during games. In fact, they may as well do the student body a favor and keep their home games closed and secret as well.

Richard A. Deger
graduate-business logistics
Oct. 19

Low priority

Gubernatorial candidates Peter Flaherty and Richard Thornburgh have not taken a strong stand on the priority of higher education because maybe they don't consider it a priority.

In The Daily Collegian's Oct. 17th "Editorial Opinion" it was suggested that this year's gubernatorial candidates focus their campaigns on increasing appropriations for higher education rather than improving Pennsylvania's business climate, its employment situation, and rooting out corruption and

patronage in the government. These last three issues are the promises now being made by candidates Flaherty and Thornburgh. The editor then went on to say that higher education could help solve the problems of corruption, the business climate and the employment situation.

Stating that higher education can solve such problems is a fallacy. Schools alone cannot bring about change. Emile Durkheim, a French sociologist, stated once that, "Schools will change as other institutions change, and if change is to be brought about, policy makers must focus on other areas of society, particularly the political and economic institutions."

Maybe if we direct our energies into cleaning up the government and lowering unemployment we will have more time and money left for higher education.

PennDOT, the state's welfare program, and taxes are important issues that will affect all of us. Let's not cast these issues aside so quickly or try to solve them unrealistically. At last, Pennsylvania's politicians are trying to solve our problems sensibly, by examining the roots to our problems.

Ann Blazek
4th-nursing
Oct. 19

the Collegian

Dave Skidmore
Editor

Judy Stimson
Judi Rodrick
Business Managers

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The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and campus or off-campus affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double spaced, signed by no more than two persons and not longer than 30 lines. Students' letters should include the name, term and major of the writer.

The editorial editor reserves the right to edit letters, and to reject them if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste.

Roving Reporter

Do you value your experience at the University enough to come back to visit after you've graduated?

Quotes compiled by Mary Anne Mulligan
Photos by Chip Connelly



Lorrie Navit (7th-labor studies): I will come back, that's definite, because I've made a lot of good friends. This is gonna be a big part of my life after four years. I'll come back — to see what's changed and what's stayed the same. There's not much I don't like.



Dave Hayward (7th-environmental resource management): I think I'd come back. The town is college-minded — it carries on the movement of the youth. I want to go out, be open to ways and changing times. This town affords that. It's a nice town anyway.



Jay Dorsey (10th-health planning and administration): I just love the University itself. The people, the area are nice. I love the social life, with things to do that are within walking distance. I imagine I'll reminisce about the area; all my friends are here.



Amy Bates, State College area resident: Where I come from, the excitement is driving around in a car. It's neat here. It's absolutely gorgeous. We don't know how long we're going to stay here, but we have no intention of moving. I'd like to get to know the area as much as possible.



Jeff Glazier, president, ARHS: Oh, definitely. Penn State is fun and there are lots of people here. Everyone ought to be able to find his or her niche — like puking on the floor of the Brewery. And Happy Valley is a beautiful place.



Mary Beth Luczak (7th-therapeutic recreation): I probably would come back for Homecoming, if I could get a ticket. But if not, I'd come back any other weekend to see friends. I like the size, all the facilities available, people, town, parties.