

A joker?

USG consumer card not the student service it appears to be

The needs of the students are not always served by the Undergraduate Student Government.

With the long-awaited arrival of the USG-sponsored Buying Power Cards, it seems last year's administration got so involved in providing a service that it never stopped to consider how much that service will benefit the students.

In theory, the Buying Power Cards — which entitle buyers a discount on certain purchases in participating stores — are a good idea.

They were designed by Key To The Town, Inc., a New York-based company that contracts with the USG last Fall Term and asked for its endorsement. Two of its representatives convinced seven local stores to pay \$300 each for the privilege of being the only store of its specialty on the card. It then printed the cards, at no cost to USG, for free distribution among students, staff and faculty members.

We would expect USG to endorse a program that offers discounts at downtown stores where a considerable number of students shop with some frequency, such as bookstores, drugstores, album stores, pizza shops and the like. But a quick glance at the cards shows that is not the case. One participating merchant said she expects the cards to attract more business from staff and faculty members.

Among the participating stores are a candy store, a natural food store and a men's clothing store in the Nittany Mall. Not only do these and the other stores appeal to specialized needs, some offer very conditional discounts as well.

A discount on developing film may seem like a bargain, but not when you must have five rolls

developed at once to get a mere 5 percent off the price.

And there are probably more styles of Danskis shirts than there are women who buy them regularly. Yet, at one store, Danskis are the only product the cards are good for.

Even the most concerned health fanatic would not be able to save money with the cards, since \$10 worth of vitamins — another conditional purchase — is enough to last anyone for most of the school year.

Although USG had good intentions, Key To The Town, Inc., — which seems like a get-rich-quick enterprise — should have been dealt with more cautiously.

Perhaps if the USG officers had looked into the project more carefully, they would have realized that the stores most frequently patronized by students wouldn't pay \$300 to give students discounts with the hope of attracting their business; they already have it.

Since neither the students nor USG had any money to lose in the venture, it seems USG's appearance of providing a service to the student outweighed the actual benefits of the card.

In all fairness, we must emphasize that the idea for the cards came from the last year's Haberle-Cortese administration, not this year's administration. We hope this year's USG crowd has taken notice of what has happened.

We are not dooming the cards to failure before they've even had a chance, nor are we saying that students have no use for the cards. But most students would probably rather see USG spend money on a project that appeals to a wide range of students than sponsor a free project whose services are so limited.



Students must be No. 1

The complaint most frequently associated with large universities is that the students are stripped of their individuality and treated like numbers. Still there is one number none of us would mind being treated as — Number One. Imagine what Penn State life would be like if the student were Number One. Housing would improve the quality of dorm food; drop-add costs would still be two dollars; students could park wherever and whenever they wished without penalty; and the streets would be safe to walk at night.

Life is not terribly rough, though, here in the middle of nowhere. After all, no one has ever been known to die of dorm food poisoning; the increase in the drop-add fee is being reconsidered; parking tickets are a nuisance but at least there is a place to park; and for walking safely at night... well, let's not fool ourselves. The students are not Number One. Sometimes we're not even a close second.

I have two suggestions for lighter security but since they cost money, it would be easier to make them unpopular. First, the number of campus police patrolling at night should be increased — therefore the University needs to hire more policemen. And second, the campus should be better illuminated.

New lights need not be installed, for there are enough street lamps already. However, a large number of these lamps remain unlit at night. I realize in this day of energy conservation, the second proposal may be somewhat sacrilegious, but so be it.

The burden of security should not fall totally on the University; women should do their part, too. But unless both parties work together, an effective solution can not be reached. The existing policies are simply not adequate. More must be done.

Let's make all Penn State students Number One. Denise Laflan is a 4th-term journalism and history major and a staff writer for The Daily Collegian.

Even while apart, Beatles still walking magical mystery tour

No sooner had I started leafing through the Entertainment section of the New York Times than I came to a full-page advertisement jumped out at me. It was merely looking to see what I was missing in the country's entertainment capital when suddenly I was confronted with the vision of a legendary concert.

"An appeal to John, Paul, George and Ringo," it ad began. "The music you created in the 60s is still heard in every corner of the world in the 70s. The pleasures you gave and shared with us for the past two decades gives you a unique place in history. It also gives you an important voice..."

The ad, signed by Sid Bernstein, offered a "plan" proposing conditions and circumstances under which the Beatles might reunite.

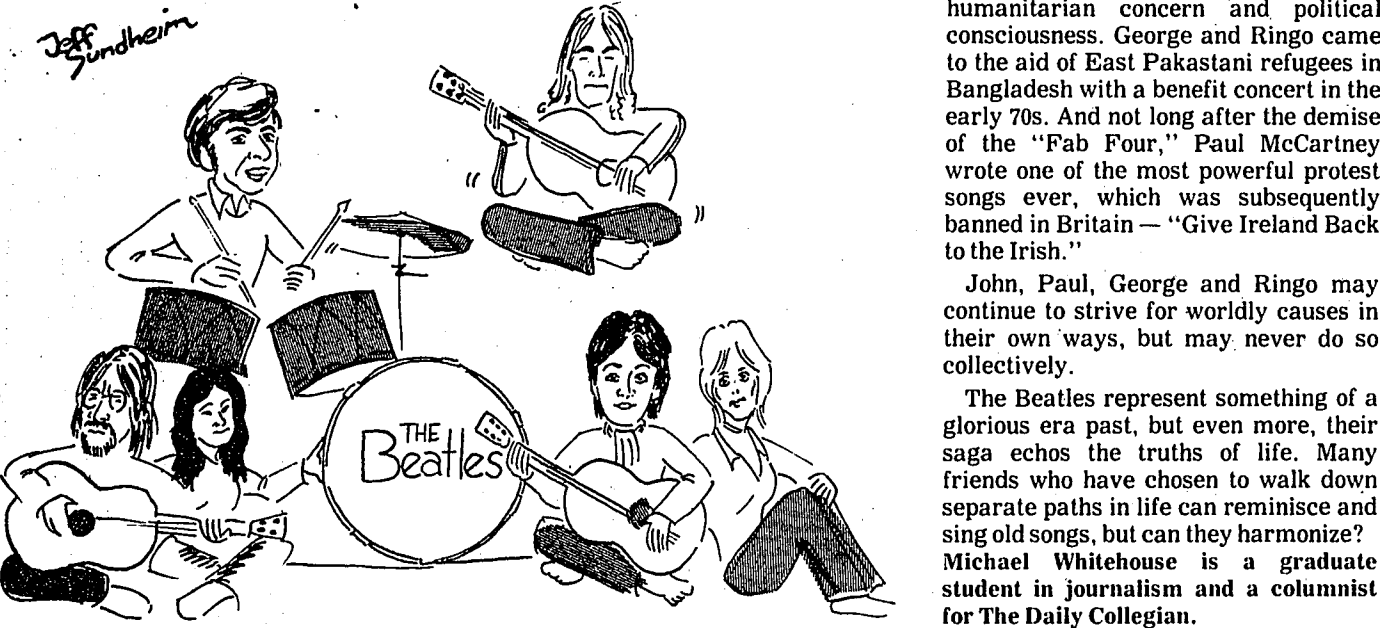
"Take three days out of your lives to appear on one stage, to symbolize to the world that people can get it together. Perform one day in Cairo, one day in Jerusalem and one day in New York," it said. Bernstein said the proceeds are to be given to organizations working towards peace and the needy people of the world.

Whoever this guy Sid is, he and his friends certainly have a lot of money to throw around on frivolities in this recessionary period. Sid himself has taken his money and looked for another unique place in history.

Besides, this past summer one of those important voices, John Lennon, took time to address such a request when he took out his own full-page ad in the Times, this one on the last page of the "Week in Review" section, notifying the country of his wishes.

"We thank everybody for their concern and appreciate that they respect our quiet space which we need," he said. "Our silence is one of love and not of indifference," he said.

Michael Whitehouse



Op-ed letters

Unmistakable

The trend is unmistakable. Last year the Ice Hockey Club regularly traveled 90 miles during the winter to practice because the Ice Pavilion was being renovated as an indoor sports complex for varsity teams.

Runners were barred from the Rec Hall track during varsity basketball practices.

This year students in Nittany Residence Halls were requested to vacate their dorm rooms for two weeks for the convenience of the varsity football team.

Now Barbell Club members who are preparing for this year's meets find their use of the Rec Hall weight room and the equipment they helped to finance limited to a few specified hours.

All of these groups, plus the thousands of students, faculty and staff who use the sports facilities on campus for health, recreational and social purposes, are slowly but surely being excluded from reasonable access to those facilities — while a few hundred varsity athletes are granted unlimited access.

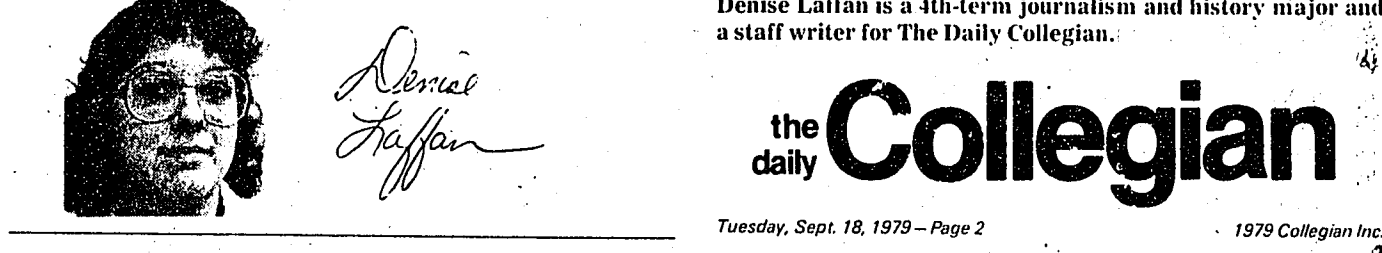
Granted, the sports facilities on this campus are in heavy demand. But shouldn't representatives from the entire University community openly set priorities and then decide how conflicting demands are to be met?

The physical education department thus has shown itself to be insensitive to the needs of the entire University community when making such decisions.

Joanne Kollar Staff member Sept. 13

Who's next?

They're at it again. Last year it was the Hockey Club, now it's the Barbell Club and anyone else who shared the privilege of the weight room in Rec Hall.



the Collegian

While the campus is in no way over-run with sinister criminals, lurking behind bushes, waiting to pounce on helpless victims, the recent rapes and attempted rapes have caused us to re-evaluate our security policies. But as the situation returns to normal and memories fade, this concern will likewise tend to die. Before we forget too much, we should take a second look at security at the University to see just how adequately it deals with the problem.

The security policy designed to reduce the possibility of rape consists of two parts: stricter dorm security and strong encouragement to women to walk with an escort at night. These two points are not in themselves bad, in fact, they are necessary and should be heeded. But the escort policy does not provide enough security because too many women will not and cannot always be expected to police themselves. I myself regard the process of hunting for an escort for a specified time inconvenient and often impossible. Women are bound to walk alone at night and what has the University done to make the night journey from Pattee back to the dorms safer than before?

Nothing.

In all fairness, though, the University never promised to make life secure either. In last Wednesday's Daily Collegian, M. Lee Uppercarl, director of Residential Life, is quoted as saying, "The incidence of rape is largely a responsibility of the student with some help from our staff." In other words, ladies, you're on your own.

The lack of sympathy in Uppercarl's statement, intentional or not, is deplorable. By providing students with living accommodations, the University should also attempt to ensure the safety of the students outside as well as inside the residence. Strict escort policies inside the dorms naturally need to be enforced. But the latest attacks, three of them occurred outside. Why then has no effective policy been promulgated to lighten security outside of buildings? The solutions presented thus far have nearly ignored the problem.

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The editorial editor reserves the right to edit letters, and to reject letters that are libelous, defamatory, obscene, abusive, or in violation of University policy.

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The University officials who made the restrictions did so without any consultation of the Barbell Club or any group which uses the room. In a meeting Monday night, a representative of the University outlined the reasons for the restricted hours. Only one of the reasons he gave has any validity or significance in the matter and that reason only affects the scheduled class times during the day.

Take heed. Any club or group on campus may feel the ax when the University decides to attempt to restrict the use of the weight room. It's the rights of the student versus the University.

Larry Lane Penn State Barbell Club Sept. 11

Turn the beat around

First the hockey players, and now the weightlifters. Instead of cutting back access it is possible to expand facilities?

Just because the University did a study does not make either the procedures nor the conclusions correct. Let the study be examined by some unbiased reviewers and let them report if the objectives and methodology of the study support the University's conclusions.

Question: Just because the University is moving in the direction of less student involvement does that make the movement right?

The old excuse is varsity athletics need special treatment because without them, and the revenue they bring in, there would be no intramural sports. Yet, the University forgets that without students there would be no university, and thus, no varsity sports.

The question is: are University officials serving the students or are students serving the University officials?

Russ Cooper 7th-administration and justice Sept. 13

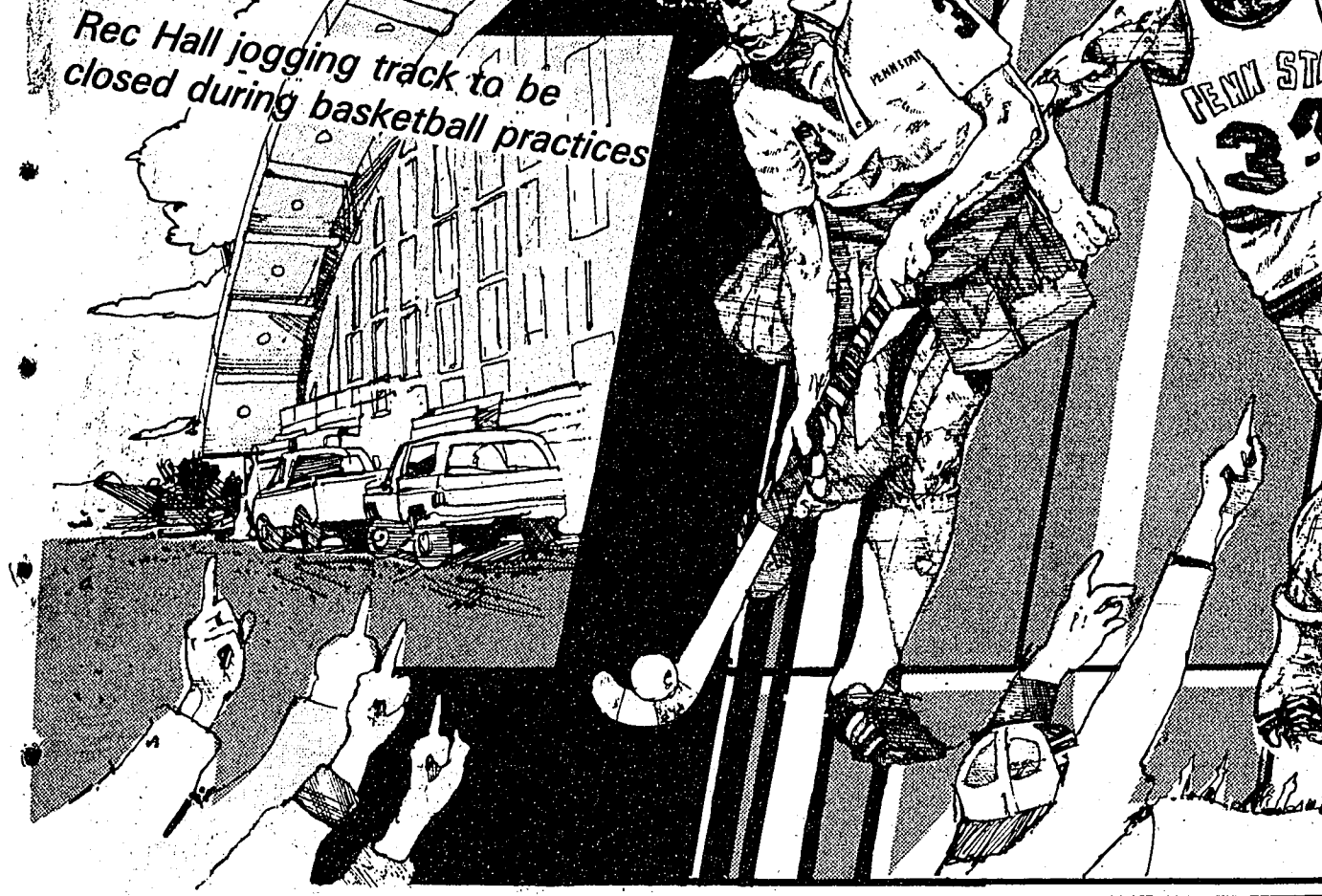
The football school

Here is the situation, you are out of town and talking with someone who suddenly asks, "Where do you go to school?" and your reply is, "Penn State!" "Oh, the football school!" is the exclaimed reply.

Personally, I am sick and tired of hearing this remark made about the place where I am attempting to gain an education. I am spending my money to get this education and also for the use of the many facilities. I did not pay for a two-year study which closed a student facility.

I myself do not lift weights, but when student interests are overlooked, something must be said.

Students' use of weight rooms to be limited by 67%



the daily op-ed

Don't blame two big name sports

restricting the general use of facilities. Other sports also restrict general use of facilities. The University has one of the largest and most comprehensive intercollegiate programs in the United States. We were involved in promoting intercollegiate sport programs for women before it became mandatory under Title IX.

Instead of dropping sport programs, as the University of Pittsburgh, for example, is doing this year with its field hockey program, we have expanded the number of programs for both men and women on an intercollegiate basis.

The size and scope of our athletic programs (31 intercollegiate teams and 25 club sports), means that the non-participant will not be able to always use facilities exactly when and where they want. As indicated, it is not fair to blame one or two sports, like football or basketball, for restrictions which may have been placed on some facilities.

These sports, especially football, have tended to increase the number of facilities that we have for general use, e.g., tennis courts, outdoor pool and intramural fields.

I should point out that as a jogger and frequent user of the weight training room, I have been affected by the aforementioned decisions. I do not have enough information to evaluate whether some less restrictive or alternate approach is or was feasible.

However, there is no question that there will be restrictions on facilities if we offer the variety of sport program opportunities that we do and accept the general principles of striving for excellence in all our endeavors.

Op-ed letters

Big fish, little pond

We're Number One! We're Number One! But who are WE — the student body or the football team? How benefits from Penn State's success in collegiate football? Joe Paterno certainly. He's a national celebrity. A big fish in a little pond. Imagine the fringe benefits! Imagine the Power!

What of the players themselves? How many of them are thinking of their dear old Alma Mater when they walk out on the playing field? Every roar of the crowd gives them much more bargaining power when they face the pros. And if they make it? Think of the commercial possibilities — dealerships, franchises, television and movie contracts. And the added bonuses like cars, a home in suburbia and vacations in the Caribbean. And you're paying for it right now — your tuition, your tax dollars and your tickets to the game.

What of the University itself? How does it benefit from the success of the football team? Publicly, Money. Job security. But for whom? Not the students. How much income is actually derived from football and how is it spent? University takes action? Penn State, put our money where it will benefit the students, not in a rock.

Also, the 67 percent reduction in time that the general student body may use the Intramural Building and Rec Hall when the hours are sacrificed for athletes (a lot of whom do not even pay tuition) but to not even work out an agreement with the Penn State Barbell Club, which donated \$1,200 worth of equipment and maintained the room is scheduled to watch the varsity athletes work out, while only two supervisors will be scheduled to watch the crowd of students at night. Not exactly ideal conditions for safety.

Wake Up, Penn State! If it weren't for the general student population, there wouldn't be an athletic program. It's a good thing that issues like these two don't hit the newspapers in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

If they did, people would wonder "What's Wrong With Penn State?" It's a question that we should be asking ourselves too often.

Jim Appel (10th-marketing) Terry Kelly (7th-forestry) Sept. 13

More than Lion's share

Once again, the University is shafting the student population. Its latest proposal to put better lighting and a higher fence behind the athletic shrine of the University — the Nittany Lion — displays just one of its athletically oriented priorities. It was a shame when the Lion's ear was broken, but the student population didn't lose any sleep over it.

It's a crime when there are girls raped in the dark areas around the Mall and Hammond Building and the University neglects to install better lighting. Will the Lion ever suffer the physical and emotional traumas of rape? NO.

How many more rapes are to occur before the University installs better lighting in a rape-prone area? Or does a girl have to get her ear broken off before the University takes action? Penn State, put our money where it will benefit the students, not in a rock.

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Raymond E. Young State College editor Sept. 13

The problem

While its football team climbed to a Sugar Bowl berth last fall, beer and confetti showered the streets. The national media converged on State College. And students and alumni celebrated the New Year amidst the jazz and gingerbread of New Orleans' Bourbon Street.

That New Year's celebration is more than nine months old now and the team that caused a town to roar has become, for some, a thorn in the foot.

Several changes during the past year indicate that the athletic department's quest to be number one has taken precedence over the interests of the "average" student.

The only campus ice skating rink is being turned into an indoor practice complex for varsity teams. Because of the project, two Nittany dorm barracks were slated for demolition, but were first air-conditioned and painted for temporary quarters for the football team during its pre-season camp.

Most recently, the Rec Hall weight room, which was reduced in size last year when special Nautilus equipment was partitioned off for varsity athletes use, was restricted even further to the student body. The athletic department reduced greatly the time the facility was open to the general public.

Dean of Health and Physical Education and Recreation Robert J. Scannell explains that athletic facility closings aren't due to a "Number One" obsession, but to increasing demands of facilities in a physical fitness-conscious age. He says that the University's athletic facilities will have to be divided among classes, varsity teams and recreation users on a more structured schedule than in the past.

The question is: Who will get the biggest piece of the pie?

Anticipating No. 1 Nobody likes to watch a loser

winning. The attendance at Ivy League football games is poor mainly because the Ivy League has refused to commit itself to football excellence.

Many college athletic programs show a financial profit. The University of Michigan, has used intercollegiate athletics to pay for intramural facilities. The University of Alabama has also contributed to areas outside of athletics. The only financially sound athletic departments of the future will be those that are efficiently managed and that also strive for and approach excellence on the playing field. To just field teams and not excel will become an increasingly costly problem in future years for colleges and universities.

Most Penn States care very much not only how the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania perceives our school, but how the entire country perceives our school. Successful teams advance the name of Penn State continually.

The cynic can say that athletics don't make the school, but for every cynic wanting to criticize there is a person learning of Penn State through athletics. Last year, a few days before the Penn State-Ohio State football game, I visited a Chicago high school. A Latin teacher who had never seen a professional college football game left his class to visit with us. His message was simply that he read the Chicago Tribune story about Coach Paterno and he was so impressed that he liked the way Penn State treated its student-athletes. He walked back into his class and started talking about what an excellent school Penn State must be. The athlete participating on a team that strives to reach its full potential is exposed to many valuable lessons. Hard work, sacrifice, unselfishness and loyalty can be acquired traits. Unfortunately, some athletes, coaches, or students never profit, but the only way athletics meet is proof of the magic of the game.

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Raymond E. Young State College editor Sept. 13

Not all created equal Let the cream rise

become so egalitarian that the intellectual and athletic "cream" is not allowed to come to the top.

All men and women are not created equal. Too many of our schools appear to function on the philosophy that to strive to be Number One is unequalitarian, American and even, a racist, discriminatory policy. We have not yet arrived at a society of equal opportunity.

When we do, hopefully in the 21st century, all of us will recognize that the ingredients of greatness are (1) the right genes and chromosomes, (2) a home atmosphere ideally suited for the nurturing of intellectual, spiritual, and least of all, physical skills, and (3) lifelong dedication and hard work.

There isn't a new or unique idea expressed here. But there are truths contained here that have either been forgotten by many... or in this present day society of instant gratification, have never been perceived.

At my age, 53, I still have at least a quarter of a century more to work in the direction of being Number One. I'm willing to pay the price.

