

Editorial opinion

Inflation fight

Increase keeps organizations alive

Students rarely win in a University dominated by budget-conscious administrators, but it happens.

Associated Student Activities, the organization that does out money to other student groups, received \$100,000 in addition to its usual \$118,000 allocation for the 1980-81 school year from the University.

That increase is really only about a \$50,000 increase, since ASA usually got about \$40,000 more in temporary funds during the summer from budgetary surpluses within the University. ASA will not receive temporary funds this summer.

But no one is going to complain.

The \$50,000 increase translated into a 20 percent funding increase for most student groups, although some received more and one did not get any.

As inflation remained at about 18 percent, student groups faced either curtailing certain programs or running their organizations in a different manner.

The Organization for Town Independent Students, for example, serves many students with its informational pamphlets. The cost of printing those pamphlets, however, has risen about 15 to 20 percent.

Had the University not provided more money, OTIS probably would have had to decrease its service to students in some way.

The Association of Residence Hall Students faced a similar plight. Because of the steep inflation, much of its additional money will be used to offset increased costs for maintaining its programs and office rather than providing new programs as is favored by the Undergraduate Student Government will also be fighting inflation, it plans to use the additional money for its new Race Relations Board and to cover costs that it usually had to cover through supplementary funding from ASA.

That way, it will be able to use supplementary funding for new programs and services that normally would have been covered through supplementary funding from ASA.

The additional allocation has proven to be a welcome contribution to student organizations, allowing them to continue the valuable services they provide to students and the University community.

Perhaps with prices rising so fast, the University should make the extra \$100,000 a permanent addition to ASA's budget.



Five drop-adds later Penn State is home

I'll never forget my first day at Penn State. I tried unsuccessfully to fight the tears as I watched my parents and the security of my home still were.

As a naive freshman, I was bombarded by two strong emotions — excitement and fear — as the first term of my college life loomed ahead. Orientation and adjustment to a new atmosphere kept me so busy during the first week that I barely had time to become homesick. Then classes began, and the novelty of 400-member classes and piles of homework took up most of my attention.

I survived a 13-credit Winter Term, three roommates and a new dorm to be thrown headlong into the spirit of a Penn State Spring Term.

When something happened, and my entire attitude seemed to change overnight. Instead of calling New Jersey home, I began to slip and call Penn State home by mistake. The excitement of my first Phi Psi 500 and my "wacky gentle" Thursday added to my feeling that flowers weren't the only things that began to bloom during the Spring.

I passed my real test when, during the Phi Psi 500, I remarked to a friend that I couldn't wait until I was 21. Instead of my usual "I'm 18 and that's all that matters in New Jersey," I was actually thinking like a Penn State!

I look forward to returning to New Jersey this summer, minus exams, dining hall food and roommate problems. But a part of me will be left at Penn State, in Beaver Stadium, the Forum, the HUB and every other place that holds fond memories of my first year at college.

I'll see you in September, Penn State, when I return home.

Iris Naar is a third-term journalism major and a staff writer for The Daily Collegian.

Democrats not anxious to rap Brazill's eligibility

By PHILIP GUTIS

Daily Collegian Staff Writer With Robert C. Brazill's residency status in question, influential Democrats from the Centre Region are taking a wait-and-see attitude toward Brazill's candidacy for the state House of Representatives seat from the 77th District.

"The question is whether or not the required four years is directly before the election, or just four years off and on," said Roger Bierly, chairman of the Centre County Democratic Committee.

According to the state Constitution, an inhabitant of the state for four years and of the district he or she is running from for one year.

However, Brazill has said he meets all the requirements. He said he was in New Jersey for nine months during a training period for his father's business and did not pay any rent or taxes in the state.

Bierly said, "There have been numerous Democrats from the Centre Region that have called me and asked about it (Brazill's eligibility)."

Floyd Fischer, Centre County Republican chairman, said, "We are just waiting until the facts are all known. 'We know people are looking into it,' he said. He would not name the people.

"We are sort of in limbo right now and just holding in there," Fischer said.

Brazill has until Aug. 11 to withdraw from the ballot, and if he does so, the Democratic State Executive Committee would have the authority to name another person to fill the spot on the ballot.

William McConnell, a State College resident who lost to Brazill in the April 22 general primary, said he did not have a comment on Brazill's eligibility.

But, if Brazill was not eligible and the Centre County Democrats recommended him, to the Democratic State Committee and it agreed, "Of course I would run," McConnell said.

Daniel Chaffee, State College Municipal Council member and candidate for the chairmanship of the Centre County Democratic Committee, said the issue of Brazill's status, whichever way it is resolved, "has to be made clear so it doesn't turn into a campaign issue for (Rep. Gregg) Cunningham."

However, Cunningham, R-Centre Region, has said he will not get involved in a court battle over Brazill's eligibility.

"I believe in the two-party system," Cunningham said at his town meeting on campus Thursday. "We rely on the adversary nature of the political process to watch out for eligibility."

Cunningham said he had made the information about Brazill's residency status available to the Democratic Committee.

"I honestly have no way of knowing what the Democratic Committee is going to do," he said.

Evaluations cannot break through tenure barrier

By Zena Beth McGlashan

Assistant Professor of Journalism Last spring, a graduating senior was bitterly complaining about a class she had just completed, one which was supposed to be a vital to her major. "I didn't learn anything I hadn't learned before," she said. "But, I really showed him (the professor). I wrote him the worst evaluation I ever written."

I just smiled and listened. I didn't tell her that her evaluation was worth less than the UDIS form on which she had penciled it. The professor at whom she was so angry has tenure.

A letter in The Daily Collegian (Thursday, May 8) reminded me of this exchange. The writer suggested that all faculty be subject to regular student evaluation regardless of their rank and tenure status. Good idea, if it would do any good.

Student evaluations are an illusion of power in a desert of helplessness because they can be used in any way the academic "judges" want to use them. Since only tenured professors judge the nontenured faculty, those who are exempt from student review evaluate those whose status is not secure.

The results may or may not reflect the student-jurors' views but always reflect the faculty-judges' likes and dislikes.

For example, if a junior faculty member receives poor evaluations from students and the nontenured faculty member is favored by the tenured folk, then a mild reprimand can be issued and the junior prof can also be ravingly reviewed on other aspects — research, community service, potential, etc.

If, on the other hand, the junior faculty person gets high marks as the letter writer suggests, he is subject to strenuous, periodic examination? Of course. However, even if they are reviewed regularly, the tenure system protects not only the excellent, hard-working professors, but also the obviously incompetent

and the chronically cynical. Tenure forms a "magic shield" around professors, a kind of "force field" which very few things can penetrate.

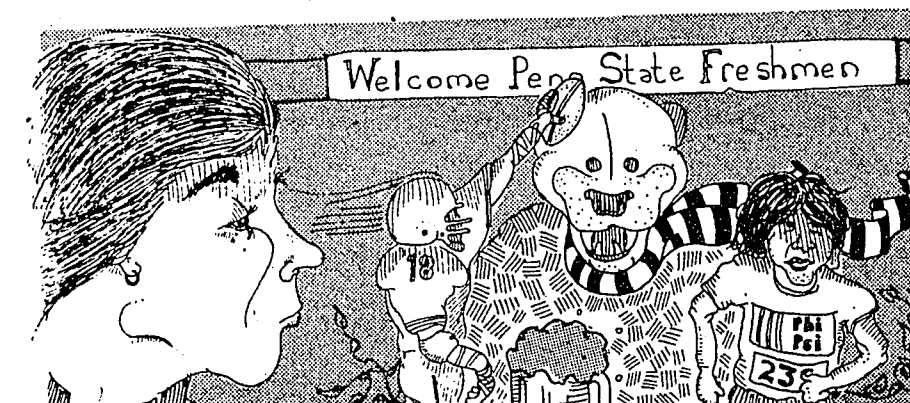
I think there are a few things a tenured faculty member could do to cause his or her removal. I suppose if a male tenured professor propositioned a male member of the Board of Trustees in front of other trustees, that could be cause for dismissal. Or, if a female tenured professor called a student by the "grey beard," then the tenured folk say things such as "but, he's obviously not covering the material correctly" or "she must be too easy and that's why the students like her" and similar rationales because, in this construction of reality, student opinion also is worthless.

Students' reviews of professors can be useful to those whose status is not secure. Intelligent beings capable of having ideas which are worthwhile. Some teachers have their classes reviewed regularly; they read all the evaluations, and they even make changes which seem appropriate, based on students' ways-of-seeing.

But, it seems that no one enforces this use of student input; it's an individual decision on the part of each professor, tenured and non-tenured. Enforcement would infringe upon academic freedom which also presents a cloudy, troublesome issue.

And for the non-tenured, student evaluations can help or hurt, depending on the tenured faculty judges. The process toward tenure is a judicial review without the democratic overtones one would expect in the "land of the free." It's a kind of court system based on the Star Chamber Principle: secret review documents to which the defendant has no access unless a mentor chooses to reveal "privileged" information. And the burden is placed upon the "accused" — instead of vice versa.

Of course, I would be less than honest if I said I don't want tenure. All of us juniors do — if for no other reason than to sweep away the "stigma" of not achieving force field status. But some of us, even if we had tenure, would still want and appreciate student review as well as our own self-reliance. And some would not. It's as simple — and complex — as that.



Friendship provides stability Thanks for roomies

My college career is quickly coming to a close. With the passing of this stage of my life, my thoughts turn back over the past four years to reflect on my successes and failures. I guess if I had to pick one reason for my success at this university, it would be the luck I had when picking a roommate.

At college, roommates are discarded like worn-out notebooks. Many are picked that way, too. But imagine sharing a small room, a finite amount of space, with a person you never met before. It seems odd that people are willing to let a stranger into that big a part of their lives. And yet, it happens all the time.



I remember moving in with my roommate in December of my freshman year. I had seen her on my floor, had never spoken to her and was sure that would last her. For the first couple of months we hardly spoke. I was involved in my own "freshman experience" and she with hers. But slowly, out of the silence developed a friendship unmatched before in my life. With the ensuing years, I have grown to love and cherish that meeting. I would never have imagined that on that cold winter morning, I would find the perfect friend.

Today, society seems to place a "grading" emphasis on finding the perfect understanding of the importance of simple friendship. Many times, I have talked to people who feel they have been

abandoned by their "best friend" because that person found a lover. Later, when the relationship ended, the other side of the coin — the other friend — complains because there is no one there since the lover is gone.

Maybe this can be attributed to the paranoia that seems to inevitably come with the demands of college. Everyone is unstable in decisions about his or her life and the needs that lie there within. A relationship can provide the stability that is needed. Yet, the frustrations and pressures that also accompany college seem to strain even the best relationships at one time or another.

But, roommates live on. They suffer the pain of the relationship gone by the wayside, the frustration of writing the term project that had been put off until the night before it was due, the feelings of despair accompanying a low mark and the disgust of failure in any and everything.

Yet, they are also there to enjoy the feelings of euphoria from receiving that all important A, the joys of accomplishment when finishing that term paper at 5 in the morning and the fun of just there when Friday comes. They are just there, when needed, giving and understanding.

I am lucky; I found my perfect roommate. We have had our fights and our disagreements, but we have survived. When I walk down to receive my diploma at the end of this month, I will be wearing a 40 around my neck, symbolizing the reason for the success that I have had at PSU. We have only shared a room, and a small piece of time, but my roommate will live forever in my heart and memories. Thanks Ter, I love you.

Bonnie Northrop is a 12th-term secondary education major and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

Letters to the Editor

Multiple guess tests

The students of Astronomy 001 would like to bring to the attention of the University a dilemma that has been occurring in this course since the beginning of the term.

There are four professors that teach sections of Astronomy 001. Tests, however, are made up by only one of these professors. Therefore, this has created a number of problems in regard to the testing.

We have no idea of what is to be expected on the exam unless, as a student, we happen to be in the section whose professor makes up the exam. Our professor does not see the exam before it is distributed to the class and his opinion is not counted in the grading of the exams since grades are given out without his ever seeing the distribution of the scores.

Also, there were several correct answers to some of the questions and only one answer was counted (the professor who made the test also chose the correct answer). There were also three chapters on the exam we never covered.

We feel that our professor is an excellent instructor but without any assistance from certain individuals in the Astronomy department, the students are being made to pay for faults because of the poor supervision of the course.

The class as a whole has accepted this letter with few students abstaining.

The students of Astronomy 001
May 9

Over the knee

I was very disappointed to learn that a couple of supposedly mature, responsible college students could destroy a tent structure in five to 10 minutes that took five people a week to construct.

It would be interesting to know what possible reasoning they used to justify their child-like behavior in literally destroying this group's class project for a structure course in their major.

I thought colleges were composed of mature adults, but apparently there are a few children enrolled at Penn State that still need to be watched and spanked when they are bad. There is no excuse for this type of behavior, and it is because of these few children and their childish actions that the responsible students on this campus are also treated like children at times.

Ron Hammer, 3rd-architecture
May 11

Opinions or facts?

In response to Tuesday's editorial opinion in which my business partner and myself are detailed as racist, jingoistic, money-grubbing exploiters, I will address individually myself to the writer's imaginative points.

1. My personal profit on each copy of Operation: Jihad is about \$1 — quite a windfall, especially when the \$5,000 investment is considered. A fact which the writer could easily have confirmed is that Stardragon operates on the lowest profit margin of any of the war game companies now in existence.

2. The \$75 price of Operation: Jihad is considerably less than the average war game, about \$12 to \$25. The game consists of a rulebook, a game map and counter sheets, just as do all of the others, something which the writer of the cited opinion has neglected, indicating total unfamiliarity with our game or any others.

Moreover, Stardragon does not publish only Operation: Jihad, in which cases there might have been some validity to the charge of exploitation. One may as well deliver such a diatribe against Avalon Hill for exploiting World War II, or Simulation Publications Inc. for exploiting Vietnam.

3. The charge of racism is quite surprising, particularly in respect to the Paul Snydak article appearing beneath the cited opinion. An editorial opinion is supposed to reflect the point of view of the publication, but while we were being charged as racists, the staff article which followed made Iranian students out to be incompetent, toadying heretics.

Overall, this tirade against our persons and our company seems to be merely a vehicle for the writer's anti-war sentiments. Two weeks before Operation: Jihad went into production "The Daily Collegian, as well as many other major and minor newspapers across the country, received our press release.

If, as others did, the writer had taken the time to call us and ask questions, many of his irresponsible assumptions and self-gratifying speculations could have been avoided.

Since the editorial is unsigned, we can only assume that the paper itself is subscribing to such practices which present its readers with prejudiced and unsubstantiated opinions rather than facts. Remember that it was such irresponsible media in conjunction with repressive governments that we are told was the basis for the Iranian revolution.

Michael McCreery, Stardragon, Inc.,
May 1

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and to the audiences who gave us their continued support throughout the year.

Thank you.

Beth Farrell
UCC Chairperson