the daily collegian ODINIONS

-editorial opinion—

Educator ethics

dent John W. Oswald gets firms, his financial disclopaid for sitting on the board sure forms would reveal that of directors of General Pub-information. lic Utilities Corp., owner of University administrators

University officials hold paid everyday matters is clear. positions with companies But there's no reason why outside Penn State — or, if their sources of income you're really curious, wheth- shouldn't be made public just er there could be any connec- like all other public officials tion between those jobs in charge of millions of tax outside the University and dollars. administrators' perfor-

mation just isn't available. Penn State officials don't Among their comments: have to file financial disclosure statements.

owned colleges have to pro- really is.' vide the statements. Elected

local government officials, appointed officials." to fill out the forms, which one — it probably keeps reveal sources of outside in- some people honest."

of the better of its kind in the
If the law can bolster public country, was enacted in 1978 confidence in the efficiency after what seemed like half with which the University the state Legislature was in- spends its money, University dicted on charges of corrup- administrators would help tion. The core of the their cause in Harrisburg by legislation, financial disclo-voluntarily filing financia sure, means that if there are disclosure forms. conflicts of interest involving If not, the ethics law should public officials and private be strengthened so they don't

For example, if an official for the state Department of holding final responsibility.

must know about it.

PSU officials should show income sources Have you ever wondered Transportation gets "consulwhether University Presi- ting fees" from asphalt

the nuclear power plant at are not state employees the benefits of their indepen-Ever wondered what other dence from state control in

Most of the local officials who came under the ethics Too bad. That kind of infor- act last week didn't object to having to file the forms. "I find no problem with it

... It sounds like more of Administrators at state- invasion of privacy than it

state officials have to pro-filling it out, and I don't view it as invading my privacy." And last week the state "I am for disclosure of Supreme Court ruled that all sources for all elected and appointed and elected, have "I don't think it hurts any-

come but not specific We haven't heard that kind of talk out of University offi-The state's ethics law, one cials, but maybe we should

The Daily Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by its Board of in charge of buying asphalt Opinion, with the editor-in-chief

Costly joke

sources of income, the public have any choice.

Congress shows high-class hypocrisy

gress can be accused of a lot per. of things, but it can't be ac- With the austere, budgetcused of not having a sense of tightening words of Presi-

princes of Capitol Hill turned ers, dedicated to the task of into court jesters when they reducing federal spending, realized they were butting up truly outdid themleves. Just against the midnight dead- for laughs, they voted themline for passing an emergen-selves a pay raise, while lift-

Howard Baker sternly of- counts. fered this one-liner: "The Get it? The Reagan adminwhole government of the istration goes about taking United States stops func- free lunches away from tioning if we don't pass this grade school children and

More comic words were millions of needy people, and never spoken. But with the Congress, which saw fit to government theoretically pass those thrifty proposals about to go broke, Senate into law, could not pass up leaders, somehow maintain- the opportunity to make their ing a straight face, ordered comparative lives on Easy all clocks stopped at 11:50 Street even easier. Heck, p.m. Who says time can't congressmen make only stand still?

proceed, but their real knee- think of next?

The United States Con-slapper was still in the hop-

dent Reagan echoing in their Last week, those crowned- ears, those diligent lawmaking limits on their tax-Senate Republican leader deductible spending ac-

> cutting welfare benefits to \$60,662.50 a year now.

That hilarious illusion What a great joke! Those lasted about 20 minutes when congressmen really are a the senators ordered time to funny bunch. What will they

the Colegian

Paula Froke

Business Manager

BOARD OF EDITORS: Managing Editor, Phil Gutis; Editorial Editor, Tom Boyer; Assistant Editorial Editor, Becky Jones: News Editors, Cindy Deskins, Dave Medzerian; Sports Editor, Assistant Arts Editor, Judd Blouch; Photo Editor, Stelios Varias; Assistant Photo Editors, Janis Burger, Renee Jacobs; Graphics Editor, Lynda Cloud; Wire Editor. Marvann Lynda Robinson, Leslie Zuck; Campus Editor, Joyce Venezia; Assistant Campus Editor, Chuck Hall; Town Editor, Rosa Eberly; Assistant Town Editor, Margaret Ann Walsh; Features Editor, Scott McCleary; Weekly Collegian Editor, Neil Axe; Assistant Weekly Collegian Editor, Charlene

Tell Mr. Reagan where he can put his missile...



=reader === =opinion

No help

For the past couple of years a group of Centre Crest Nursing Home once a week. Through the University Volunteer Service Center we were able to arrange these visits and organize activities for the elderly. Upon returning to school this year, we found that the volunteer center was dissolved.

What we want to know is why? Was i another victim of the many budget cuts? Was it a lack of awareness, or just another case of student apathy? For whatever reason, we find it somewhat appalling that at a university with an enrollment of over 30,000 there is no such service. It seems a shame that more of the positive energy that exists at the University could not be funneled into an organization that would benefit both the

community and the students. Kathy McMahon, 10th-individual and family studies Rita Dealy, 10th-general arts and sci

Stadium DMZ

Last Saturday I saw people climb up

10-foot railings. I watched them destroy a snow fence. I looked on as two 5-foot girls were crushed against a metal post. That was too much. I was supposedly a volunteer student

usher at a Penn State football game. Instead, I felt like an observer in a DMZ. People were burting each other. I will be back again on Saturday, doing what the stadium management tells me to do. I hope like hell the situation improves. I would hate to see someone get a concussion, blinded, cut or hurt in any

Whoever came up with "Fight or State" didn't mean the people in the

A teacher profiles six students

She stayed after class again a week later, after the exam. "I took your advice, and did very

well on the exam. I wanted to let you "Thanks for telling me." I watched her for the rest of the term, checking to see whether she seemed to understand what I was

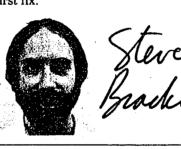
After the end of the term, I looked for the comments portion of her student evaluation form. I'd used the computer-coded forms rather than the ones I usually use which request a signature, but I thought I recognized hers by her handwriting and use of She'd concentrated on criticizing "Mr. Brackin" for sometimes being

late to class. She didn't do well in the course, but liked her. She was outgoing, talkative and good humored — and one of the few people in the class who cared about my feelings. She'd often try to cheer me up: we once had a fun little conversation about crazy things we'd each done in a chemistry lab.

I'd asked for definitions of terms on an exam. His answers contained some of the right words and phrases, and several of the wrong ones, in "sentences" that didn't contain verbs. I hadn't given him any partial credit, and he'd come to complain. "Look, what you've written here is It was about 10 p.m., but I was still weren't going to find out that the

infinities being bigger than others. they'd miss the first lecture, which

questions and tried to understand. I pusher giving a young innocent her high school algebra, and he'd just



"Yes, and thanks for the explana-

I don't know his name, though I could probably figure it out if I really wanted to. He was a student I almost garbage. I had to change six words in sixth-period lecture course, but my Tuesdays.

conducting information search investiga-

ought of myself as an old math tions course, but had trouble doing failed the first midterm. He'd been an indifferent student for years, but now had a pregnant wife, and he was rapidly running out of money. He needed that course, and an engineering degree and a job, and he needed them fast. He came to me for

I told him I couldn't make any promises, but would see what I could

"You're becoming one of us, you He worked hard, very hard, both at know — one of us math people. No one the overload of courses he was taking and at the work I gave him. After a "I don't care," she said, laughing. few weeks, his math was much better. "Most of this stuff is in the first He passed the course — he even chapter of a text I used as an under- came close to making a B — and came "I've got a daughter!"

"Congratulations!" "And we've found a place where we can live rent-free if I fix it up!" "You know, I haven't told you this before, but I envy you." Good student, Good man.

I had been scheduled to teach a mathematics. His column appears on

few quizzes, was worried about the "But this isn't an English course!" reassigned, but felt badly for the few "I guess I'll go home and memorize in my office when she came by. I had section was cancelled until they met a said something in class about some secretary sent to their first class, and figure out why what it's telling you is and she wondered if I'd explain. Yes, was supposed to cover important

We talked for quite a while about class, and give them their first lecideas close to the heart of mathemat- ture. ics: the concept of cardinality; the One of the students in that cancelled countability of the integers and ratio- section took a course under me a term nals; the uncountability of the reals. I later. He told my class, in my abtold her that no one knows, or ever sence, that my earlier section had will know, which infinity is the numbeen cancelled because I was a bad ber of points between two out- teacher. saying, and encouraging her to ask

will ever understand you again." graduate. Would you like to borrow to see me several months later.

Federal sex discrimination law under fire

opportunities for male and female students to receive

non-discriminatory manner. This includes graduate

letic scholarships must provide opportunities for both

14th-civil engineering and general arts and sciences one sex, and may not set limits on the number of both sexes. This week has been designated National Title IX students of one sex. Discrimination on the basis of Awareness Week. Its purpose is to increase awareness marital or parental status is prohibited, as are pre-

about Title IX and to generate letters to Congress admission inquiries into the marital status of appliexpressing support for Title IX and opposition to any cants. proposals which would weaken it. Title IX is a federal law enacted in 1972. In 1975, the extracurricular, research, occupational training and then-Department of Health, Education and Welfare other educational programs. Schools may not have published regulations outlining specific compliance different rules for male and female students. Recruit-

requirements. HEW's Office of Civil Rights is responsiment must not favor one sex. ble for enforcing Title IX. The preamble for Title IX Title IX stipulates that a school must provide equal "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of scholarships. Single-sex scholarships may be offered; sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the however, the overall effect of such awards must not be

benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any discriminatory. Financial aid and other awards or educational program or activity receiving federal finan-prizes given by the school itself must be distributed in a

Thus, any school receiving federal aid must comply housing as a whole must be proportionate in quantity provisions of the law are summarized below.

students of each sex participating in athletic programs. Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in housing and health benefits. Men and women may have separate housing and be required to live in dormitories; however, housing rules must apply equally to both sexes and

with Title IX regulations. Since nearly every college and quality for both sexes. Comparable health benefits and university receives federal aid, nearly every col- must be provided to men and women. If full health lege and university is covered. Some of the major services are provided, gynecological services must be Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in school admis- must be non-discriminatory. sion policies; however, single-sex undergraduate Sex discrimination in athletics is prohibited by Title to vote against these proposed changes. Our rights are schools may remain single-sex. Schools may not rank, IX. Schools may have separate teams; however the + at stake.

law. A complaint and grievance procedure must be Some groups are exempt from Title IX. These groups

Title IX is under attack from Congress and they

an individual to be responsible for compliance with the

Reagan administration. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, has introduced Senate Bill 1361, which would amend and weaken Title IX by parrowing the definition of federal This aid is the bulk of federal assistance to colleges and universities. The particular program or activity in which discrimination is alleged would have to directly teaching fellowships and research assistantships. Ath-Now, a program need only be part of a school receiving federal monies for other activities. The Family Protection Act (House of Representatives bill 3955 and Senate

bill 1378) includes a provision that would repeal Title IX.

regulations, which could accomplish all the provisions

of the Hatch bill. Congress would have only 45 days to I urge all men and women who care about equal opportunities for all people to write letters and make included. Health insurance offered by an institution opposition to these attempts to undermine the educational opportunities of women. Urge your representatives

Faculty-student contact deserves attention

Editor's Note: John Vargas is an assistant professor of environmental science at Dubois campus and served on don't that all faculty ought to be involved in doing that are available, with choices, and then they have to make the Freshman Year Experience committee. Because of type of thing. Writer Becky Jones interviewed Vargas on the phone about his work on the committee. The following tran-

you thought the committee found out? VARGAS: The relationship between the freshmen a University Park and faculty was cited from time to time. But on the basis of my discussions with the agraphs that were written for English 10, by examining some of the reports that were given to us, the aspect of wasn't coming out at University Park. There was a remoteness typically indicated by the members of the

things that the University was doing well. I certainly One of the things that came

I don't think it's something that exists even on our own University Park he could find a faculty member that experience of students who start at campuses have

tee was that — and this frequently happens in the In many instances that's a good thing. I really don't University community understand that the Freshmen University system — we see a need to establish another think you can say this is the faculty's responsibility or it Year Experience report relates specifically to fresh-

University Park. The majority of students there are not
COLLEGIAN: Where there any other concerns that from the State College community, where here they are. you thought were more important than other besides the I think size is an extremely important thing.

interview

think that many of them are problems that relate to the temporary housing type of thing. size of the University, the bigness of the University, and to the communications process within it. There are just Commonwealth campus system. things that are difficult to deal with. I think the Univerbe expected to bring that home. I don't think that we're many of them, but there are some problems.

his location, he did not "adopt" a team of freshmen as I just think that simply because of our size here, and COLLEGIAN: Because many of the concerns of other committee members did. Daily Collegian Staff in reality we're in a small community, it seems that not freshmen deal with the largeness of the University, do

> amily. Within one generation we may know three or relationship that they could have at a smaller school? four family members and we begin to establish that That there is an inherent risk that the University will be VARGAS: I think in part that that's probably so. The class president, the class valedictorian, who has been

given all the attention throughout the years, is no longer the class president or the class valedictorian, and they have to cope with that. I didn't have problems meeting with my adviser and getting things worked out for me. And even today, if I have a question it seems I can call a department head, But I just don't see how that could be possible at or a department information at University Park.

I don't believe that it's really a bad thing or a totally I wish it were possible to compare the freshman

needs that kind of interaction, if he pursues it, even at And I think also it would be good to look at the

Research methods should be more precise

University pays the price for size, variety

Let us hope that some fresh ideas and motiva- ed frustration at being apparently insignifi-

Faculty Senate's Freshmen Year Experience The freshman gave encouragement for the eyes of students who have not yet become

things that are done well and re-emphasized

the need to work on the bugs in the system.

Eddy, planned, appointed and imple- Professor of psychology George Guthrie, tionnaires were distributed after periodi- The study is not the brunt of my skepti-

the investigative task. Consider this a unsystematic normally listless, impassive observer's avenue into the thick of things. But somebody, somewhere at sometime dur ing the early stages of this committee exploration either neglected or ignored a few of the basic, yet imperative tenets of

I particularly harbor suspicions conIt's an inappropriate tack to assume the nonchalant data collection processes could be implemented where approprience to this rule of thumb. Buy me dinner objectives of the study, and gathered on and the decision to relax the participants ate." Imagine a specific administrative and I'll tell you anything you want to inept shaky methodology should be taken

By PAUL BELL

Student Trustee

He was taking a differential equaby taking them out for dinner and ice remedy based on what a random sample hear. This isn't an accusation of at- with a grain of salt. A 'clear impression'

do. I met with him two or three times

difficulties and concerns, the Freshmen Experience Committee pointed mainly to University-wide problems. These concerns are unique to freshmen only in that they have had less time to get used to them and are still freshly upset. Poor academic advising, remote instruc- However, I do not think this document tors and bureaucracy are not problems for should be taken as an inventory of the Univerany one group of students at Penn State. sity's isolated strengths and weaknesses. The

Steve Brackin is a graduate student in

ings. These actions waver on a tightrope cones at Baskin-Robbins. know Patricia Farrell or any member of According to an informational report yet intentional idea to allow committee study, overlooking the ill-fated side efher special Freshman Year Experience released by the committee, they at-Committee, created last year to measure tempted to "broadly study the freshmen data collection approaches. What kind of One participant I querried, who asked

torum

Editor's note: Paul Bell was a member of the great facilities and many excellent faculty.

The "Freshmen Experience" is a difficult tion will come from this to improve the

Similarly, students at all levels experience a report is a good look at the realities of Penn

rich variety of educational opportunities, State. If we want to know what Penn State

concept to nail down. Each freshman has one, learning experience.

and each does with it what he will. In citing

Another dispute is over the negligent, that "extra bit" was beneficial for the the ups and downs of first year life at this experience" selecting a "humanistic/im-systematic uniformity is achieved by to remain unidentified, offered this re-University. I'm even less acquainted pressionistic investigative style" rather mixing the disparately recorded results mark, "I guess I felt obligated to say with the members of the Faculty Senate, than "develop quantitative data" since of open-ended or scale-item questions? more good things than bad because Pat whom along with Provost Edward D. other offices were working in this area. To make matters worse, written ques- (Patricia Farrell) was so nice."

a veteran researcher in his own right, cally held group meetings of participants cal reactions alone. Since being publi-I do, however, know how to conduct a advised me upon inquiry that "humanis- and their group leader, where issues cized it's been batted around among survey in a carefully valid and reliable tic/impressionistic investigative style" were discussed and oral responses (to faculty and students circles alike. I know mer with respect to the objectives of is a nice way of saying sloppy and questions subsequently found on the of one marketing instructor beginning a questionnaires) were recorded. This ac- lecture on research and primary infortion borders on putting words in the mation gathering, who, on the basis of mouths of possibly apathetic, neutral or some of the same issues I've raised. deviant participants. Didn't the commit-utilized the study as an example of how tee realize the pitfalls of group conforminot to run a survey. (In all fairness I ty (distortion, bias, reluctance to should note that his interpretation was maintain a deviant position) when they based on the eport of the study in The

numbed to the ways of the University.

ing little individual attention.

The students involved in this study express

cant parts of a large system. They spoke of

the lack of personal advising and direct con-

tact with instructors, long lines and a thick

tangle of bureaucracy. People who had been

As a Penn State student, I have always felt

like part of a large system. I have had only

rare flashes of cozy, personal education.

There is often a feeling of having been placed

in a huge pedagogical warehouse and told to

forage for ideas. That is the flavor of Penn

As much as we strive and long for an

intimate learning environment, we can never

achieve it on a University-wide basis. Penn

State's mission is to educate the "children of

the industrial classes." That means that it has

to be big, accessible and efficient enough to

maintain quality for great masses of students.

enjoying close, interactive learning. Some

students have found friendly personal advis-

since the system is, after all, just an aggre-

However, the institutional philosophy is not

to provide individual, specialized attention. It

is geared to facilities, numbers of faculty and

programs, cost-effectiveness. It starts there

and builds the highest quality it can within

The major problems and blessings isolated

by the Freshman Experience Report can all

be traced to the size, variety and complexity

of the Penn State system. There definitely are

things that should be done to improve the

experience of freshmen (and all other stu-

dents). Some suggestions are offered in the

report. But let's not kid ourselves. We can

soothe the symptoms of mass education, but

we cannot cure the feeling many students

have that the system is too big to have much

The freshmen who participated in this study

gave us a clear impression of the student

experience. When they were disillusioned it

was because they seemed to have expected

fatherly advisers, spell-binding instructors,

close interaction with faculty members and

prompt personal attention. Why shouldn't

Well, maybe we ought to tell the next group

concern for the individual.

That is the Penn State reality.

ers. All sorts of arrangements are possible

gate of individuals.

that framework.

Naturally, some students and faculty are

the elite in high school find themselves receiv

decided on this team interview method? Daily Collegian, not a copy of the com-Thirdly, there is a researcher's maxim mittee report itself.) involved here that would sound some- Allow me to now plead aloof respect. cerning three questionable features of when part of the committee's initial task thing like this: Thou shall not act in any An unreserved limb-walker would probathe committee's research: the confusing was to "propose some possible solutions manner so as to elicit socially desirable bly define the study as laughably absurd. relationship of the selected investigative and perhaps most importantly to suggest responses. Taking participants to the I merely advocate and urge that the style to the initial goal of the committee, specific administrative remedies which Terrace Room is not the strictest adher- results, incompatible with the initial

I swear they are a blast Loose girls in make-up They sort of giggle quietly

More rum please and less Coke I live in tempor And how it makes me sore It seems every day now They send us "just one more" I lost my pink slip Boy it made me blue They said we're sorry young man So sorry that you're through Those funny upperclassmen They think they are so cool

They call heavy drinking

But the dorm food is fine

Others complain

The tough life here at schoo

Seventy-eight dollars for five n

TACO

As well as the booze Mv midterm went nameles But others are dumber They're in real trouble Their tests had no number Got lost in the library Made the wrong decisions Next time I go there

And they ask how's "Good Ol State

I'll smile a while and then say

"Oh it's really great."

Freshmen need help with social, roommate coping

By MICHAEL McGEE

During the Fall and Winter term of last year, the Joint Committee on the Freshmen Experience was formed to study the freshmen experience at the University. As a member of that committee representing Residential Life Programs, I was particularly concerned and sensitive about those in which residence halls impact on freshmen attending Penn State. Therefore, even though the committee's report spans a broad range of issues, I would like to confine my opinions to only those areas dealing specifically with residence halls. The methodology used by the committee consisted mainly of interviewing freshmen and cataloging their experiences in a sequence of temporal events or time frames beginning with pre-Penn State attendance up through the reac-

forum

After interviewing many freshmen it became apparent that residence halls had a significant influence on them, and according to these freshmen it was mainly positive. Freshmen gave good reviews, in general, to Resident Assistants and Orientation Leaders, and even though these were subjective comments, they seemed to indicate at least a moderate degree of satisfaction with the

When looking at other data, however, freshmen seemed to possess only a very meager amount of

this high-voltage collegiate environment with emphasis on how to deal with raising their coping skills and simultaneously eliminating the more harmful obstacles that we, as a system, put in In recommending action along these lines, it is

with them. Dealing with these anxieties before hand by being more flexible in the way we assign freshmen could be beneficial.

rreshmen with an informal avenue of information (roommates' experiences and knowledge) which could alleviate some initial anxiety. Also, allow ing a less restricted means of changing roommates than under the present system could greatly increase the satisfaction and even the

longevity of the freshmen experience. Studies done by M. Lee Upcraft, director of Residential Life Programs, and Pat Peterson associate director of Residential Life Programs seem to suggest that roommate compatibility is a very significant factor in freshmen leaving the University. Also studies show that if students (freshmen or otherwise) view their living environment positively, they also view the entire University (academics, activities, etc.) more

Granted, many of the freshmen in this category are admitted late and as a result are placed in emporary housing as a last resort. It is my feeling, however, that temporary housing is not in the best interests of students period, and some thought should be given to revamping the present system to accommodate at least all freshmer with regular permament living space. I realize this may be a financial hardship, but I feel the University must recognize the limitations and

The freshmen experience at the University is indeed, a unique and often undescribable world. I is a world of number two cards and all-nighters, OLs and RAs, social jitters and building

pressures, good times and values. In closing, I would like to state that as Residential Life Programs staff member and a member of the Freshman Year committee I feel that it is my obligation and the obligation of all those who work with freshmen to help them solve that RUBIK's cube and in the process make their

tions at the end of Winter Term.

present structure.

both social coping skills and academic orientation needed to complete the adjustment from high school and home to college and high density living conditions. This was of particular concern to me because I feel that this is one area that needs to be addressed immediately and on more than a trial or error basis. Surely some research or other steps could be taken into the whole area of easing freshmen into

my feeling that freshmen are particularly apprehensive about roommates and being compatible

Grouping freshmen by major and simultaneously placing them in a room with an upperclassman (or something similar to this) might provide at least a framework of compatibility

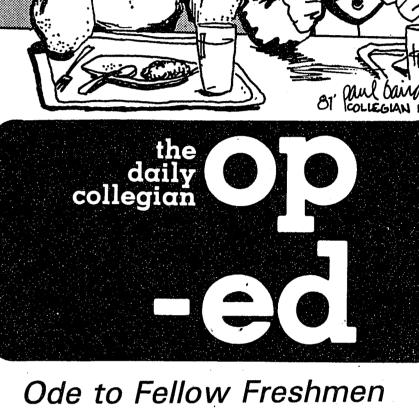
lember. Joint Committee on Freshmen Experi-

Certainly temporary housing was a frequently mentioned and highly criticized area by freshmen. Combined with already stressful conditions of moving into a new environment, high expectations academically by parents, uncertain vocational goals, and the previously mentioned low coping skills, the University undeniably does freshmen a disservice by adding temporary housing to the list of obstacles. Just when a freshman becomes acclimated to his/her new environmen and establishes a routine, he/she may be confronted a few weeks later with being uprooted again and starting the whole process over again. This continual interruptionin the freshman's circle of friends is certainly counterproductive and does not seem to be in the best interest of the

hardships it places on students, and particularly

friendships, Beaver Stadium and Deike Building - a virtual RUBIK's cube of emotions, peer

freshman experience at the University a positive



I like it that way Those wild and crazy partie I hit the bathroom

Just standing in line The food's cooked with care

> I'm taking along provisions So when I'm home at term break

> > Brad Desch, 1st-pre-law