

the daily Collegian

RECEIVED

FEB 24 1982

PERIODICALS SECTION
PATTEE LIBRARY
PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Monday Feb. 22, 1982
Vol. 82, No. 129 24 pages University Park, Pa. 16802
Published by students of The Pennsylvania State University

In the athletic dept., fighting inflation is an uphill battle

By TOM VERDUCCI
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

In its struggle against its toughest opponent — inflation — the Penn State athletic department will be losing by more than \$2 million within the next five years. That's what the athletic department forecast after a self-analysis last year and that's why it has begun a five-year plan to save money.

As part of that plan, the department dropped a varsity sport — riflery — eliminated grants-in-aid for nine sports, reduced grants-in-aid for all sports except football and men's basketball and eliminated training table for all sports except football and men's basketball.

The cuts have caused anger among some varsity coaches and uncertainty about the future of the Penn State sports program.

"I don't know what's going to happen," associate athletic director Jim Tarman said. "Our philosophy has always been as many sports for as many people as possible. Everybody wanted that and nobody saw it as a problem. I don't want to sound like we're going to get smaller. We'll do as much as we can in other ways (than cutting sports)."

Penn State is still one of the fat cats on the collegiate sports block — it boasts an \$8 million budget and the most varsity sports — 30 — among self-supporting programs. But inflation has caused the University to watch its financial weight.

"It's hard to believe that Penn State has financial problems in athletics," Tarman said. "But inflation and costs are just absolutely going out of sight." "Inflation constrains income and expands our expenses," Paul Eiters, coordinator of fiscal affairs, said. "The two are not going up at the same rate."

Tarman said inflation has hit hardest in equipment and travel expenses. He offered these examples:

- The cost of a football helmet has doubled and the cost of leather goods has tripled in the last five years.
- When the football team traveled to Iowa in 1977, hotel rooms cost \$20 per night with a special group rate. In Missouri in 1980, the rooms cost \$40 per night with the special rate.
- The University charter plane to the Fiesta Bowl in 1977 cost \$52,000. Three years later, the same plane to the Fiesta Bowl cost \$102,000.
- "In the last five or six years," said Rich Lucas, assistant athletic director, "inflation has just killed some of the areas we've been experiencing. The rate has probably been higher than the national rate of about 12 percent."

Penn State decided to attack the problem in March of 1980 when Joe Paterno took over as athletic director. Paterno has since resigned the position and Tarman will replace him March 1. In one of his first administrative moves, Paterno helped formulate a five-year budget plan for athletics. It was the first time such a move was made; previously the finances were examined on a year-to-year basis only.

Tarman said the athletic administrators assumed "reasonable inflation factors" and no changes in the then 31-sport program. He said they also assumed television revenues and 99 percent stadium capacity for football games, which he said were "very dangerous" assumptions because of their unpredictability.

"By the end of five years," Tarman said, "given the program in which everything was the same, the result was totally unacceptable deficits. We're talking millions of dollars — in excess of \$2 million."

Tarman also said the sports program might be lacking available scholarship money. He said it was not reasonable to assume that contributions to the Levi Lamb Fund, which provides all scholarship money, would be increased.

"Given the normal increases in tuition," Tarman said, "we'd have to raise almost \$2.5 million in grants-in-aid."

Last year contributors pumped \$1.4 million into the fund to cover the \$1.1 million scholarship costs. The remaining \$300,000 went to a scholarship endowment fund, earmarked only for grants-in-aid. No Levi Lamb Fund money can be used to cover operating expenses.

Tarman said the athletic department can offer no incentives for more contributions since all the preferred seating in Beaver Stadium is gone.

Since the athletic department receives no general University funds, "we issued a self-imposed directive to find ways to save money," Tarman said.

Paterno appointed a Budget Priorities and Planning Committee last spring. The five-member committee, headed by assistant athletic director Della Durant, established a priority list for the sports, numbering them from one to 31 and grouping them from one (virtual untouchables) to three (bottom priority).

Durant said the committee considered such factors as the history of the sport at Penn State, how the semester switch would affect the sport, the amount of national competition, national and regional success and other factors.

"It was the best way to prioritize the sports," Durant said. "Every single one of the sports is important. But in order to cut the budget, you have to start somewhere."

The committee came up with several recommendations that were presented to and then implemented by Paterno. The athletic department took its first step by lopping off the rifle team, which wound up No. 31 on the priority list. Eiters estimated the loss of riflery will save the department up to \$100,000 in the next five years.

The axe fell on several other areas: general operating expenses; schedule of events; grants-in-aid; books; training table; preseason events; size of traveling squads; administrative costs; and Sports Information. All were cut.

"We cut everything," Tarman said. "We had to cut across the board. Nothing was sacred, although we were more careful in football."

The bottom sports on the priority list — men's and women's bowling, men's and women's golf, men's and women's fencing, men's and women's tennis and softball — were all left with no funds for grants-in-aid.

"I think the athletic department may have misplaced priorities relating to the amount of funding," said Beth Alphin, who has coached two national championship women's fencing teams and been named national coach of the year. "They want to give some sports too much, i.e. basketball. Fencing takes less than two percent of the budget and with that we've produced an Olympic fencer and two national championships."

Durant said the Budget Priorities and Planning Committee met two to four times a week from April to June 1, when it handed its recommendations to Paterno. Other members of the committee were Eiters; Lucas; Ellen Perry, former swimming coach and assistant professor of health and physical education; and Herb Schmidt, assistant professor and assistant to the dean of the College of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

The coaches of the low-priority sports said the cuts hurt their recruiting attempts.

"We've already lost two people for next year," said Alphin, who previously had three in-state scholarships to award in a four-year period.

And the coaches said the cuts hurt psychologically, also.

Max Garret, men's fencing coach for the past 10 years, said the cuts "make me feel like I'm part of the dregs on the bottom of the barrel."

Cathrall, who's coached Penn State tennis for 19 years, said his team is "considered the best in the east outside of Princeton," yet "they're telling me something and I don't like it: they're not interested in tennis too much."

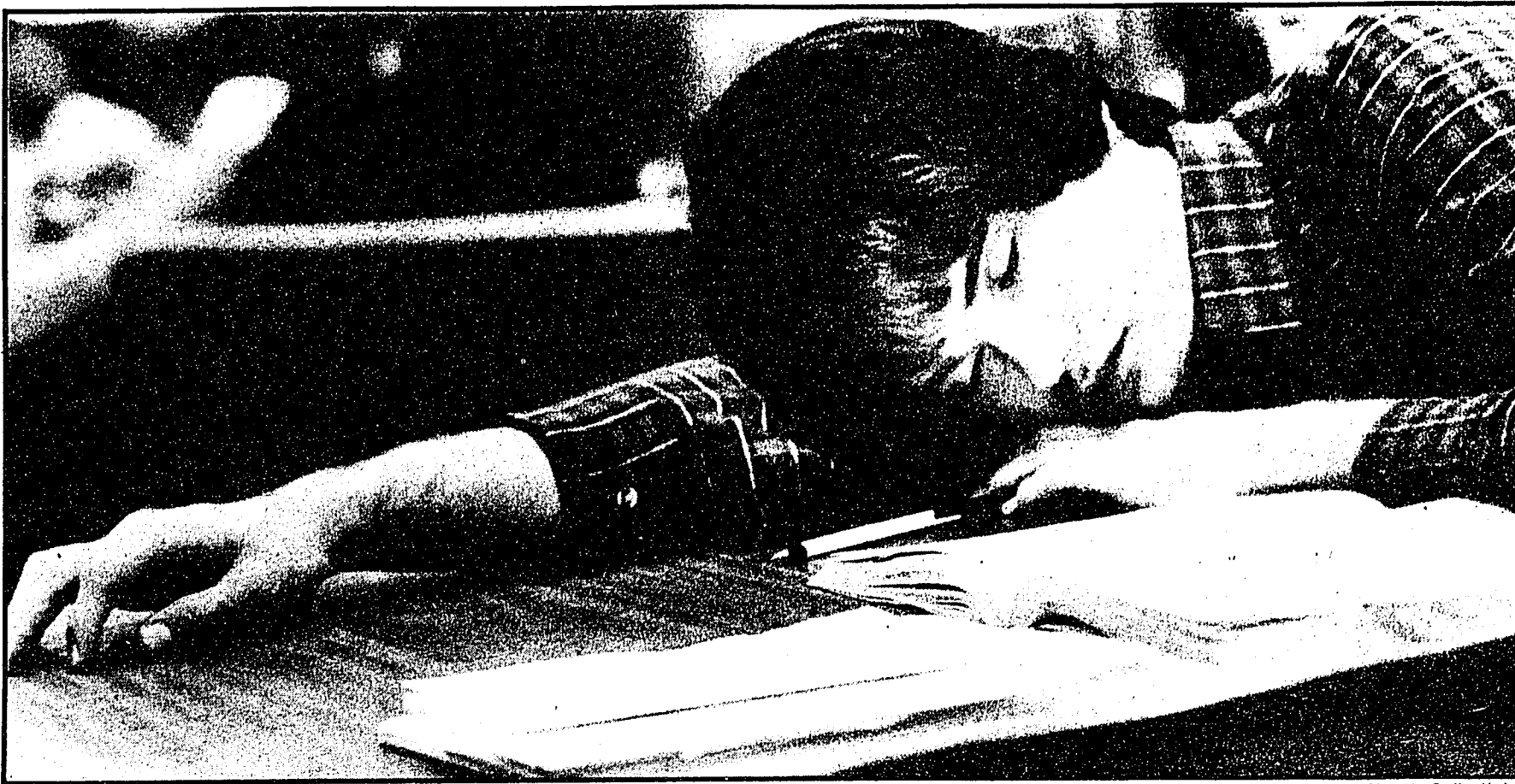
"I don't know. I'm told to be glad with what I've got. There are a lot of inequities here and I've learned to deal with them. I'm sick of being the decent tennis team. We're almost at a stalemate. Hell, we're below it."

The coaches said the reductions in scholarships and in general operating budgets have made their jobs tougher.

"I have to work harder with less," Cathrall said. "We have to raise money on our own. I'm a coach and now I'm a fund-raiser. I feel like a second-class citizen."

"My first reaction," Alphin said, "was to take this job and shove it. But I'm not the type of person to give up on it. I want to do everything I can to prove that their decision to place us in Priority Three was asinine."

Please see COACHES, Page 12.



Time out for a nap

As finals creep around the corner, this weary late night studier takes a break from his all too laborious textbook.

Karp era draws to end; achievements mark tenure

By MARK FEATHERSTONE
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

As usual, the meeting was short but effective. While the meeting, near the end of Fall Term, did not last very long — less than an hour and a half — it represented just about everything both good and bad that Organization for Town Independent Students and its president, Bob Karp, have done this year.

As usual, half the meeting was full of friendly jokes and putdowns of officers and members by the whole membership. But after getting down to business, members heard reports by Karp on the Laurel Glen case and reports from Karp and OTIS Vice President Keith Stambaugh on a new computer that will list available housing.

The members also heard reports from committees. While most committees could only talk of future plans rather than past accomplishments, the branch campus committee presented details of a recent University Park tour for Commonwealth campus students.

Later, Karp encouraged members to become more active and to take over more responsibilities because he and other senior members would not be around forever. "OTIS and Karp have gone together for three years," said Bill Fracalossi, president-elect of OTIS. "You can't say OTIS without saying Bob Karp. That really sums it up."

"Bob is seen as OTIS but he hasn't done it for himself. It's all been for the organization." Two years ago when Karp became president of the organization that had an estimated 15,000 students find off-campus housing each year, he took over an organization that was suffering from severe membership problems, internal dissension and a lack of direction. "Starting from Day 1, the major accomplishment was getting new members and... building up the credibility of the organization," said Joanne Swiderski, vice president during Karp's first year. "There were about six members. It was ready to fall apart."

'OTIS and Karp have gone together for three years. You can't say OTIS without saying Bob Karp. That really sums it up.'

—Bill Fracalossi, president-elect of the Organization for Town Independent Students

"He put in an awful lot of work in the organization. He's a major reason the organization has credibility."

Charlene Harrison, assistant director of community relations for the University and adviser to OTIS, agreed: "When Bob came to the organization, there wasn't a whole lot of organizational enthusiasm. They (the new officers) worked really hard to begin rebuilding, just to build a sense of esprit de corps and recruiting enthusiastic new members."

"They made things happen. I was getting frustrated before that."

And Stambaugh said, "Bob did a hell of a job his first year just keeping the organization alive."

Now, as Karp enters the final days of his year as OTIS president, the situation is markedly different. OTIS is now an organization of about 30 tightly-knit members who are in the middle of several major projects. The organization has improved its services so much that it is often just assumed that they can solve all tenant problems, Stambaugh said.

"We're taken for granted," Stambaugh said. "They come in with a problem and we solve it. They don't even thank us."

"If we can't quite solve it, they get pissed off. If we would ever happen to die, where would they go?" Fracalossi agreed. "I have trouble seeing anything

wrong with OTIS at this point. Everything I've seen is pretty successful.

"It's a tough act to follow."

OTIS accomplished a great deal during Karp's two-year tenure. Some of the things — such as the landmark suit by OTIS and the Association of Residence Hall Students to recover the security deposits of former tenants of the bankrupt Laurel Glen apartment complex and the recently installed computerized housing service — made the said, and so OTIS, with help from ARHS, decided to hire a lawyer to represent the students' interests.

Swiderski said, "That was a first. That was a major breakthrough."

analysis

Harrison agreed: "In times previous... other tenants had been left holding the bag on security deposits."

The idea for the other obvious accomplishment — the installation, by OTIS and the Office of Student Affairs, of a computer to help students locate housing easier and faster — came while Karp, Swiderski and Harrison were attending the New York State Off-Campus Association Conference, Harrison said.

When they saw that many schools with smaller off-campus populations had a computer system to help their students find available housing, they decided the University could use one too, she said.

Karp said that although the computerization program is "right on schedule," the computer won't be fully operational for another year or so.

Fracalossi said he hopes to continue expanding the computer's use.

"I think the computer has so much potential," he said. "There's so much that we could do with it."

Working for the computer was probably one reason that Karp decided to run for a second term as president, Stambaugh said.

"The reason he decided to run again was... the contacts he established that first year... getting to know Mel Klein and Ray Murphy (Melvyn S. Klein, director of student activities, and Raymond O. Murphy, vice president for student affairs) and other administrators."

"I was surprised they pulled it off. It was great. It was fantastic. If somebody new had stepped in... "He had some things going that he didn't want to stop. No one could fill his shoes at that time."

Karp said he decided to run for re-election because he wanted to complete some projects he had started and because no one else seemed to want the job very badly.

"No one had ever been president for two years. It took me a year to get the groundwork laid."

Karp said he is glad he ran for a second term.

"The first year we put the organization back together. The second year we got things done."

Harrison said one thing that Karp accomplished that was not widely noticed was his involvement with groups downtown.

"It's good to have someone from the organization... being there when issues are debated rather than complaining after the fact," she said.

Karp also had a good relationship with many of the apartment owners and managers, Harrison said.

"Some people see that group as more adversarial than others," she said. "He's projected a 'Let's get together about issues approach.' He's avoided a 'You're a landlord, headlines."

Others — such as the continuing update and publication of OTIS' apartment price list and Foundations, a Guide to Town Living, and its complaint mediation service — did not.

Concerning Laurel Glen, Karp said he, Harrison, other executives and members of OTIS were concerned that students would be taken advantage of during the bankruptcy hearings.

"There was no one there to represent the students," he said. "I'm a tenant. Let's be enemies." Please see OTIS's, Page 8.

Cluck may declare state candidacy

By MARCY MERMEL
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Undergraduate Student Government President Bill Cluck may run for state representative for the 77th District.

"I will give serious thought to the possibility of running for the 77th district seat," Cluck said.

Because he is "concentrating on finals and (Students Opposed to Financial Aid Reductions) week," Cluck said he will make the decision whether to run during term break when he can discuss the situation with his family.

During the past five or six weeks Cluck said he has been approached by students and townspeople who suggested that he would be good for the district.

"I think I would be good for the district, but I have personal considerations to think about."

"I've had a lot of experience in politics on the state and federal level. I've been a resident of State College since 1975, so I believe I know the interests and needs of the community," he said.

"But it would be up to the voters to decide — if I ran."

Because the deadline for filing petitions for spring primaries is March 10, Cluck said he'll make his decision by March 9 or 10.

The seat is now held by state Rep. Gregg L. Cunningham, R-Centre County, who is running for a seat in the 171st District.

inside

• The women's basketball team upset fifth-ranked Rutgers 86-76 Saturday night at Rec Hall...Page 13

• Penn State is one of the first universities in the nation, and the first in Pennsylvania, to actively oppose President Reagan's proposed cuts, said Frederick M. Ciletti, special assistant for government affairs to University President John W. Oswald...Page 24

weather

Mostly cloudy with a few flurries this morning, partial clearing by evening. High temperatures around 36 degrees. Partly cloudy tonight with low temperatures around 25 degrees. Gradually increasing clouds tomorrow with high temperatures around 40 degrees.

—by Mark Slunder

last issue

This is the last issue of The Daily Collegian for Winter Term. We will resume publication on the first day of classes for Spring Term, Thursday, March 11. Have a nice break!