

## editorial opinion/topics

### How about that?

Trying to lash out against price increases these days is a little like trying to be angry at a hyperactive child for running around the house. The kid can't control his actions; inflation isn't too easy to control, either.

So when the University Board of Trustees raises room and board fees \$79 a term — the largest dollar increase ever — one can only sigh. Try to complain and administrators can whip out all sorts of facts, graphs, figures, surveys, studies, receipts and newspaper clippings that justify the increase (or any price increase). Students can only take comfort in the fact that the University remains a "good buy" in the supermarket of higher education.

But for how much longer...?

### On the rebound

Two years ago, the men's basketball team, in search of independence, a national-caliber schedule, a National

Collegiate Athletic Association tournament bid and money, took its basketball and went home.

**Goodbye Eastern Nine.** On Wednesday, Penn State, after two years of independence and a year of playing a national-caliber schedule, dribbled to the Meadowlands and, along with Temple University, asked to be left back in the game.

**Hello, Eastern Nine?** The game these days is belonging to a league. That's because only two of the 46 teams in this year's NCAA tournament were independents. Better yet, a league can generate money through a possible television contract and save money by not having its teams travel nationwide.

But the league still needs that TV contract, a tournament site and a completed schedule.

And a name. How about: **Welcome Back, Harter.**

**Gazebos on the grass, alas**

At its last meeting, the University

Board of Trustees approved Joseph J. Mansfield for the newly-established position of University vice president for development.

Mansfield, former director of development for capital campaigns and major gifts at Columbia University, will bargain, fund raise, plea, cajole and humor various people throughout the country beginning May 1 to raise money for dear old State.

Also at its last meeting, the board approved the expenditure of \$30,000 for the construction of two gazebos on campus — one on the HUB lawn near Atherton Hall and the other on the grounds of the University House. The gazebos were financed by a private donation that specified the money be used for campus beautification.

Gazebos are pretty and white and romantic and all, but there do seem to be more pressing concerns facing the University right now.

Maybe the new vice president can find some money to replace antiquated microscopes in lab courses or

maybe he can come up with a grant for the humanities or maybe funds for a few more journals for Pattee.

Almost anything would be better than a \$30,000 gift for gazebos.

### It's happening

Last year something happened that everyone said wouldn't happen. Or the cynics predicted it if it did happen, it wouldn't turn out too well. After all, it required a highly diverse group of individuals with conflicting ideas to pool resources, energy and time. It required good weather. It required planning.

But, Horizons — a spring arts festival, of sorts — actually sprung out of the dry intellectual desert that is Penn State and bloomed into an oasis on the HUB lawn and other parts of campus.

There were jugglers and solar power demonstrations and Hare Krishnas and bands and speakers. And the weather was great. And people came

and had a good time. This year Horizons will be held from May 6 to 8.

Any student organization that wants to submit a proposal for the festival should get creative because proposals must be submitted to the Horizons steering committee by March 30.

The proposals can be practically anything the organizers want them to be — provided that they are low-budget and creatively oriented toward social awareness and audience interaction and enjoyment.

That's the fun part. But lots and lots of manpower is required to put a festival like Horizons together. Horizons needs volunteers to serve on the arts and entertainment, audio-visual, education and promotions committees.

Horizons information is available by calling or visiting the Eco-Action office — 224 HUB or the Colloquy office, 214 HUB or 202 HUB.

After all, spring is just on the horizon.

## reader opinion

### Bon appetit

So many good things are happening on campus that people can take advantage of. Sadly, most people are not aware of many of these events.

One such happening is the International Cuisine meals presented in the Maple Room on the bottom floor of Henderson Human Development building. These dinners all have a distinct theme; for instance, on April 2, the theme will be "Chesapeake Bay in the 1700s."

Groups of food service and housing administration students run the meals. They research the history, foods, music and decor which were indigenous to the area. For example, we found that the Chesapeake Bay area was abundant in crabs, coysters and fin-fish. The land was teaming with wild game.

With each meal, the groups try to recreate a particular place and period. The type of service varies each night. It may be serving family style (everyone serving themselves) one evening to classical french service (each table having several waiters who prepare the meal to order at the table) another.

These FSIA meals offer the customer something they can't find anywhere else in town and also give the students practical experience.

The FSIA students give you this chance to enter into a different time period. Take advantage of a great meal at a great price.

Some of the upcoming dinners are China Manchu Dynasty, Medieval England, Santa Fe and Japan. For more information about meals or to make reservations, please call Mr. Bordi at 883-9415 or David J. Schwartz at 234-4568 or 868-3706. See you there!

### Parental Consent?

The Department of Health and Human Services, under the supervision of Secretary Richard Schweiker of Health, Education and Welfare, has proposed a regulation requiring parental notification for minors to receive birth control at federally funded clinics.

This regulation would certainly drive some of the young people now using the clinics away from birth control. According to Planned Parenthood, a quarter of the teen patients would end their birth control use if parental notification were mandatory. But only 2 percent would abstain from sexual activity. Those who can afford to go to private physicians might do so, but the majority of teens, short on cash, would find general birth control methods out of their reach, unless they're willing to face their parents' reaction.

This regulation must be, and can be, stopped. Public comments are being accepted now, until April 22. Sufficient public outrage will force the department to withdraw the proposal. Public apathy will allow the regulation to take on the

effect of the law. The Students for Reproductive Rights urge you to help prevent unwanted pregnancies among teens, by sending your comments to:

Marjory Mecklenburg  
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs  
Room 725 H  
200 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Join Students for Reproductive Rights' letter-writing campaign. Come to our next meeting Monday, March 29th at 7:30 in 107 Sackett.

### Self-inflicted plight

The recent Students Opposed to Financial Aid Reductions campaign to prevent further budget cuts in the area of student loans and grants appears to overlook some key questions that warrant discussion. SOFAR's case essentially argues that the cuts will make it impossible for many students from the lower side of the economic spectrum to afford college. Such a situation would make college a luxury affordable only by the rich.

I do not challenge SOFAR's argument, but I do contend that it sidesteps some key questions on the just role of government. Federal loans and grants are now provided largely without regard for a student's major. Federal money for the support of students who will serve in the public sector as teachers, administrators and social workers may be justified. The pay scales provided for public servants have traditionally lagged behind pay scales in private industry.

The continuation, or increase, in federal money for students going towards subsidizing public-service-oriented students might even act as an incentive to draw some of our brighter students away from private-sector-oriented fields and into public sector work. There is already a problem in drawing large numbers of our highest quality students into fields such as education, for example, where starting salaries still hover in the \$10,000 to \$18,000 range.

Imagine how much more acute the problem will become when the budget cuts press an even heavier burden on our future public servants. These future servants will be asked to not only live on their below standard salaries, but pay off a larger share of their college education as well. If our public service sector faces an even deeper deterioration in the years to come, it is a plight that we have brought on ourselves.

I cannot, however, justify the expenditure of federal money for the training of accountants, engineers, or computer scientists who will be absorbed by private industry at substantially higher salaries than are available in the public



sector. If the private sector believes that it must insure its supply of personnel in the accounting, engineering and computer fields, then let the private sector pay the bill through higher corporate taxes or increased direct financial grants to universities.

An argument could be made that government educational subsidies to the private sector helps the nation as a whole. There is probably some truth in this argument, but it misses the point. The point is that the public, through the vehicle of governmental taxation, is being asked to pay the bill for educating the technocrats of corporations who are not necessarily responsive to the public interest.

Joseph R. Fischer, graduate-history  
March 17

### El Salvador

Support for the "centrist" government of El Salvador is the theme of a recent letter to The Daily Collegian from John Kung, who suggests that Napoleon Duarte has accomplished important changes in the power structure of that country, and has popular support. I suggest that there is substantial evidence that such changes have not occurred, and that Duarte is merely a figurehead for the real power of El Salvador — the military/security forces which have no intention of implementing meaningful change.

Since the coup of 1979, four juntas have held power. Three of these juntas have dissolved, with many of the civilian members of each protesting continued military repression. According to the statements of former Minister of Agriculture Enrique Cordova, former Minister of Education Salvador Samayoa, and former Army Captain Ricardo Fiallos, real power in El Salvador is in the hands of Colonel Guillermo Garcia and other military and police leaders. Former U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Robert White has stated that the government of that country contains some of the most brutally repressive military in the world, and that reforms have ceased while previous reforms are rescinded. Amnesty International and other human rights organizations blame the government security forces for the overwhelming majority of noncombatant deaths and disappearances. These terrorist tactics are responsible for the reluctance of many Salvadorans to publicly support the opposition.

The Democratic Revolutionary Front is a coalition of over 20 popular organizations, political parties, and labor unions, as well as the guerrilla groups. Many leaders of the Front are former members of the junta and other ex-government officials: Guillermo Ungo, President of the Front, resigned from the junta saying that it had no meaningful power to accomplish democratization and social change; Ruben Zamorra, a leader of the Christian Democratic Party in which Duarte belongs, is now a ranking member of the front; Aronette de Samora, Christian Democratic municipal council member in San

Salvador, resigned after her husband was assassinated and now works for the Front. Many other government officials have resigned and left the country in the face of right-wing death threats, and the failure of the Duarte regime to implement effective social change.

While it is difficult to measure the popular support of the opposition given the climate of government repressive terror, one indication of their support is the undeniable success of the guerrilla forces. A basic tenet of guerrilla warfare is that "success of guerrilla movements depends on continuous moral and material support from the local civilian population" (U.S. Army Field Manual 31-21). Mr. Kung's arguments to the contrary, there is good reason to doubt the effectiveness of reforms attempted by the Duarte government, the likelihood of future social, political, and economic change, and the supposed unpopularity of the opposition forces.

The upcoming elections, from which government opponents are effectively banned by government terrorism, are merely an attempt to put a veneer of phony democratic respectability on pre-existing totalitarian power structures. Mr. Kung should look more deeply into the facts of the situation in El Salvador, rather than parroting the Reagan/Haig world view and imputing "ulterior motives" to critics of El Salvador's brutal tactics.

John K. Malloy, graduate-antropology  
March 18

## reader opinion

### Unfair assumptions

We are disturbed with the Thursday, March 25 editorial opinion that was critical of both the Undergraduate Student Government and the presidential and vice presidential candidates.

Responsibility is a sign of professionalism. When USG Elections Commissioner Kevin Joyce was questioned by The Daily Collegian as to who tore down the campaign banner that was hung in the mall for one of the USG presidential and vice presidential running tickets, he responded truthfully. He stated that the commission was investigating the vandalism occurrence and that the guilty persons were not known.

Given the fact that our knowledge of the candidates has shown that they have behaved responsibly in the past, we realized that other unrelated persons "may" have committed this act. The Collegian's own Police Log has, on many occasions, reported irrational acts of vandalism.

It is the responsibility of both government and press to withhold accusations until there is conclusive evidence. It is our belief that the Collegian was both unfair to the candidates and irresponsible to their readers to "assume" (the very word used by the Collegian) that the other candidates were responsible for the banner's disappearance.

When the possibility remains that some or all of the involved parties are innocent of such dirty politics, why must the Collegian "assume" their guilt? Fine journalism is not based on assumptions and hearsay.

Bill Kraftsow  
USG Assistant Elections Commissioner  
March 25

### Belated thanks

Because of the term break, this is somewhat belated, but I do want to publicly express my appreciation to everyone involved in the "Fahrenheit Fashions" fashion show presented on Monday, February 22 in the HUB.

The men and women who volunteered their time and talents as models and coordinators all performed brilliantly and were exceptionally accommodating. While the project had a few technical problems, anyone who attended saw an entertaining show in which a variety of fine clothing was modeled by surprisingly skilled and creative people.

As chairman of the University's Executive Energy Conservation Committee (one of the show's sponsors), I've seen the need for efficient use of energy and natural resources. It's gratifying to see that concern translated into action by the volunteers and members of the other sponsoring organizations (Eco-Action and the Helix Union Board).

While energy conservation will never be "fun," this fashion show certainly shows that there are innovative ways of bringing the conservation message before the University

community. Everyone connected with the show is to be commended.

R.E. Zilly  
Executive Energy Conservation Committee chairman  
March 25

### Contradictions

I am having difficulties understanding a certain situation and I was hoping someone could explain it to me. On Monday, March 22, there were two somewhat contradictory articles in the Collegian: one on the front page and one on the back. The one on the front told all of us poor college students that our room and board charges are going to be increased by \$79 next year. It also stated that tuition would go up, but did not say by how much.

The article on the back told all of us poor college students that a memorial is going to be built next to Schwab Auditorium at a cost of \$54,200, although a memorial is already there. I guess George Atherton decided that his present memorial isn't good enough.

The article also said that \$22,000 is to be spent on construction of a safety building for Beaver Stadium (implying, maybe, that Beaver Stadium isn't safe?). The article also stated that two gazebos will be constructed, one on the HUB lawn and one on the grounds of the University House. The article did not say how much the gazebos will cost.

Here's where the problem comes in — I do not feel that a memorial to George Atherton, a safety building for Beaver Stadium or two gazebos are necessary for my education and I would like to know why I am paying to build them!!!

Now you may tell me that alumni or interested parties are paying for these frivolities, but I won't buy it. With all the education at this school that are crying for money (such as the constant cry of Pattee for money for books and other materials), I feel that the money being spent on these trills is being wasted. Even if we poor college students are not paying for these frivolities, we are paying for areas of education which could use \$54,200 donations. If the amount of money being wasted on these constructions was going into my and other students' education, our tuition, room and board might not be going up so much, if at all.

Now, does anyone have an answer to my question...? Why?

Sherly L. Davis, 6th-dairy production  
March 25

Editor's note: The gazebos were financed with private grants specifically given for campus beautification projects.

### Embarrassed and infuriated

It is bad enough that the National Association for the



Advancement of Colored People thinks it is necessary to file a class-action suit against the University for racial discrimination, but to have President Oswald give the appearance of insensitivity to the issue and to not accord it the prominence and attention it deserves is not only embarrassing, but infuriating.

I, personally, am proud and happy to be a student at Penn State, but for the first time, I am embarrassed to admit the fact I am embarrassed not only for myself but for President Oswald and everyone else who is part of this University which has been accused of racial discrimination.

I am not assuming that the accusation is proof of guilt, but I do believe that it has been forthcoming. We have all read about and noticed the imbalance of the University population and yet most of us (including myself) reacted with apathy.

I, personally, find it infuriating that once the University was placed in this embarrassing position, President Oswald saw fit to simply refer the complaints to University committees.

Although I recognize that President Oswald is a busy man, I would hope that as the president of a University which proudly claims to follow non-discriminatory policy, he would recognize the gravity and consequence of the situation and act accordingly.

ingly. I think, perhaps, a review of priorities and a change of attitude are in order.  
Megan Bradley, 12-political science  
March 25

### Dragon-slayers

When will our valiant crusaders against apathy stop badgering those of us they deem "careless"? I'm in school for a few reasons, a couple of which include educating myself and preparing for a career. Student political games do not interest me; neither will they help me find a job. Nor even can student government involve me more in the campus community than the non-political organizations I belong to.

Therefore, may I address the dauntless bands of fiery knights committed to slaying the dragon Apathy? Some of us are not interested in make-believe politics. We are not necessarily apathetic. Our interests simply lie in different areas.

Joe Illio, 3th-English  
March 24

## Geez, what kind of job can you get with that?

"My daughter took a course in that and it was a waste of time," the woman said.

"Are you taking that course for your own self-fulfillment?" asked my dentist.

Among other responses I've received when revealing my major have been an awe-stricken "Gosh!" from a young student; several inquiries of "What kind of job can you get with that kind of degree?"; and a thoroughly agast, "Why would you want to take that?"

"That" happens to be philosophy.

In pursuing a bachelor's degree in philosophy I have discovered that people not only have misconceptions but even prejudices about philosophy and philosophers. The prejudice against philosophy courses may perhaps stem from persons receiving a poor grade in it. Admittedly, an initial course in philosophy may prove difficult for those who are accustomed to merely memorizing a lot of facts rather than thinking abstractly. The prejudice against philosophers as a whole, however, seems to come from the imagery evoked in people's minds when they hear the word "philosopher" — that of Rodin's statue, "The Thinker."

When you view a picture of "The Thinker" it is obvious that his activity is not visible to the eye, and in the work-centered American culture the initial response may be: "He isn't doing anything." Since the reality of his activity may not become actually for some time to come — months, years, even decades — the value of his activity is somewhat decreased in the view of those who are accustomed to the very immediate, concrete form of their own activities.

The executive who handles paperwork all day, the assembly-line worker who makes a finished product, even a nurse soothing an ailing patient — all of these can see an immediate result of their activities. With the exception of those who teach, this is not the case with philosophers. Thinking takes time, and writing those thoughts takes time; more important, it must be a time without distractions, a true rarity in our culture where so many positions require that the worker produce almost immediate results within a high-pressure atmosphere.

The value of such thinking is revealed in the story of a company which hired an efficiency expert to help find ways of trimming costs. After he had toured the facility, the efficiency expert made his report to the company president, and along with many useful suggestions he told the president that his company could save quite a bit of money if it eliminated the necessity of an executive who, it appeared, "figs things out" and sits and stares out the window all day.

The company president thanked him for his advice, said he would immediately investigate most of his suggestions, but as for the fellow

who appeared to be doing nothing all day, thanks, but no thanks, they would keep him on. It seems that he had saved the company a half million dollars the previous year with an idea he had conceived while "doing nothing."

Further prejudice against philosophers can be seen in the salaries offered to those with liberal arts degrees as compared with those of say, engineering. However, according to one report, a high percentage of those hired with liberal arts degrees, and specifically the humanities, within a relatively few years had earned increases in salaries to the extent that they actually surpassed those of the engineers and scientists. They had managed to overcome the initial prejudice and were evidently able to prove the value of their ability to think abstractly.

What, precisely, do philosophers think about? A simplistic reply is that they think about why we are here and what our existence is all about. Inasmuch as these types of thoughts occur to most of us on more than one occasion, we can say that we all philosophize.

Philosophers, however, carry this kind of thinking to the depths and to the heights even attempting to understand why thinking itself is. Specifically, they learn to examine our lives and situations from different points of view. It is philosophy which overcomes the mind-set of "We've always done it that way." It is the philosopher who asks, "Why do we always do that way?"; who suggests other ways of doing things; and who examines new questions as they arise.

At Penn State philosophy courses are oriented

toward the history of philosophy. Required courses carry the student through the development of thought through the centuries, and it is in studying this development that the student learns how much philosophers have affected their lives.

A non-student may well wonder why anyone would want to study the ancient Greeks, for instance, yet it was Aristotle who first proposed the idea that practicing virtuous living could lead to people becoming virtuous, and that virtuous citizens you could achieve a virtuous state. Our modern sciences developed out of the quest of the ancient and later philosophers to attempt to answer the why of things.

Recently, the March 19 issue of The New York Times carried a lengthy article describing how several New York teaching hospitals are "using philosophers in their day-to-day operations to help their medical staffs make better decisions affecting the life and death of patients." In this connection, philosophy courses at Penn State deal not only with biomedical ethics, but also with ethics in business and engineering. Most recently, the Penn State agriculture department has called on the philosophy department for advice on ethics in view of the opposition of some groups regarding animal husbandry practices.

The sciences can describe how things work, but they can't tell us the why of it, and that is where the philosopher enters and the picture is

Loretta J. Willis is a 10th-term philosophy major (of course) and a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

## the daily Collegian

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