

editorial opinion

Self-service

The Undergraduate Student Government Senate has just demonstrated quite a talent in the art of self-service.

Monday night, the senate barely passed a revised bill allocating \$750 of its budget to this year's Movin' On. They also allocated \$900 to a banquet at Gatsby's, 100 W. College Ave., for the formal induction of the 1983-84 USG executives, senate and Academic Assembly personnel.

Despite the possibility that the concert may not be held next year — and that funds raised this year will be donated to charity — the USG appropriations committee cut in half the original request for \$1,500 for Movin' On.

Indeed, something is seriously wrong when the senate cuts the budget request for an event that thousands of students enjoy and then sees fit to fund a banquet for only 150 people in student government.

The allocation for the banquet was not at the expense of funds for Movin' On. It is the first time USG has allocated any funds for Movin'

and it should be commended for funding what is technically not its project or responsibility.

However, the senate missed the boat. It has been under fire for not providing benefits for the whole student body. It could have — and should have — gone all out to help the Association of Residence Hall Students with Movin' On.

The fact that the senate didn't make the \$900 banquet look all the more self-serving.

And while the ideas of promoting a better working relationship for those involved in USG's personnel transition and rewarding members for service are good, those goals can be accomplished without a \$900 banquet at Gatsby's.

It seems the senators think \$750 is a lot of money when it's going to help Movin' On, but \$900 is not a lot of money when it's being spent on members of their own organization.

Attitudes like these make all the "we work for the students and their best interests" argument seem nothing more than empty rhetoric. They serve only to destroy student government's credibility in the eyes of the student body.

BY ILLUSTRATION: FRED SHAW



the daily Collegian

Thursday, April 21, 1983
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reader opinion

Be specific

Antonia Zapata, I don't doubt that the problems of minority students are more complicated than my "analysis" in my March 28 letter, mainly because I wasn't analyzing the problems of minority students. My purpose was to criticize proposed "solutions" as they were presented in an editorial opinion and that is all.

You say that "the problem doesn't lie in entering Penn State," but many of the complaints and threats to decrease funding are directed at that area. The fact that I agree with your statement is one of the reasons I wrote my first letter on March 28.

You also said you had never felt the subtle "problem" until you were at Penn State. It doesn't seem strange that you found something different here because all of the previous schools you listed were in urban areas and abroad. This is the rural North and just like the rural South there are a lot of prejudices that run deep. How anyone expects Penn State to solve such racial tensions, I don't know.

Although you didn't specify exactly what the subtle "problem" is, you cited "in-groups." Yes, I know they exist and yes, I do ask you can't get the information you need from other minority students.

Isn't it possible for some of the minority groups on campus to start a test file which includes papers and projects or whatever was required in various courses? More importantly, are things really that bad that minority students can't get any help or cooperation from anyone?

I guess things could be that bad as all I have knowledge of is engineering. Most of the engineering students I have met are willing to help each other so I must concede the possibility that mine is a sheltered life. If these "in-groups" are really forcing students out of school, shouldn't the complaints and debates be directed there?

"Weed-out" courses are indeed difficult as I have learned because I had to take several myself. A few friends decided to leave after taking such courses and they were white. Does that surprise you?

Well, I agree that wrongs should be remedied and individuals should be helped just because they are human-kind, but don't ask or expect Penn State to change the opinions and prejudices of its students.

If you want to get more done than talk, you must identify specific problems that exist in the system because that is all this university can really control. All the threats of funding cuts in the world will not change that fact.

Kevin M. Ramsey, 12th-environmental engineering
April 14

Clean sweep

Yes, let's clear up the West College blemish. Let's invite the landlords to join in a partnership with the borough. Let's put more money in their pockets and take more out of mine.

If you haven't noticed by now, State College is a university town. Take away the University and what do you have? Zero.

So why are the students, as well as those of us who only work here, continually called upon to sacrifice so many of these little amenities that make the "good life" almost bearable — things like insurance and medical benefits, fair wages and an inexpensive place to live? Not to mention a little self-respect and human dignity.

The students, the transients, the lower-class blue collar workers — lump them all together and sweep them out of town. Isn't that what you're talking about when you start campaigning for improved appearances? Another middle-class tinsel town? Picket fences and well-kept lawns? Roll up the sidewalks at 5 p.m.? Sounds like the peace-time army to me — maybe we don't have a real job to do, but at least we can keep our boots shined.

Bullshit. West College Avenue has character. More importantly, it's cheap.

Doesn't it make you wonder that State College is thriving when the rest of the country is suffering through a

depression? The fact is, State College thrives on an artificial economy.

Almost all the money in this town is brought here by students, most of whom come from other parts of the country — cities like Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Scranton and Allentown. Cities that cannot afford to keep their own industries running, must less worry about keeping up appearances — whether it's their own backyard, or that of some little tinsel town in central PA.

To the editors of The Daily Collegian, I'd like to ask you two questions: Who's paying your bills? And, who's side are you on? To the rest of you in State College, I'd like to ask, who's running this town?

Raymond C. Young, State College resident
April 18

Arrogant

"There is nothing earth shattering about it," USG Vice President Lee

Facetti said. "We just thought we would like to have a banquet." (Movin' On Funds Fall Through, April 18)

"Let them eat cake!" — Marie Antoinette.

Arrogance! Lee! Have you ever heard that word before? I doubt it. I don't have \$900 to my name and you want to use that much for a banquet to introduce the new senators. Give me \$900 and you can all come to my room. It is small enough that you'll all know each other real well by the end of the night.

Movin' On, which benefits all students, was only given \$750 of the \$1,500 requested while you arrogantly hold a personal party for \$900. I think that if you're using our money then all the students should be invited.

Better yet, use that \$900 for Movin' On and buddy-up with the new senators on your own money.

"Let them eat cake." The last time a person said that she was behatted. I don't think you deserve such good treatment, Lee.

Quentin Davis, 3rd-film
April 19

reader opinion

Helping hand

The Rec Parks Society is to be congratulated for the wonderful experience they provided during the Hand-In-Hand Program.

Retarded citizens are often neglected by groups because of the tremendous amount of time and work required to plan such an event as Hand-In-Hand. Contacting all of the agencies, acquiring medical records of participants, finding donors for the

prizes and gifts, organizing the games to offer a variety on a level that the participants could enjoy are just a few of the tasks that the Rec Parks Society faced.

One of the most difficult tasks must have been finding and organizing volunteers to be "friends" to each of the participants. The kindness and patience I saw from the students, faculty and townspeople who volunteered is to be commended. It takes a special student to give up a Saturday

after mid-terms to volunteer to help the less fortunate.

Many college students look at their own circumstances and think their problems are insurmountable; those students who helped in the Hand-In-Hand Program have shared a day with citizens with truly difficult lives and the lives of those students will be enriched by that experience.

Congratulations again to the Rec Parks Society for offering this experience to the retarded citizens of Pennsylvania and for giving Penn State an opportunity to share in the Hand-In-Hand Program.

Beth Alphin, Women's Fencing Coach
April 19

Don't rush

We would like to point out a discrepancy in the editorial opinion section of the April 19 Daily Collegian.

In the editorial, "Fighting for the Freeze," it is stated (in a quotation by the president) that the Soviets boast a "margin of superiority." We agree with this statement since the president and his advisors have direct access to the most recent data and are in a position to know. The article also states that "military equality is the optimum solution to world peace." Logic supports this statement.

However, the conclusion that Congress must pass a nuclear freeze resolution at this time does not appear rational.

To us, it seems that a nuclear freeze would bind the United States in a position where the Soviets have a "margin of superiority." This would be a state of military inequality which is definitely not the optimum solution to world peace.

We are in favor of a nuclear freeze providing there is a military balance between the Soviet Union and the United States. If some people feel that waiting for a military balance would take too long, then vote for a nuclear freeze after the Soviets have agreed to cut back.

Perhaps if we hadn't been so quick with a nuclear freeze resolution, the president would not have had to rush with the MX plan (it must be approved before the nuclear freeze), and a better basing system could have been worked out.

We don't claim to know all the answers, but rushing headlong into a nuclear freeze is as stupid as rushing the MX missile system.

John Reister, 3rd-aerospace engineering
George Chappel, 3rd-aerospace engineering
Michael Gehring, 3rd-electrical engineering
April 20

Events ignored

Recognizing that The Daily Collegian is the voice of the student body at Penn State, we were very pleased to see a full week of coverage devoted to the minority issue at the University.

However, we are disillusioned that the Collegian sees fit to exercise a double standard and ignore the issues pertinent to other minorities, specifically, the Jewish community.

We are referring to the fact that when the board of editors was given one month's notice about the upcoming Passover holiday, as well as this past week's Hillol Holocaust memorial events, they chose to ignore coverage of both issues.

If the Collegian is attempting to act as a champion of the minorities at Penn State, it should find a way to do so without exercising what we consider its own form of discrimination.

The Hillol Student Board
April 20

Commendation

Mr. Jacoby, Mr. Stausser, I don't understand what either of you is trying to accomplish by writing your letter about the USG banquet.

Your sarcasm has run dry and has no merit. What is wrong with honoring the representatives who have worked hard, sacrificing their time and studies to improve student life? That is the main reason for banquet, not the reason that you quoted to get into a relaxed atmosphere with incoming senators.

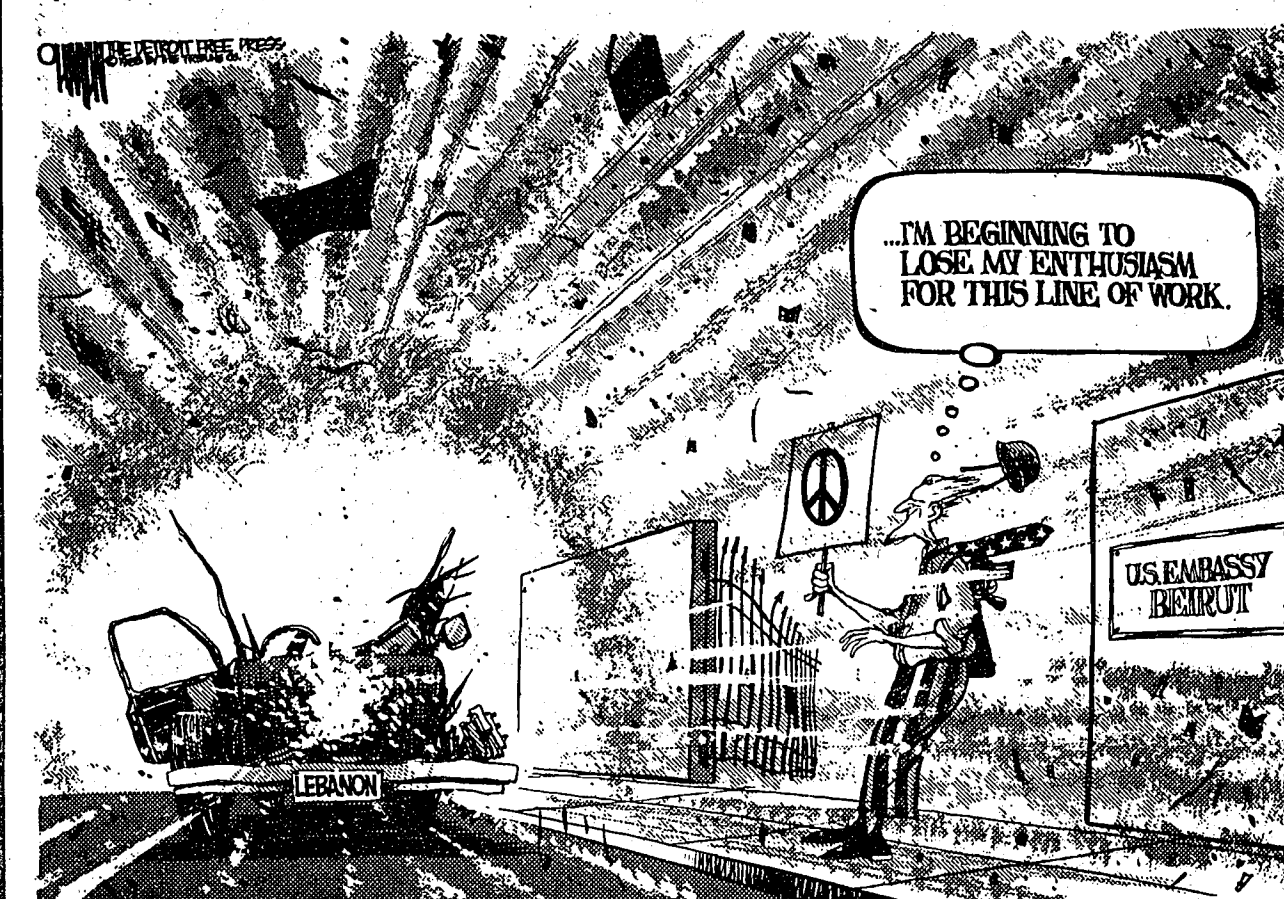
Convince me why I shouldn't support a bill to honor the senators whom I have seen devote selfless effort toward projects to benefit the students.

I commend Bill Kraftsow for establishing the Consumer Protection Committee that has already surfaced fraudulent practices in two local businesses. I commend Rita Chang and Dan Kweider, along with ARHS chairperson Jean Towers, for the Book Co-op's doubling in student book sales, and for the organization and advertisement that made this non-profit student service worthwhile.

I commend Darryl Daisey for his persistent negotiations in extending and maintaining the current Campus Loop hours. These are only a few examples of why USG deserves to be honored on Monday night, but I guarantee that each one would work just as hard whether rewarded or not.

Open your eyes, boys, and lighten up on the criticism until you know what's going on. Your opinion is negative, closed-minded and pathetically shallow.

Tracy Haack, USG East Halls senator
April 20



The name says quality. The price says Hills.

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State College: Hills Plaza - South Atherton St. (Rt. 322E) & Branch Rd. Store Hours: 10-10 Monday-Saturday/12-5 Sunday

contrast

Nuclear freeze first step to peace

"Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days, governments had better get out of the way and let them have it!" — President Eisenhower, Aug. 31, 1959.

That day is today and the freeze is what people want. Starting in New England town meetings, spreading to Hollywood studios, then to ballots in 10 states, and now the halls of Congress, the freeze has risen from the people. It may change the course of the arms race.

John Dougherty is a 14th-term geoscience major and a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

Here's the freeze resolution the House is debating and may vote on today or tomorrow:

- As an immediate strategic arms control objective, the United States and the Soviet Union should:
 - pursue a complete halt to the nuclear arms race;
 - decide when and how to achieve a mutual and verifiable freeze on the testing, production, and further deployment of nuclear warheads, missiles, and other delivery systems, and;
 - give special attention to destabilizing weapons whose deployment would make such a freeze more difficult to achieve.
- Proceeding from this freeze, the United States and the Soviet Union should pursue major, mutual, and significant reductions in nuclear warheads, missiles, and other delivery systems, through annual percentages or equally effective means, in a manner that enhances stability.

Is this freeze a good idea? First, for a freeze to work it must be verifiable. William Colby, former director of the CIA and not generally known to be a dupe of Moscow, strongly supports the freeze and states that it is verifiable.

Now let's consider the recent history of the arms race

Nuclear freeze too risky for now

I suppose being against the nuclear freeze movement does not put me in the most popular of positions. After all, the main basis behind the movement is to save the world from a nuclear holocaust and not too many people support those who are for the destruction of mankind.

Well, there is a discrepancy here; simply because I am against the nuclear freeze does not mean I am pro-death or anti-humanistic. I don't even think I am being cynical, only cautious.

Carol Frank is a 7th-term political science major and a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

Actually, I believe the freeze on nuclear weaponry is a brilliant idea, if it could be implemented. But here is where I am most leary: Could a nuclear freeze actually be implemented and be verifiable?

Because this is a political issue, we must look at it from a political standpoint. Let's do a little role playing.

Suppose you are Yuri Andropov. The United States comes to you asking for a nuclear freeze. After some thought you decide that with all the bad news floating around about the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan, a move like this may put you in a more favorable light. Deciding that it is in your country's best interest to do so, you agree to the freeze.

Several years pass, and suddenly you decide that this nuclear freeze thing has gone far enough and you begin a secret nuclear arms build-up. You have built up a sizable stockpile of nuclear weapons when the United States begins to realize that the treaty has been violated. They yell and scream that you have violated an international contract. You, as Mr. Andropov, just sit back and smile and say, "Well, what are you going to do to stop me? Send in your big brother?"

The fact is that a country will only abide by a treaty