

opinions

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The Daily Collegian
Tuesday, April 26

editorial opinion

Evict nonrefundable fees

Landlords and tenants in State College have long been portrayed as adversaries, growling and scowling at each other over their leases. But there are places where landlord-tenant relations are far worse than in State College.

College students living in Philadelphia, for example, would probably say that State College tenants can't even begin to know the troubles they've seen.

In many areas around the state — and especially in Philadelphia — landlords charge their tenants certain nonrefundable reconditioning fees in their lease agreements.

Landlords may charge their tenants security deposits, but they have to be returned if no damage is done to the apartments. So many landlords impose additional nonrefundable fees, which are often used to clean and paint apartments after tenants vacate.

State law permits requiring a security deposit of up to two months' rent during the first year of any lease, but if Sen. J. Doyle Corman, R-Centre County, is successful in his attempts to push Senate Bill 493 through the Legislature, landlords would no longer be allowed to charge reconditioning fees.

Corman introduced a similar bill in the 1981-1982 session that passed the Senate by a 44-0 vote, but it sat around in the House for about a year and a half and finally died.

The bill is now in the senate Urban Affairs

and Housing Committee, chaired by state Sen. Milton Street, R-Philadelphia County. This time around, it shouldn't be allowed to die.

While the bill's passage would probably not directly affect tenants in State College — most State College landlords, if any, do not charge reconditioning fees — it would certainly help those tenants in other areas who are being taken advantage of by unfair landlords.

And because most University students will not live in State College forever, Penn State graduates could become residents of apartments that would be affected by the bill.

Indirectly it could have some effects here in State College. Landlords here perhaps would be more careful not to penalize their outgoing tenants unfairly by using money from security deposits for cleaning purposes.

And perhaps as tenants in general become more aware of their rights, they will remember to do things like returning their keys and leaving their forwarding addresses when they vacate to ensure that their landlords return their security deposits.

The state Legislature is being given a second shot at restricting nonrefundable reconditioning fees. Nonrefundable fees should not be left in lease agreements — and the bill should not be left in the House.

Music school to refrain from discord?

For the past two years, complex controversies have surrounded the School of Music, causing dissension among both faculty and students. The school has attracted more attention for its squabbles than for its fine music programs.

Perhaps the most visible rift of all involved the school's choral program. These tensions eventually led to the resignation of University Choir Director Raymond Brown in February 1982.

The reasons for these controversies are obscure and probably only understood by those familiar with the day-to-day operations of the school. However, too much energy has been expended solving them rather than producing musicians.

Recently, the head of the school resigned to return to teaching and research. While the controversies may have prompted her decision, such speculations are futile and can only be answered by the school itself.

With the appointment of a new director, the school will have an opportunity to resolve the turmoil of the past couple of years. Faculty members will meet soon to discuss the appointment of a new director — a director who in the words of a professor of music, will face an "enormously complicated" job.

With cooperation from all parties involved, the strains of dissent should soon be replaced with the strains of music.



"DO YOU CLOWNS DO ANYTHING ELSE?"

the Collegian
Tuesday, April 26, 1983
Suzanne M. Cassidy
Judith Smith
Business Manager

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reader opinion

Movin' On update

The spring event has been traditionally an ARHS function. Had ARHS been in dire straits and had Movin' On been in total jeopardy, the senate would most likely have engaged in a much shorter debate. It should be understood that Movin' On was not in jeopardy. The Movin' On committee was given a larger allocation than in previous years from Associated Student Activities. In addition, the committee received substantial funding from ARHS. In total, allocation for Movin' On surpassed all previous years, regardless of USG involvement.

Thus, what we had was a better-than-usual-funded Movin' On approaching an outside organization for additional funding. It should also be understood that various ARHS area governments might have provided the funding.

Please note that the original request for \$1,500 was changed to \$750 by the bill's sponsor, not by the senate appropriations committee. This is just one more example of uninformed Daily Collegian editors unfairly engaging students. Had the senate, not

funded Movin' On, ARHS still would have had a program full of major label performers. To even further distort the situation, Ed Doherty, Movin' On chairman, was quoted at the April 19 ARHS meeting as stating, "This is the end of a Movin' On era."

According to ARHS President Dave Labuskes this is not true. "Movin' On is very much an option for next year; it is not necessarily over," Labuskes told us. In regards to the USG banquet, this year USG is attempting to recognize

the hard working individuals within the organization who, by and large, have a thankless job. Despite recent criticism lodged against USG, there are many members who over the year(s) have devoted hundreds of "voluntary" work hours. In light of the fact that many organizations pay their workers (i.e., Collegian and University Concert Committee) it should not be considered unreasonable to demonstrate appreciation to such dedicated individuals. Bill Kraftsov, Joe Martz, USG Town Senators, April 22

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reader opinion

Work, no study

With many students scrambling to obtain financial aid for next year, I would like to examine the abuses of one segment of aid — the College Work Study Program. Having received work-study grants for the last two years, I am well aware of the troubles.

Currently, once a student's "needs analysis profile" indicates that he is eligible for obtaining work-study, the student must seek employment and begin the arduous task of earning that money. At the current rate of \$3.35 an hour, a student must work an average of 16 hours a week to obtain \$1,500, the maximum grant.

Scheduling and then working 16 hours a week while having classes, lab work and exams is no easy task. Even John Dean, counsel to the House committee on education and labor, admits that the program is not for students, such as premedicines majors, who must maintain a high

grade-point average. Where does that leave the physicists, accountants, engineers and literature majors who just might be interested in attending graduate school, obtaining employment or simply "learning the most they can" in a course (whatever that means)? And even when a student does work, a percentage of his pay is deducted by taxes; so in reality, the student obtains \$1,300 instead of \$1,500.

Most work-study students cannot handle earning 16 hours a week plus balancing a full credit load; they simply work eight or ten hours a week and are forced to forfeit the remainder of their grant (who can blame them?).

The people in the Office of Student Aid, realizing this fact, randomly offer more students aid than actual monies received from the government. Somehow the administrators in Student Aid have closed their eyes to the fact that we are all here to obtain a degree, not shelve books and wash

test tubes. Such a government-subsidized program as work-study cannot continue to discriminate against people who cannot afford to pay for schooling by forcing them to cut back on course loads and/or receive lower grades.

Therefore, I present a simple solution — increase the hourly wage. I have worked for two years and still receive \$3.35 an hour, while other student employees, such as cafeteria workers, receive pay increases over time. There is no valid reason for keeping the current rate other than to exploit cheap labor from students forced to work in the system.

If a pay increase is not feasible, the administrators of Student Aid should scale down the maximum grant and seek other "true" sources of aid instead of forcing the students to work long hours. Working eight to ten hours a week is much more realistic. Until these guidelines are followed, students will still be tricked into thinking \$1,500 has been trimmed off

that \$4,000 or so of "documented need," while the Office of Student Aid proudly points to the statistics of thousands of "happy" students on work-study.

I know nothing can be done to make part-time employment enjoyable, but discriminating against those in need is unjustifiable on all counts.
Wake up 335 Bouck!

John D. Cunningham, 13th-physics
April 25

Action needed
First of all, you claim student apathy towards USG to be a major problem, right? And so I take it that this problem of student apathy is probably on your priority list of things to be taken care of, right?

problem of student apathy. In other words, you are going about this problem in an indirect way, whereby you hope that this problem will lessen if USG fulfills its responsibility of serving the needs of the undergraduate students.

A long run project, right? I just do not understand, for I'm starting to get the picture that you, USG, are apathetic and lazy. Apathetic and lazy, about doing anything directly to curb student apathy.

If both USG and the students are apathetic about building a strong bond between themselves, then they'll just never get anywhere. What I am proposing is that you, USG, initiate some direct action now to mitigate this problem of student apathy towards USG since you've got the resources. Resources which could enable a better union between USG and the students.

Michelle Shumock, 10th-advertising
April 25

Share your page

This is your page, your opportunity to share opinions, comments and ideas on just about anything. But this page also belongs to about 40,000 other people who read The Daily Collegian each day. It is also their opportunity to communicate their observations about the University, the community and the world.

So please share. Limit your letters to 30 lines (about one page, typed double-space). Longer letters will not be accepted. Forums — expressions centering on a theme — must be three to four typed, double-space pages.

Remember to include on the letter your term standing and major or title with your name and phone number. Bring identification with your letter to the Collegian office, 126 Carnegie.

U.S. Government forced to grow too big

No one can dispute the fact that the role of government in our lives has increased dramatically in the last few decades. Perhaps because of this, the government has become a convenient scapegoat for all the problems our society faces.



We've all participated in conversations when someone has attributed all of his personal misfortune to the actions or inaction of "the government." We perversely liken ourselves to be at the mercy of this abstract notion of government, and this represents a very serious misconception. This may sound like an outrageous pronouncement in light of the fact that another

April 15 has come and gone taking with it a substantial piece of most citizens' incomes. But in a very real sense, the problem is that we have forgotten just what government is. Some clarification is in order.

Many great American statesmen have attempted to capsize just what government is. In 1830, Daniel Webster spoke of "the people's government made for the people." He came close, but something was missing.

In a sermon delivered in Boston on Independence Day in 1858, Theodore Parker refined the idea a bit further: "Democracy is self-government, over all the people, for all the people, by all the people."

A copy of Parker's sermon fell into the hands of a man who was then preparing to run for the presidency. His name was Abraham Lincoln, and the passage about government caught his fancy. He made a note of it and saved it until the time was right to present his own paraphrased version.

In 1863 that moment came when Lincoln, at the dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg, finally epitomized the nature of American government. He spoke of "government

of the people, by the people, and for the people" articulating with an eloquence that few have had the quintessence of American democracy. In something as grammatically insignificant as three prepositional phrases, Lincoln gave us the definition of government.

His words are particularly relevant today in resolving the misconception that was mentioned earlier. No one would dispute that government is by the people, although some might argue that it's by the wrong people.

Likewise, government is certainly for the people; a quick look at the federal budget will confirm this. Social security, food stamps, student loans and many other federal expenditures including a strong national defense are specifically designed for people.

This leaves only one phrase of Lincoln's definition left, and it is therein that the problem lies.

"Of the people." It is very easy to forget that government is in fact of the people. It's not just Congress and the President, either. Our predecessors fought for rights to facilitate the pursuit of happiness; now-

days people are fighting for entitlements to avoid the inconvenience of having to pursue something they want.

This trend has led to the proliferation of bureaucracy and all the bad connotations that have come to be associated with government. To contend with an unenlightened, selfish electorate, government has become big and impersonal, and has mortgaged future generations of Americans with a debt of more than a trillion dollars.

John Kennedy, in his inaugural address, recognized the trend when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." His rhetoric was applauded, but his plea was not heeded.

One of his successors, Gerald Ford, was more blunt about it. He said, "A government that is powerful enough to give the people everything they want can also take away everything they have."

That is food for thought.

David Klingler is a 6th-term political science major and a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

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