

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Thursday, June 30, 1983

editorial opinion

Credits make student aid check earned

All the University had to do was make sure the federal government got what amounts to the proverbial "honest day's work for an honest day's pay."

At one time here at Penn State, financial aid recipients only had to register for another term to show sufficient academic progress toward their degrees. By doing this, they continued to be eligible to receive financial aid.

But federal law now says that students receiving financial aid under Title IV programs — Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, National Direct Student Loans, College Work Study and Guaranteed Student Loans — must meet more definite requirements set up by their universities to prove they are making sufficient academic progress.

Penn State's Office of Student Aid has determined that students receiving financial aid must have a minimum of 26 earned credits per year to continue receiving the aid. The University is not asking a whole lot from the financial aid recipients. That's a mere 13 credits per term, barely full-time by semester standards.

But least aid recipients feel they might be left out in the cold after a bad year with the books, the University has built in a safety net known as a one-year probationary period.

Students who earn less than the minimum of 26 credits per year — but can still get back to the minimum through normal registration — have one year in which to bring their total credits up to the acceptable minimum for that year in college. During that year, students can still receive financial aid. But if students fail to meet the

minimum credit requirement for that year, they are declared ineligible for financial aid.

And what of those students who automatically become ineligible for aid because they earned less than 16 credits in a year, thereby being unable to attain the minimum for a year through normal registration? They can appeal their ineligibility. Students in five-year programs, simultaneous degree or multiple majors, may have acceptable reasons to appeal their ineligibility.

What this all boils down to is this: The University was told by the federal government to come up with a definite plan to determine whether students receiving financial aid are making sufficient academic progress. The University tried to make this as painless as possible for the students while still ensuring that the aid recipients are truly earning it.

The University is not saying students receiving aid must be dean's list scholars. It is trying its best to keep as many people as possible on the federal government's financial aid "payroll" by keeping the requirements as fair as possible. All the University is really asking for is an honest attempt at academic progress.

By making the minimum credit requirements so fair, the University has successfully played both the role of overseer and of union representative for the students. It will continue to do so, whether financial aid recipients want or don't want to respect its rules.

Aid recipients must now put in their "honest day's work" if they expect to get a check.

the daily Collegian

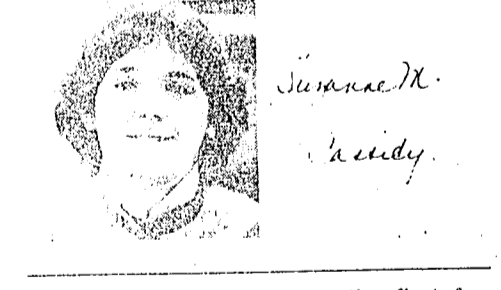
Thursday, June 30, 1983
Suzanne M. Cassidy
Judith Smith
Business Manager
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We'd miss you, Dr. Oswald — if only we'd known you

"Since he took over on July 1, Oswald has been much more accessible to students than (former President Eric A. Walker) had been. How much of this can be attributed to his nervousness cannot be known, but it is known that he considers this an important part of his job. Oswald has also let it be known throughout Old Main that any administrator who doesn't have the time, or cannot find the time, to talk with students is not acceptable."

A Sept. 21, 1976, analysis of John Wieland Oswald's first three months as University President by Daily Collegian Editor Robert J. McHugh.
"The sad fact is that Oswald has only hurt himself by his refusal to be interviewed. In this many-sided story perhaps the most important side is Oswald's... A university president or any public official must be open and accountable to the public if he expects the public and the state legislature to consider him anything more than the little man behind the curtain in the Wizard of Oz."



Unfortunately, except for the first few years, that's not the way it was to be. Rob McHugh, now a freelance writer in advertising and a journalism graduate student at Berkeley, was the Collegian editor during Oswald's first two years at the University.

McHugh said Oswald encouraged a spirit of communication at the University during those two years that was lacking in the Walker years.
"(Oswald) created an atmosphere in which students felt they were being listened to," McHugh said. "There was more than ever before a sense that he was interested in communicating with students."

McHugh was the first — and one of the few — Collegian staff members to interview Oswald. McHugh estimated that he dealt with Oswald personally about a dozen times in his two years as Collegian editor.
While Oswald's administration was occasionally criticized during McHugh's editorship, and while Oswald occasionally criticized the Collegian for its editorial stunts, no breakdown in communication resulted.

McHugh said Oswald seemed to "genuinely enjoy" his contact with Collegian staff members. And like most students at the University, the students at the Collegian respected Oswald's efforts to open up communication at the University. Oswald led the effort then to open up meetings of the University's Board of Trustees and also established the University's Student Advisory Board.

Diane Nottle, now an editor at The Boston Globe, was the Collegian editor from 1974 to 1975.
Like McHugh, Nottle enjoyed a fairly open relationship with the University president.
"I recall him as being very open," Nottle said. "Like any administrator, if he didn't want to say something, he could get out of it gracefully. But he wasn't at all closed. I certainly never avoided us when I was the editor — I can't remember that he ever shut us off."

Jerry Schwartz, now an editor and writer for the Associated Press in New York City, succeeded Nottle as Collegian editor. It was during his year as editor that the tides of communication between students and Oswald — and between the Collegian and Oswald — began shifting.

Schwartz was a member of the Student Advisory Board, many of whose members signed a letter that was sent to the University's Board of Trustees in May of 1975, asking for Oswald's resignation.
Although Schwartz declined to sign the letter, the Collegian published an editorial bidding the trustees to at least consider the letter, which was signed by 30 University student leaders. But the Collegian's editorial was much more temperate than the letter to the trustees — it asked only that the trustees think about what was best for the University, not necessarily that Oswald resign.

Perhaps because the Collegian and Schwartz chose not to jump on the resignation bandwagon, some semblance of an open relationship remained for the next Collegian editor, Sheila McCauley.
Sheila McCauley Dresser, now the assistant national editor for The Baltimore Sun, said relations with Oswald while she was Collegian editor from 1976 to 1977 were "cordial, but professional."

Under her editorship, the Collegian was able to speak to Oswald on a "fairly regular" basis, Dresser said.
"He may not have liked what we were doing, but he never applied any type of pressure to me," she said. "I would frankly be very suspicious if there were good relations between the University president and the Collegian."

But while the Collegian at this point still had some direct contact with Oswald, relations between Carnegie and Old Main were definitely growing a little cooler. Oswald had by this time completed his metamorphosis from an open and forthright administrator

to a man who did much of his work behind closed doors.
It was during Jeffrey Hawkes' tenure as editor, from 1977 to 1978, that Oswald seemed to forfeit all contact with the Collegian. One news conference was the lone instance in which a Collegian reporter was able to interview Oswald directly that year.
Nothing occurred during Hawkes' editorship that could have explained Oswald's complete fracture in communication with the Collegian. And nothing would happen in the next five years to mend the break.

"Basically, while I was at the Collegian, Oswald severed a very important link to the students of this University. We may never know how Oswald really felt about being Penn State's president for 13 years. We may never know what his real thoughts were as he decided this University through more than a decade of social and financial turmoil. We may never understand why he did the things that he did, and why he didn't do the things many thought he should have done. For us, and for our readers, the past several years have been frustrating ones."
So long, Dr. Oswald. It would have been nice knowing you.

Paula Froke, Collegian editor from 1981 to 1982, said that by the time she became editor, not being able to speak to Oswald seemed almost a tradition. She likened it to being a child and growing up not knowing any other way of life; by 1981, not being able to get first-hand information from the University president was almost never challenged.
"Somewhere along the line, Froke said, Oswald just gave up trying to communicate with the students — and with the Collegian. And while that made Froke's job a little more difficult, she believes it hurt Oswald more than anyone."

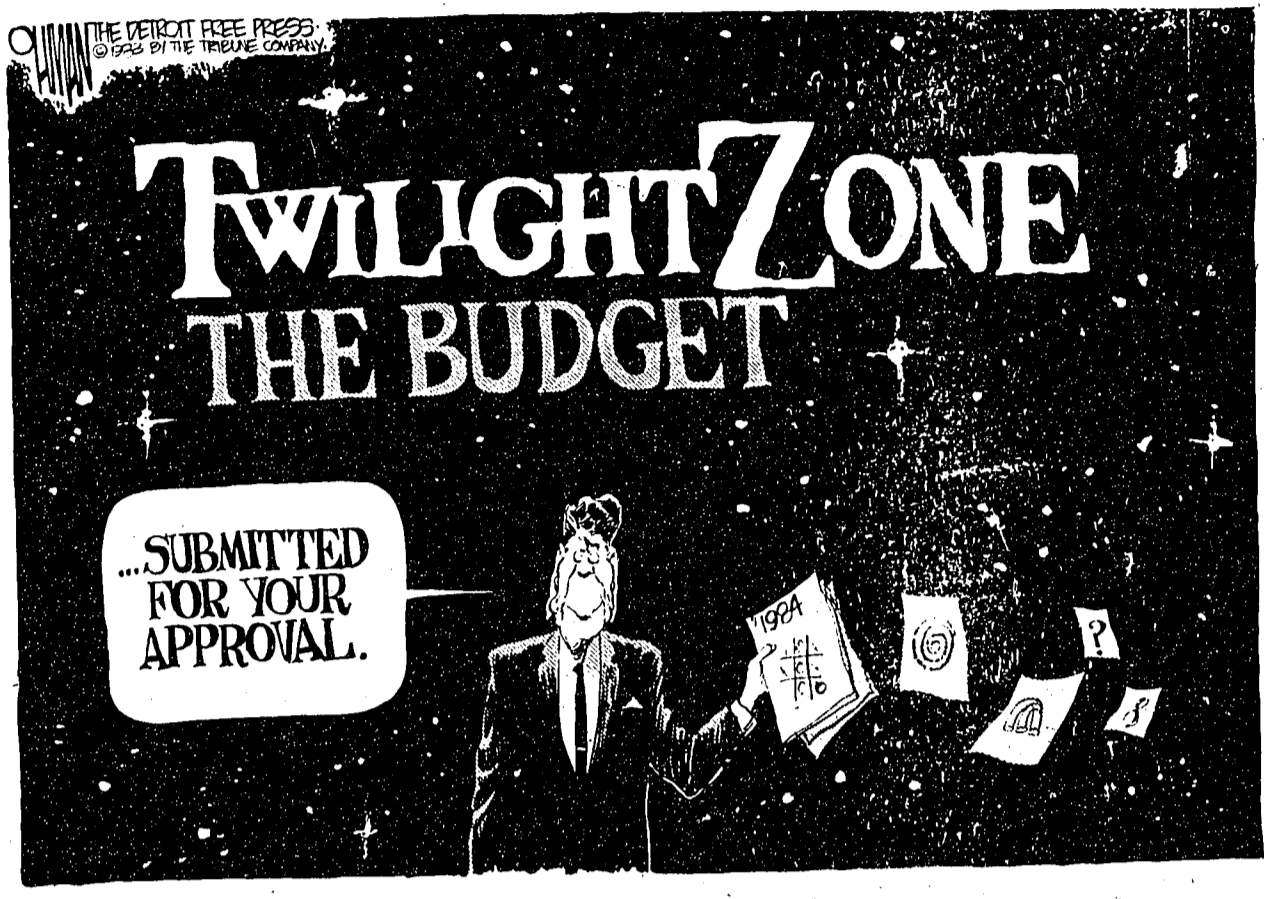
"We suffered a bit, but us suffering doesn't count," Froke said. "I think he suffered the end."
Oswald did meet with the Collegian's

squadrons of vapid diletantes, lifeless housewives and hobby store owners who will proliferate "the New Yorker" style. The infiltration of publications such as Kalliope is one of the first steps; the scheme will have flowered completely when Phil Donahue becomes — by the hands of Oswald — the nation's literary guru, turning housewives from coast to coast into modern poets.
Sign me John Allison, though I will be using another name, Bwana, as I combat the evil man who seeks to manipulate the future of poetry. Stand up Gary Evans, born Gary Fulcomer — stand up and help wipe out this literary vermin. You have nothing to lose.

John Allison, Class of 1983
State College resident
June 28

No service
Police Services officers have some nerve to wonder why students neither respect nor like them.
1:15 a.m. June 23: I returned to my car only to discover that I had left my lights on and run down my battery.
1:20 a.m.: I went to the lobby of McKee Hall and called Police Services to ask for assistance. The man who answered the telephone advised

me (a woman alone) that "police cruisers could not be used for this" and that I should "flag down a passerby."
I'm sure that most of The Daily Collegian's readers will agree with me that I acted much more intelligently than the officer who answered the phone when I ignored his incredibly stupid advice and instead located a friend who lives in McKee (let's keep in mind that by this time it's 1:30 a.m.). We walked across campus to her car in Parking Lot 80 and used her car to jump start mine.
On the way to the parking lot we saw a police car pull up to a rear door of Pattee (a whole 200 yards from my car), an officer got out to check that the door was locked, get back into the car and leave giving at least 30 mph (isn't the speed limit on campus 15 mph?). Couldn't this officer have taken five minutes to help me start my car?
If Police Services is really as concerned about rapes on campus as they claim to be, don't you think they ought to change this insane policy and actually respond intelligently to calls for help before someone gets hurt?
Marceline Therrien, graduate-nondegree
June 28



reader opinion

A poet scorned

As a graduate in English literature, I can sympathize with poet Gary Evans, whose letter of Thursday, June 23, told of the unjust treatment his work received at Kalliope.
Poor judgment lurks everywhere and it seems that artists like Evans are too often shafted by literary bodies. I have not read Evans' work, but realize that anyone who can create the sentence "The poems I submitted each exist in a form which I found to be singularly suited to express the totality of the poetic event," has a talent that must be shared. He should take comfort in the knowledge that even some of our greatest poets — Homer, Chaucer, Donne — have yet to make the best-seller lists.

But as a graduate also in journalism, I must investigate situations that smack of foul play. I have spent the past few days digging into the murky past of Kalliope and have unearthed some startling facts.
Penn State's "literary" magazine is an arm of one man's plot to infect the literary consciousness of America. Harold Ross, the founding editor of The New Yorker from 1925 to his "death" in 1951, is actually alive and living in a summer cottage. From his headquarters deep in the coast of Massachusetts, he is organizing

squadrons of vapid diletantes, lifeless housewives and hobby store owners who will proliferate "the New Yorker" style. The infiltration of publications such as Kalliope is one of the first steps; the scheme will have flowered completely when Phil Donahue becomes — by the hands of Oswald — the nation's literary guru, turning housewives from coast to coast into modern poets.
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June 28

reader opinion

Kalliope comment

The staff of Kalliope, Penn State's literary magazine, wishes to thank Gary Fulcomer for his comments and critique in last Thursday's Daily Collegian. Like anyone else, he is entitled to his opinion.
Although staff members are not discouraged from turning in material, all submissions are judged anonymously. The editorial board members, through the strict censorship of a copying staff, is not provided with the names of authors whose work they judge.

Kalliope's editing policy is perhaps best stated on page four of this year's magazine: "Differences in judgment among the editors are unavoidable; the superiority of an accepted item over an unaccepted one is not necessarily clear. For this reason, while acceptance by Kalliope should be a distinction, rejection should not be considered an affront."
The staff would also like to thank Mr. Fulcomer for the publicity he has given the magazine. Kalliope will begin its fourth year this fall. As interest in the magazine increases, we hope the quality of it will ameliorate also. If you think you might wish to join the staff — as an editorial board, copying staff, or business staff member — look for our Collegian advertisements this September.

Remember, it is always easier to criticize than it is to correct.

Scott Smith, co-editor
Kalliope 1984

Leave us out of it

Mr. Fulcomer, your claim to have acquired or been gifted with the ability to utilize language to create works that are "singularly suited to express the totality of the poetic event" is not upheld by your reliance on trite vocabulary. You state that the works printed in Kalliope

"are vapid, lifeless works by mediocre diletantes and housewives." As an artist who uses language as your major medium, your use of vague, prejudiced meanings serves to point out your own mediocrity.
I could express the same concept with the same amount of force and accuracy by stating that those who have been trained in the science of mathematics are unable to utilize language in any manner but the dry, precise form employed by that field; to wit, your "more potent poetry" is quite likely as potent in form as are the formulas in my calculus text.

I suggest the next time you find cause to lament the infiltration of your craft by the mediocre, you stick to the noun "diletante" and leave housewives — who range from those who can be ranked among the below mediocre to those who can be ranked among the exceptionally brilliant — out of it.

Mrs. Tammy Peavler-Kustaborder, 10th-political science
full-time housewife
June 24

Punch needed

Re: Gary Fulcomer's (a.k.a. Gary Evans) "Critique" of June 23. To some extent I agree with you, Mr. Fulcomer. Much of the writing in Kalliope does seem to represent the work of young writers still a little pleased with the sound of their own voices; and, it also seems true that Kalliope is rather self-promoting; however, you, Mr. Fulcomer/Evans are not only guilty of the same crimes, but one larger still — stupidity.

Ernest Hemingway said that, for him, writing was like stepping into the boxing ring with all the great writers of the past. Among this group, the only "opponent" he did not feel up to challenging

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