

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Friday, Sept. 13, 1985

editorial opinion

Appetizing decision

College students have a long history of complaining about the food they are served in the dining halls. But Penn State complaints have centered on a lack of meal plan options.

After years of being fed pressure from students groups, officials from the Office of Housing and Food Services have decided to listen to students and adopt a new meal plan — finally meeting the needs of the large majority of students.

The new plan, which will take effect beginning Fall Semester 1986, is fairer and more economical for students.

According to food service statistics, the average student eats 12.5 meals a week, and that is the number of meals students pay for under the current plan. Realistically though, individual students eat between zero and 21 meals a week in the dining hall. The unfairness of the current plan lies in the fact that, by ignoring the differences in students' eating habits, the University is forcing students who eat fewer meals to subsidize those who eat more.

Persons who are constantly missing meals and eat out end up paying twice — once for their prepaid meal and a second time for dining out.

Under the new plan, residents pay a base price of \$500, representing the non-food cost associated with eating in the dining halls. In addition, a system of points — worth 1 cent each — representing the food cost will be used. Students will choose from five options the number of points they wish to buy. Then, as meals are consumed, points will be deducted through a computer.

With the new system, breakfasts will be worth 60 points, lunch worth 125 points and dinners worth 185 points. Special dinners will be worth 230 points.

If residents "spend" all of their points

during a particular semester, the University will allow the student to buy more points on credit. Students will be able to purchase points in increments of \$10 or 1,000 points.

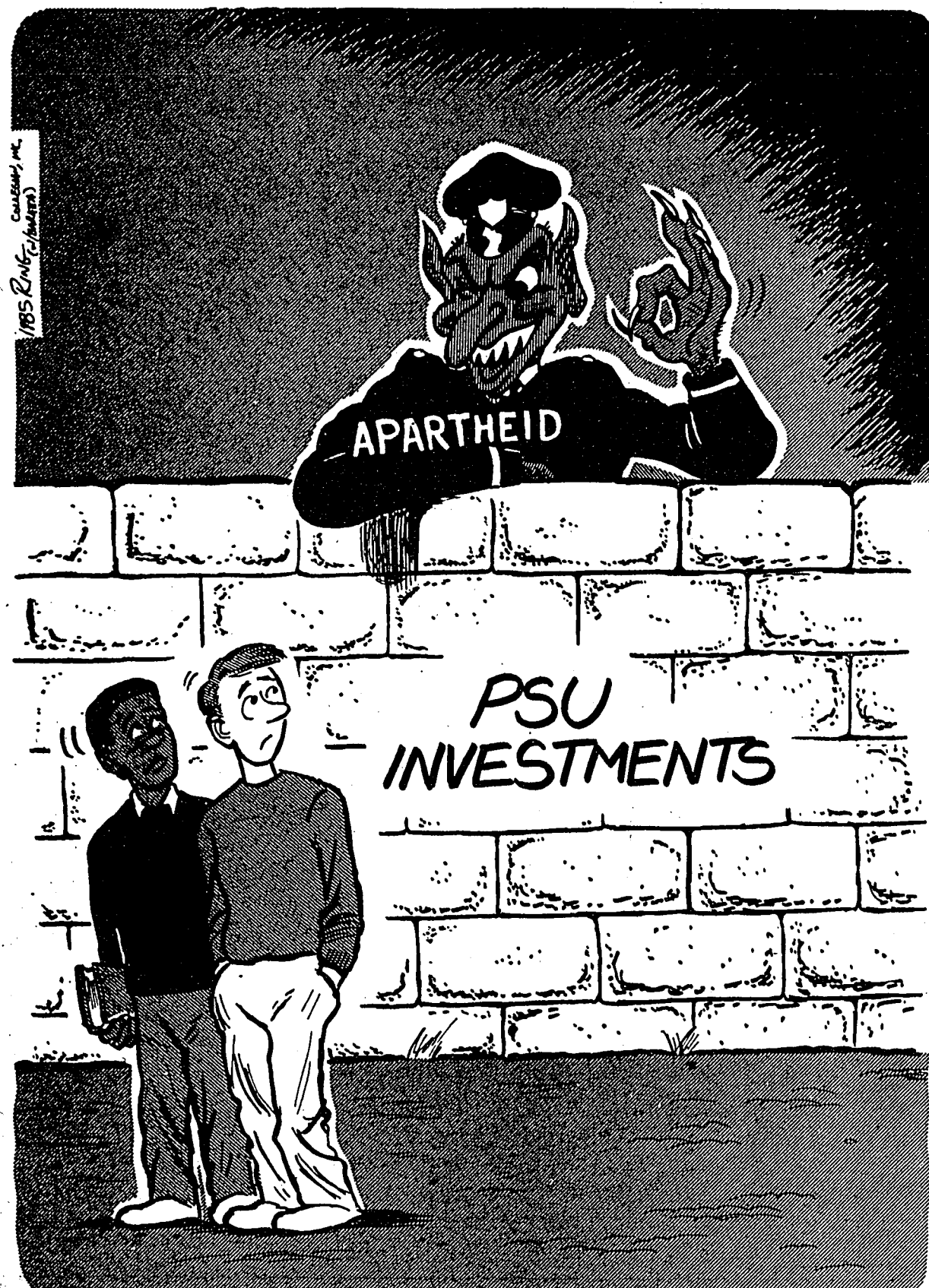
There is little doubt that the new system answers the needs of students much more effectively. But, the new plan does have pitfalls — students will not be reimbursed for unused points at the end of each semester, and the points cannot be carried over into the next semester. Money paid for unused points should be returned to students or the points should be credited to the following semester.

On the other hand, the plan will also enable students to eat at any dining hall or the HUB. Eateries at certain times during the day. For students taking classes, studying or working in areas of campus away from their residence hall areas, this plan will be invaluable.

In addition, the new meal plan will offer those not living in residence halls an alternative to the usual University candy or soda machine "lunch plan." Off-campus students will be permitted to purchase meals in the HUB and dining halls at a discount rate.

And although previous alternatives — such as the bag lunch program — will be discontinued, it will be a change for the better overall.

This plan provides alternatives. Clearly, the new plan is not perfect — no plan is — but it does take significant strides in satisfying the needs of students. In the last few years, many students have paid the price for their University meal plan through inconveniences. But now, at least the University is feeding us a plan that we can swallow — rather than forcing one down our throats.



PENN STATE PROUD

the daily Collegian

Friday, Sept. 13, 1985
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opinions

Pure Bliss

If ignorance is bliss then the Collegian Board of Opinion must be thriving in pure utopia.

Evidently, the Board of Opinion has no conception of why the University Student Executive Council exists or what its purpose is. To begin with, it is NEITHER a student government involved in setting policy for the students of the University NOR a power-hungry group concerned only with appealing to as many students as possible to gain popularity. Instead it is a "forum for consulting with and advising the president of the University on: 1) Matters of University Policy whose broad impact is on students and 2) Other matters of interest to the students." It is an organization which gathers together and coordinates concerns and opinions brought forth by other student bodies. But most importantly it provides "communication between the president and the student body as represented by the student leadership." It is not USEC's responsibility to make a stand on a particular issue but instead to act as a forum of opinions for the administration and vice versa. It is through the diverse opinions brought forth that a clear realization of student views can be formulated. In the future, a little research and reality can go a long way further than a lot of ignorance.

Devin A. Malone, Junior-Industrial engineering
CSCE representative on USEC

CSCE student representative to the Board of Trustees
Sept. 12

Name calling

It is sad that a major collegiate newspaper such as The Daily Collegian must lower itself to name calling and such a lowly state of professionalism in the editorial entitled "Student Leader?" published on September 12. Slander of someone is against the law and it is time that the Collegian realizes that. In defense of Laurie Maser, may I say that she exemplifies the qualities of a strong leader. She is a leader chosen by leaders and how much lofter of a position is there than that in itself.

In the same context, the pressure that goes with that position is so intense that very few could even begin to deal with it. To get eighteen student leaders together with such a diverse field of positions from InterFraternity President to Academic Assembly President and to have them agree on major issues seems a little foolish. So Ms. Gail Johnson, Editor, one who must profess free speech and thought, why ask such a silly question? Why ask for a common position? Last cannot be expected to even attempt such a role. No human can.

A good leader will not speak for all the opinions of his or

her constituents and we should respect Laurie for that choice. When pressured by administration to give a collective student opinion, she is strong enough to say the hardest word and that word is no. She will not let Old Main put the students in one box and label it "Student Opinion." That takes integrity.

Danger does not lie in discord, as written in the editorial, but strength lies in free discussion. Thought, Reflection. It is the basis of this country. Don't ask for a dictator.

Finally, Laurie's decision to pass off the analysis of General Education Requirements to Jay Clarke of Academic Assembly only shows delegation to a person, a leader of a group whose energy in relation to academic principles can be utilized. What a wonderful idea to use delegation. My goodness, perhaps Reagan should appoint a Cabinet with the same purpose. Oh, what a foolish idea! Delegation? Does that really mean that she is less qualified or only more of a person who is not interested in power but in the leadership role to truly lead students? Thanks Laurie! Good job!

Sandra L. Churchin, President, Engineering Undergraduate Council
Sept. 12

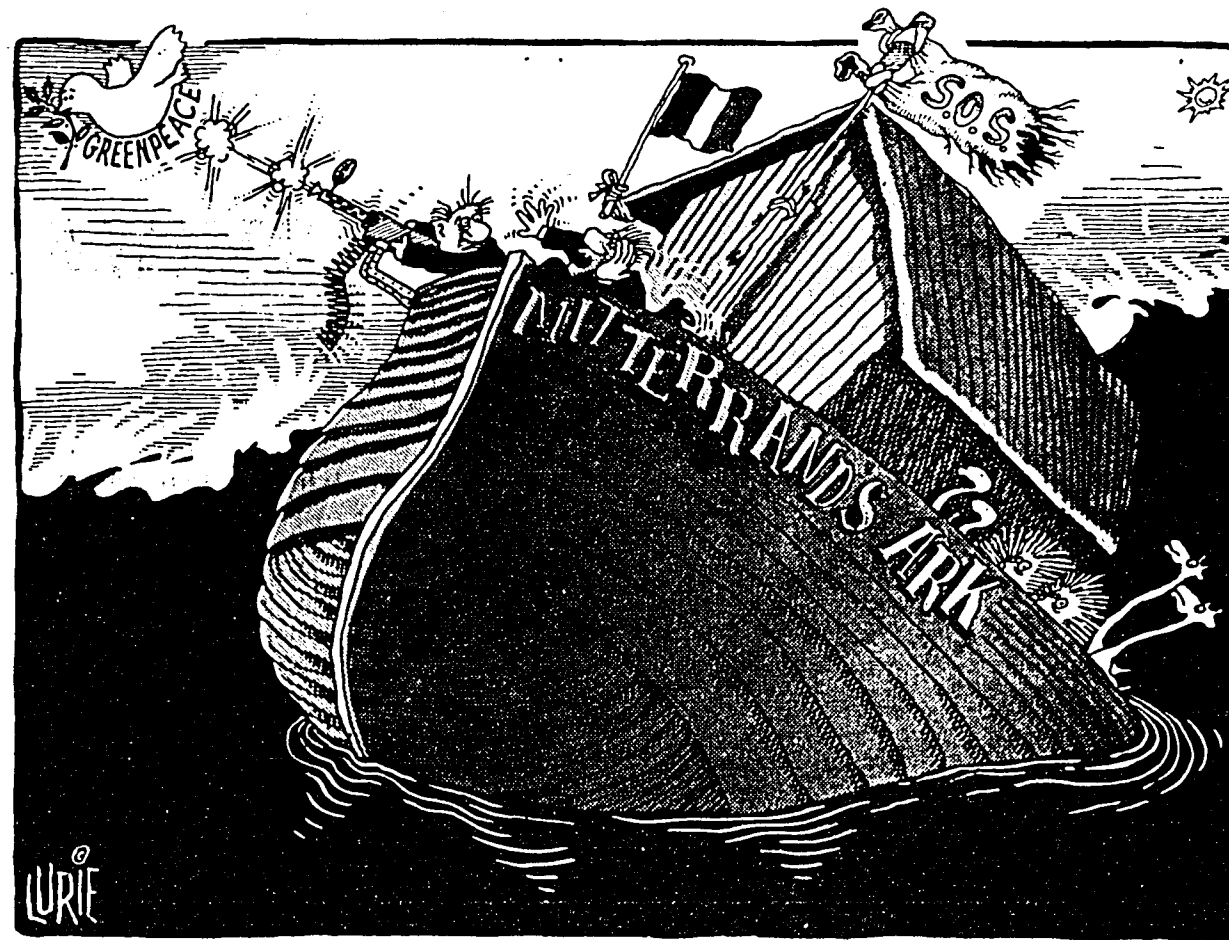
Thank you

Thank you for the fine articles about blues artist, Jesse Graves. Had it not been for the Fri, Sept 5 write-up, I would not have known about his visit to Cafe 210 West. The review by Pat Grandjean is a sensitive and accurate portrait of the performance, music and audience of Jesse Graves. The blues, like other African contributions to American culture, is an emotionally compelling art, rawness, energy and honesty.

It is exciting to hear live blues here in our somewhat isolated and predominantly white, Happy Valley. We are fortunate to have the band "Body and Soul," but a traditional blues performance is a definite rarity. I wonder whether there might not be other blues freaks out there who are getting a bit depressed listening to their favorite records all alone or playing without the excitement of a real blues jam.

We all have a lot going on in our lives, but I think I could make room among my family and work for a Happy Valley Blues Society. Please discuss the possibility with fellow blues fans and let me know what you think (865-5162). I would love to work with you to keep the blues alive and well.

Jeffrey A. Kurland, associate professor of anthropology
Sept. 11



"Stop! That's not the way the script goes."

Not the answer

As concerned Penn State students and future alumni, we are confused by the recent actions of University officials and borough council members. Why have these parties taken such a hard line against the oldest Penn State tradition, tailgating?

W.T. Holland's Sept. 11 article stated that the main concern of police was younger alumni and students on the south end of the stadium. What is the difference between an underage Penn State student enjoying a dorm tailgate on the south-side of the stadium, as compared to the underage friends and children of alumni and State College residents enjoying a tailgate on the north side of the stadium? The fact of the matter is "hunting tailgates" will not prevent underage drinking, it will only add fuel to the fire of the growing unrest among students, the University, and the borough.

A final word to the two parties involved. First, the borough council should remember that a very large portion of the State College economy is generated by the students of the University, so don't bite the already battered hand that has fed you for so many years. University officials should keep in mind, especially in the first year of a five-year fund raiser, that happy alumni are generous alumni.

John Stagliano, Junior-economics
Paul Fornell, Junior-telecommunications
Stephen Dodge, sophomore-Industrial engineering

reader opinion

As concerned students

Today students across the country are expressing their disgust with South Africa's system of Apartheid. Demonstrations consisting of sit-ins, lock-outs, and calls for divesting of University monies, have gained national and world-wide attention.

Here at Penn State University numerous organizations representing student concerns have spoken for divestment. In conjunction with this Undergraduate Student Government has been conducting a week of education in order to inform ALL students about the vicious system of Apartheid, and also the pro-cons of divesting.

The following are highlights which all students should be aware of:

- 1) PSU invests about 6.6 million dollars in companies which do business in South Africa.
- 2) The effect of American investment has been to strengthen the economic and military self-sufficiency of South Africa's Apartheid regime (Report of Senate Subcommittee on South Africa).
- 3) PSU invests only in companies that have signed the Sullivan Principles.
- 4) The Sullivan Principles are only voluntary and make no demand for change in the fundamental structure of

Apartheid or demand Non-White political rights.

5) There is no evidence of a tuition increase, if and PSU divests.

Our investments in South Africa are morally and financially bankrupt. As a State University in a State which espouses Virtue, Liberty, and Independence we can no longer justify investing in companies which contribute to the repression and death that plagues South Africa.

We the UNDERSIGNED Senators of the Undergraduate Student Government urge the student body to take part in upcoming events which will express our dismay with the University's present policy. Also we must send a clear defined message to Dr. Jordan and the Board of Trustees that Penn State Students demand DIVESTMENT NOW!!!

Andy Ahlberg, East 2 Senator

John Claham, Town Senator

Sieve Black, Centre Senator

Kate Lane, Town Senator

Scott Selfrid, Town Senator

Laurie Swercheck, East 2 Senator

Helena Davis, East 2 Senator

Alan Berson, Nittany/Fallock Senator

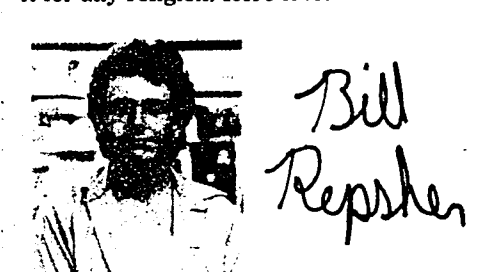
Larry Colobri, Town Senator

Joe Testiucci, Town Senator
Sept. 10

Items:

A potpourri of generic grace, the F word, women, high school and lost virginity

ITEMS: I don't suffer pompous fools who take ten minutes to say grace. One can say "Thank You" just so many ways before it wears thin. In the interests of those who don't like blow-hards before dinner, but still like expressing thanks for what they have, I've developed a generic grace. You can use it for any religion. Here it is:



Bill Repsher

"God, let's not get particular — thanks for everything. Amen."

Short, sweet and all-inclusive. I also have a gripe with those who constantly thank God. That is honorable, but shouldn't you take it to the limit? Shouldn't you thank Him for every breath, every bat of an eye-lid, every step, etc. Literally everything, every second of the day, regardless of its triviality? Nothing is trivial when you think about it. If you're going to thank Him, thank Him. And please, please, stop asking God to help you. In the words of the Talking Heads, "We're not little children." I encourage you to pray for others, but not yourself. God

gives you strength, use it. Praying for self-improvement seems very selfish next to praying for world peace. Some people use God as the middle-man between them and the material strength. He won't slap your hand for taking cookies from His jar without saying pretty please.

ITEM: Red peppers, Pepsi, broccoli, string beans, Nardone's frozen pizza, apples, vegetable oil, peanut butter. If I don't write these items down somewhere, I'll forget them when I go to the supermarket.

ITEM: I hope to make a career out of reviewing movie critics.

ITEM: Society's ills can be traced to one horrifying source: The F Word. This word is so dangerous that people born before the hard-band era can't call it by its true name. So they call it The F Word, branding it with a single letter. My, what danger when mentioning one letter of an alphabet conjures up dark visions of an obscenity used only by sailors who hit their thumbs with a hammer.

"Gladys, I don't know about movies these days. Seems like all they are is girly films." "Harold, you're absolutely right. They don't make movies like The Beverly Hills Cop any more. And they all have... They all have..." "The F Word!" "Oh yes, Harold, yes! I can't even bring

myself to say it!" "Don't worry, I won't write it. I may have a rough sense of humor, but I am a gentleman. Besides, I'm a good Catholic boy, and there must be millions of passages in The Bible about not using The F Word."

ITEM: LOST: one virginity in the gazebo on the HUB lawn, late Friday night. Is a family heirloom and very dear to my parents. Will offer large reward for returning it unharmed.

ITEM: A woman is like an eight ball on a cleared pool table, poised on the edge of a corner pocket. An unimaginative man will hit the cue ball as hard as he can and hope the backspin works. There is a fine art to putting in the eight ball gently. The cue ball must kiss it lightly into the pocket, but have enough backspin not to scratch. Kiss it too lightly and one may miss it all together. Playing eight ball with using the necessary force requires a deep understanding of equilibrium.

ITEM: I've just been looking through my high-school yearbook. I graduated from North Schuylkill in '82 with a nice haircut. They needed someone like me to write the yearbook, because it's true. The captions to the pictures are sickening. Thank God I'm not diabetic. And George Charlack liams it up all over the place. But you know what really sticks out in my mind? It's bizarre, ITEM: Everywhere I go, people have faces

but I honestly believe that the rock group RED Speedwagon exists only to have pretentious high-school girls write their hit singles in the "Favorite Song" part of the yearbook.

RELATED ITEM: In the big class picture on pages 8-9, my friend Schwamy is standing next to me. His shirt is fluorescent blue, and his right hand is missing. The day the picture was taken, his shirt was white, and he had his right hand.

Six different pictures of the class were taken that day; in each one, Schwamy made an obscene gesture with his right hand. He batted a thousand and had to pay the school a lot of money to touch up the photo. He was bitter at the time and swore painful death on our class president. Considering all the intellectual achievements and lasting impressions of my high-school years, I must say my proudest moment was standing next to Schwamy in that picture. What a profound statement he makes on the value of high school.

ITEM: FOUND, the born-again word of Jesus, at a difficult time in my life requiring me to grasp onto anything powerful. Smells fishy and has very little common sense. Can't keep it long, because my friends can't stand listening to it. Please, if you lost this, take it back before my mind is gone.

ITEM: Everywhere I go, people have faces

like pigs. That's an observation, not an insult. Even skinny people. It must be the food we eat, the lives we lead, I don't know. It's mostly in the eyes... beady buttons constantly shifting.

ITEM: No man is an island, but some men are peninsulas.

ITEM: Life's greatest tragedy is when the truth is spoken, and it doesn't matter. I must have read that somewhere before, so if I inadvertently ripped someone off, let me know. I feel like an Elvis impersonator.

ITEM: "Hey man, you must do some serious drugs to write like you do." "No. If I were on drugs I couldn't even pick up a pen, much less write with it." "You write straight? That's frightening." "Yeah, but it's not as frightening as an imagination so dull it clings to normalcy, and not as sad as someone so blind to imply something so callous and thoughtless without a hint of guilt."

William S. Repsher is a senior majoring in English and a columnist for The Daily Collegian. His column appears every Friday.

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