

# It's almost D-Day for business tax vote

By KARL HOKE  
Collegian Staff Writer

Though the proposed business privilege tax scheduled to be voted upon Monday has met stiff opposition from the downtown business community, State College borough officials still contend that it is the most equitable solution to the budget shortfalls.

Many merchants contend the proposed 1.5-mill tax is unfair because it would be levied on gross receipts rather than profits and could cause some businesses to leave the borough. They also say it would deter new businesses that are looking at State College as a prospective location.

However, Michael Groff, borough tax administrator, said, "It's a philosophical question. Where should the local tax effort be placed?"

Income-tax revenue is responsible for two-thirds of the cost of local government, Groff said.

"We need to shift some of the (tax) burden to the business community," he said. "There's too much reliance on earned income."

According to figures provided by the borough, revenues derived in 1987 from the earned-income

tax provided more than 61 percent of the borough's total tax receipts, a 34 percent increase from 1980. The tax would be levied on the gross receipts of wholesale, retail and service-sector business transacted within the borough. As written, the ordinance would also subject the University's non-educational profit-making activities to the tax, borough officials said.

Borough officials expect the tax, if enacted, to raise \$775,000 for the general revenue fund.

Jeff Brugler, former president of the Downtown Business Association, said the business community is concerned that the tax is not equitable as it is written. He suggested tailoring the millage rates to the profit percentages of the businesses.

Tailoring the rates would allow high-volume, low-profit margin businesses such as grocery stores to be taxed at a lower rate. Low-volume, high-profit margin service-sector occupations such as lawyers and doctors would be then taxed at a higher rate.

While the income tax provided 61 percent of the borough's revenue, real estate taxes provided 30 percent of the borough's tax receipts in 1987, down from more than 37 percent in 1980.

While the percentage contribution of the real

estate tax to the budget may only be about half what it was, council member Mary Ann Haas said taxes remain high.

"Related to other communities, our (real estate taxes) are high," Haas said. "The business privilege tax would bring in more groups who are taking advantage of the State College market."

Individuals, businesses and corporations that own income-producing property would be included in these groups, she said.

Income from rents is considered unearned income. This includes rent to businesses and to students," Borough Finance Director Ron Davis said.

Davis said the business-privilege tax would provide for a better balanced tax burden because it is would also apply to income derived from areas, such as rentals, that have been exempt or sheltered in the past.

"It's a broad-based tax. It touches every sector of the economy," Davis said.

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# Math week sparks major number awareness

By CHRISTINE KILGORE  
Collegian Science Writer

As schools, universities and the public across the country stress the importance of mathematics and math education during this week's National Mathematics Awareness Week, the University's mathematics department head said math has become one of the College of Science's most popular majors.

Richard Herman said that over the past five years, the number of math majors at the University has increased 276 percent.

"Now we have about 500, which has been a drastic increase over the past six years," Herman said. "This is happening nationally, but not at the rate it's happening here."

The rising interest in mathematics is a result of several factors, including increasing interest in computers and a realization that mathematics

provides a basis for many other areas of study, he said.

"We're on the cutting edge -- it's a good time for people to be going into mathematics," Herman said.

Norman Freed, associate dean for the college, said the number of math majors at the University has increased while the number of computer science majors has dropped.

In fall 1983, the University had 497 declared computer science majors, but by fall 1986 the number had dropped to 290, he said.

"Many feel a degree in mathematics is more saleable to employers. I think they feel the foundation in mathematics is stronger (than in computer science)," Freed said.

"People also have a misconception (of computer science). It's more than just sitting down in front of a terminal -- it's a very sophisticated mathematical science."

Leaders in mathematics are trying to increase interest in math education at all levels, but many believe the biggest problem is that most students who receive bachelor's degrees in math do not continue their education in the subject.

"This is a particular problem for American universities, and it could be why we see so many foreign graduate students," Freed said.

Herman said the low number of doctoral students is causing a shortage of math professors in colleges and universities.

"The number of Ph.D.'s is too small to meet academic needs, let alone industrial needs," Herman said. "We're starting to see the shortage in math professors" already. People are scrambling for them and colleges are going to be bidding. . . . There will be shuffling between universities and I suspect

that some of the smaller schools will suffer."

Mathematics Professor Jerry Bona said, "A student who has an undergraduate degree in math has a lot of options. Often Ph.D. and master's options don't look too attractive."

Herman said responses from a mail survey of about 200 students who graduated from the University with bachelor's degrees in math from 1980 to 1984 indicated a wide range of job titles.

Of the 80 alumni who responded to the survey, about 15 percent were then in graduate or professional schools, he said. Others were employed as computer programmers, math analysts, actuaries, software engineers, military officers and teachers at various levels.

Many alumni said studying math taught them habits of logical thinking and improved their abilities to solve problems, Herman said.

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the daily  
**Collegian**

# Local groups take care of pets students leave behind

By MARK ROGOFF  
Collegian Staff Writer

Many students own pets, but when the time comes to graduate, move to an apartment or go home for the summer, Fido, Fluffy or Tweeie is suddenly a problem.

John Matriciano, a kennel attendant for the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said the society often gets pets from students who find they can no longer keep them.

Though the society attempts to place the pets in new homes, "finding places for pets is always a problem," Matriciano said.

However, he said, "It is better to bring the pets here than to let them go."

Some students hide pets in the residence halls and abandon them at the end of the year, leaving them to roam the halls, he said.

Two other organizations in the State College area also attempt to help place unwanted animals.

PAWS, Promotion of Animal Welfare and Safety, helps place pets in suitable homes and provide financial assistance to have pets neutered or spayed, PAWS president Shirley Verhaeg said.

"We get calls in May from college students who want to place their pets," Verhaeg said. PAWS does not have a shelter, but instead keeps a waiting list for those who want to place pets.

Last year, PAWS placed about 15 pets in new homes from people in the State College area.

People and Animals Coming Together is a volunteer organization that provides pets for senior citizens and the handicapped.

Unwanted pets that are brought to shelters may be used by the organization for therapy with senior citizens, said Diane Timblin, a PACT volunteer coordinator.

"This time of year there is a problem because people give rabbits for Easter presents," Matriciano said. "It's cute at first, but then people no longer want them."

Michelle Vlah (sophomore-Division of Undergraduate Studies) said she owned a rabbit in the residence halls.

"We wanted something interesting around the room, so we bought a rabbit," Vlah said. "But when it started chewing up everything in the room, we had to get rid of it."

Matriciano said he would recommend that students do not get pets if they are not willing to keep them for more than a year.

"Being given up is not fair to the pets. Students should think before taking on such a responsibility," Matriciano said.

# When this man talks, it's about all his walks

By LISA MACDONALD  
Collegian Staff Writer

He has slept on the road just about everywhere -- from jail cells to pizza parlors to grain elevators. He's taken 36 million footsteps, worn out 28 pairs of shoes and visited over 140,000 school children. His name is Robert Sweetgall, one of America's most noted walkers.

Sweetgall, who has walked on two major journeys across America lecturing to school children and professionals about walking, spoke last night in the HUB Gallery on his walking experiences.

"It's time to start teaching children instead of testing them," said Sweetgall. "It is very important to teach health education programs in the schools."

His main message is, "Don't smoke, exercise, and watch what you eat."

Brisk walking uses almost every muscle in the body, Sweetgall said. It is the best exercise and does what every other sport does plus it is enjoyable. It puts less pressure on joints than jogging and results in less injuries.

Sweetgall believes walking does not have to be thought of as exercising. It can be considered an enjoyable pastime. He said even a small amount of walking is better than none adding that regularity is important for a successful walking program.

"Everyone has a different walking speed for them," said Sweetgall. Choosing the right speed, developing a consistent walking program, and enjoying the time spent walking is the key to a beneficial exercise program.

Walking can lengthen a life and improve mental wellbeing and cardiovascular health, he said. "It's the simplest, safest thing anybody can do and it can be done anytime," said Sweetgall.

On his journey across America, Sweetgall developed a run-walk technique, which simply varied the intensity of the walking. It allowed him to cover the many miles a day that he did.

Sweetgall said the hardest part of his journey was his constant quest for food and a place to sleep.

At various points during the journey he was tested for the health effects on his body. There were no significant changes in his health.

Sweetgall is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Rockport Walking Institute and is the program developing director.

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### GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP APRIL 17

Part I: Noon "Father, forgive them" The Penn State Catholic Center  
Part II: 12:25 "Today you shall be with me in paradise" The Episcopal Ministry at Penn State  
Part III: 12:50 "Woman, behold your Son... man, behold your mother" The United Black Fellowship  
Part IV: 1:15 "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The United Ministry at Penn State  
Part V: 1:40 "I thirst" The University Lutheran Parish  
Part VI: 2:05 "It is finished" The United Ministry at Penn State  
Part VII: 2:30 "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" The University Lutheran Parish

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