

Editorial Opinion

A different tune

PSU must remember education in its quest for defense contracts

A tune popular with some University administrators and faculty members made its move on the charts this year, up one notch from number five to number four.

The song is titled "Defense Contracts" and the U.S. Department of Defense plays the role of the D.J., deciding how much air time — or in this case, how much money — each institution receives.

The University netted about \$54 million in defense money for its research programs during the 1989-90 academic year, according to defense department figures. That's about \$7 million more than last year, bumping the University up one place on the Top 10 list to fourth nationwide in defense contracts.

Although Penn State's ranking impresses many faculty members and students, it causes others to sing the blues. The University must try to achieve a harmony between both groups by balancing research and academics.

Those who question defense research say that an over-emphasis on research can take away from classroom funding and teaching. They also ask if the University's participation in weapons research is contradictory to its inherent mission to better humanity through education.

On the other hand, research proponents say most defense work at the University is not "top secret" and many projects benefit society, bringing new commercial products to the marketplace and creating more jobs.

Some projects have multiple uses,

benefitting both the military and the public sector. Meteorological equipment developed for the navy, for instance, can be used by weather stations. Likewise, laser cladding developed here can be used to refurbish worn train axles.

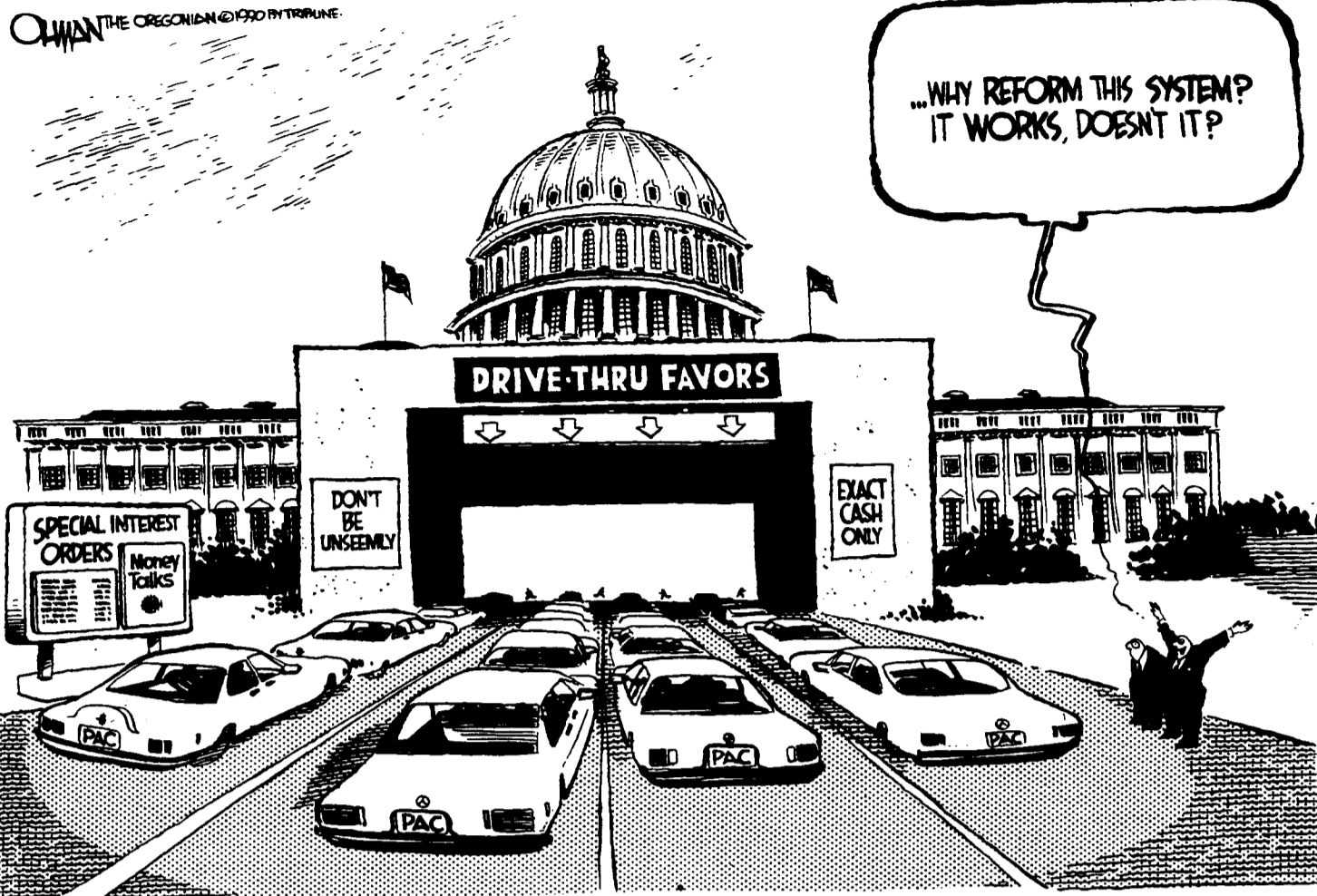
It is true that such research is vital to the University in attracting and keeping qualified faculty on the forefront of emerging technologies. Accepting research contracts also assists the University in fulfilling its dual educational mission — offering research opportunities to students while at the same time maintaining its academic prowess.

But there is a point at which the University's hunger for research dollars should not outweigh other concerns. Quality classroom education is essential to undergraduate students, and should not be sacrificed because professors are devoting time to research projects.

Also, when dealing with the development of military technology, researchers should consider carefully the possible long-term effects of each contract they accept.

Perhaps the University should be content with its fourth-place ranking and begin recording new songs, especially as events in the world may reduce the need for America's military spending.

Obviously, the benefits of research in a university setting can be great. However, Penn State should make sure it is not playing the same song over and over again, at the expense of equally important tunes.



Reader Opinion

Fair coverage

Recent events such as the retirement of abortion-rights advocate William Brennan from the Supreme Court and the legislative activities in Louisiana demonstrate that abortion will remain a prominent issue in American politics for quite some time. The media coverage of these and related events has also become an important issue. A comprehensive 18-month study which was recently published in the *Los Angeles Times*, demonstrated that the major American news media are biased in favor of abortion rights. Reporter David Shaw examined the content of network TV news programs, major newspapers and news magazines.

Shaw found that "the news media consistently use language and images that frame the entire abortion debate in terms that implicitly favor abortion-rights advocates. Abortion-rights advocates are often quoted more frequently and characterized more favorably than abortion opponents." The study notes that "events and issues favorable to abortion opponents are sometimes ignored or given minimal attention by the media. Many news organizations have given more prominent play to stories on rallies and electoral and legislative victories by abortion-rights advocates than to stories on rallies and electoral and legislative victories by abortion-rights opponents."

Abortion-rights advocates prefer to be known as "pro-choice," and abortion-rights opponents prefer to be known as "pro-life." While the term "pro-choice" is commonly used by the media, the term "pro-life" is rarely seen in print. In order to provide balanced reporting and fairness, the media should either utilize both terms or neither term. Perhaps the opposing sides could be described as "abortion-rights advocates" and "abortion-rights opponents." It is hoped that our local media, including the *Centre Daily Times* and *The Daily Collegian*, can rise to the challenge and provide fair, balanced and accurate coverage of the abortion issue.

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graduate-psychology

the daily Collegian

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Students' letters should include semester standing, major and campus of the writer. Letters from alumni should include the major and year of graduation of the writer. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification of the letter. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Names may be withheld on request.

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Quotable Quotes

Next year at this time, I wouldn't be surprised to count 15 or 20 decisions that would have gone the other way had Brennan still been on the court. — Northwestern University law professor Lawrence Marshall on the future of the Supreme Court.

It would have been good "Perry Mason" drama, "L.A. Law" drama, but I'm not about "Perry Mason" drama. My spirits are high; my defense is on course. — District of Columbia Mayor Marion Barry on why he didn't testify at his trial.

It's said that if you can't say something good about a dead person, don't say it. Well, I consider him dead. — Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall on President George Bush, in an interview broadcast on ABC's "Primetime Live."

She complained she was freezing very much last night, so I packed her a couple of pillows and some silk covers and took it in to jail so she's not going to freeze tonight. — Zsa Zsa Gabor's husband Frederick von Anhalt on the celebrity's first night in jail.

I cannot tell you whether there was any fish caught. Regardless, the president's boat was always in control. — Deputy press secretary Alixe Glen on President Bush's weekend sea outing.

Alice awoke on the grassy banks of a large river. She rubbed her eyes, yawned, and blinked a few times to force things into focus.

"It is such a bother when one can't see properly," she muttered. "I wonder where... oh, goodness! Hello!"

Sitting just a few feet from her head and eyeing her in the most peculiar way was a large bird with shockingly blond hair.

went on for a few hundred yards, and then stopped at a huge brick wall. Alice was about to ask what was on the other side of the wall, but before she could a high-pitched voice cut her off.

"Danny? Danny? You're not talking to strangers are you?" The voice apparently was coming from a cluster of large, leafy bushes a few yards away. "You know how we feel about the security thing here."

"Oh, gosh," the bird said. "No, Uncle George. Gosh, no. I was, um, interrogating her." He hopped across the lawn to the bushes, and whispered something to one of them. Alice, a little confused, stood where she was. The bird came hopping back.

"George wants to talk to you," he said. "Come on, hurry up. He's important here."

"Oh, all right," Alice said, "but I hardly see the sense in talking to a bush."

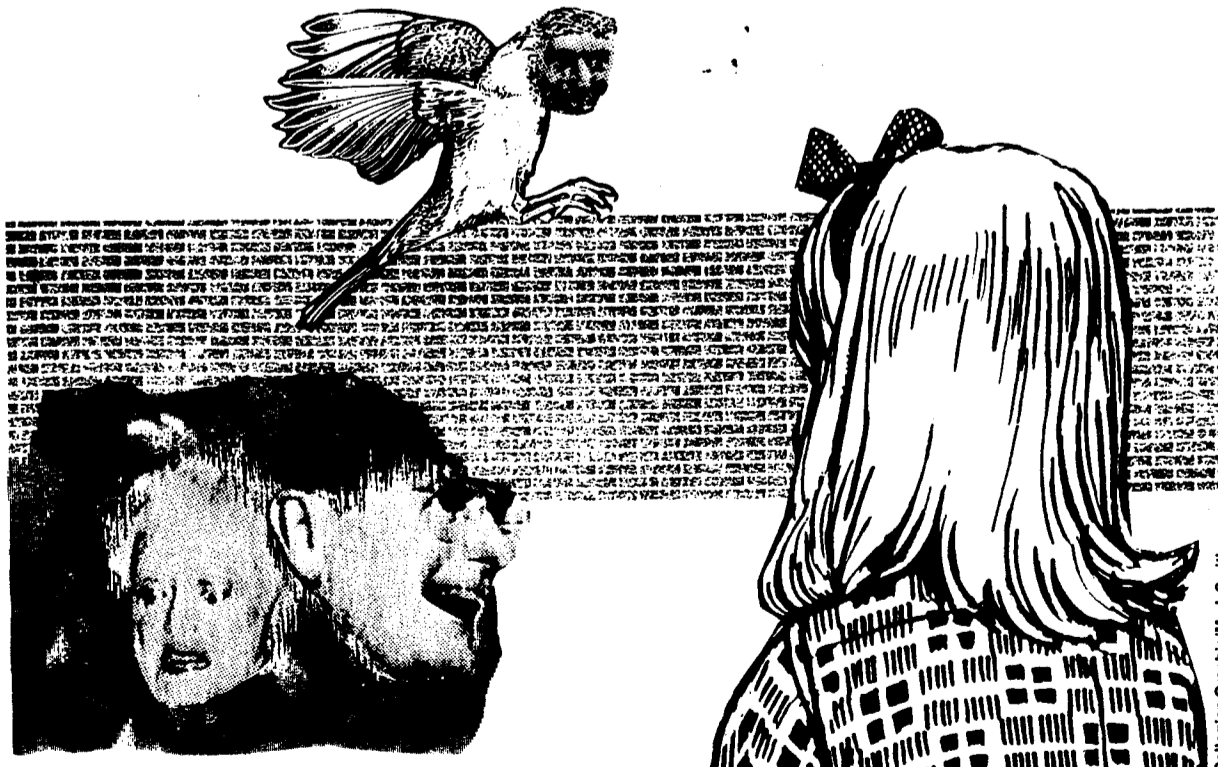
When she reached the well-pruned shrubbery, she curtsied and introduced herself.

"Oh, George," the smaller of the bushes said, "it's a little girl. Oh, isn't she sweet?"

"Now, Bar," the second bush replied quickly, "let's not jump to any kind of conclusions that may or may not be prudent to undertake at this time. We need to approach this situation, as any other, with caution and a certain degree of willingness to accept whatever findings may be found."

"Now," he said to Alice, "what, uh, what kind of service may we be able to supply you with, although I certainly can't guarantee anything based on the fact that we don't currently have much to go on."

"Goodness," Alice said. "Does that mean you can help me? I seem to have



gotten myself lost again. The bird there said this was a house, but I certainly don't see one. There doesn't seem to be much here except that wall, which I can't see over at all."

"Well, uh, hmm..." the bush replied.

"We mortgaged the house, dear," the smaller bush piped up. "Had to, to pay off Neil's debts, you know. Of course, there was some squawking about it being public property and all, but what else could we do?"

"Oh, dear," Alice said. "I'm afraid I really don't understand, and I must be

going. Would you know a way around that wall?"

The bird, who had been fairly quiet to this point, leaped in agitation. "A round the wall? Oh, you don't want to go there. We never go there. We're important here. You shouldn't go there."

"Yes, do stay," the smaller bush agreed. "There will be a tea party soon — several important people."

"Um," the larger bush said. "Um, well, now, I don't think the, um, young lady might be interested in this kind of tea thing, do you Bar? It's, um, not a question of discrimination or anything

of the kind, but there is this kind of privacy thing, and, um..."

Alice, whose memories of her last tea party were none too fond anyway, said "It's quite all right, really. If you could just direct me past that wall, I really would appreciate it."

"Good, good," the larger bush said. "Danny, could, um, you escort this very prudent little girl to, um, the door?"

The bird, obviously displeased, hopped across the lawn, muttering, "Danny, do this, Danny, do that. Danny, go visit an oil spill, that's a good boy. One day, he'll see — I'm important."

Alice grabbed a watercrust sandwich from a tray obviously meant for the party, and followed.

The bird led Alice to a small door and began to open its several large, threatening locks.

"Excuse me," Alice said, "but would you mind terribly telling me what is on the other side? It is so much easier to adjust to a situation if one knows what to expect."

"Oh, sure," the bird said, "this is where we keep the people."

"The who?" Alice asked.

"You know, the people," the bird replied. "The 'of the, by the, for the' people. Now be careful — they're dangerous." He swung the door open, shoved Alice through it, and then slammed it shut behind her.

Alice gasped. She was in the middle of a huge crowd of ragged beggars, all asking each other for food, though it was obvious none had any. One of them, who had seen her come through the wall, staggered over.

"So," he said, "you were visiting my servants, eh?"

"Your servants?" Alice asked. "I don't think so; I mean, they had a clean lawn and..."

"Oh, sure," he said, "they're my servants. They're public servants, ya see."

"But look," Alice said, "if they're your servants... I mean, they're having a party and you, um, not to be impolite, don't even have clean clothes. That's not very logical, is it?"

"Nope," the tramp replied. "It's democracy. Were you going to eat that sandwich?"

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My Opinion

Jesse Fox Mayshark



"Good morning," Alice said. "Must you stare? It's hardly polite, you know." The bird didn't say anything, so Alice went on. "I don't suppose you could tell me where exactly I've gotten to — I seem to keep losing track."

The bird smiled, showing shiny white teeth; "Why, you're at the Great White House, of course. On the banks of the Topomac... er, Pomonac, you know. I'm important here."

"Are you quite sure?" Alice asked. "I don't see a house at all."

"Oh, sure," the bird said. "Oh, sure. There's definitely a house here. I'm important here. A proud son of the Quails, you know — their pride and joy, their Danny boy."

Alice stood up to get a better view, but still couldn't see a house. The grass