

# Behrend student sues University

by Tony Olivito  
Collegian News Editor

A Behrend student is suing Penn State University's Office of Student Aid for withholding his financial aid.

According to Jeff Maines, a Liberal Arts and Sciences major, the office withheld his student aid because he did not comply with a survey.

Maines received a letter from the university on Oct. 17, 1989 asking him to submit his 1988 U.S. income tax return.

The purpose of the "Quality Control Pilot Project" sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education was to determine the accuracy of the present system of awarding aid.

"Because a high response rate from participants is imperative to the success of this project, Penn State will place a hold on the disbursement of your spring student aid until the information is received," the letter reads.

Maines did not reply to the survey. He said it was an invasion of his privacy.

A second letter was sent to Maines in November to which he did not comply.

The third letter sent in December notified Maines that his aid for the spring 1990 semester had been suspended, and it would not be released until he completed the study's requirements.

Maines then received Personal Income Verification forms which under the agreement of his financial aid contract he had to fill out.

After completing this form, his aid was then reinstated.

Maines filed a suit against the school's actions with the small claims court, which he won.

The district justice ruled that the university pay the \$49 court fee.

Penn State has appealed this decision which has "bounced the ball back into my court," according to Maines.

Bill Mahon, director of Public Information at University Park could not comment on the case because it is "a matter of impending litigation."

Maines is now asking for a judgment of over \$20,000 to compensate for the mental distress he suffered as a result of the temporary loss of his financial aid.

# Students and faculty recognized at Honors and Awards Convocation

On Sunday, April 1, over 225 students, faculty, and staff were honored at Behrend's Twenty-Ninth Annual Honors and Awards Ceremony.

Two Behrend students received the University-wide John W. Oswald Award for outstanding achievement. Moise Pringle was given the award for athletics and Brent K. Vernon for student government, religious activities, and social services. Only five students in the Penn State system are given this award each year.

Several faculty members were

honored, including Dr. James A. Kurre, associate professor of economics, who received the Guy W. Wilson Award for excellence in advising; Dr. Daniel Frankforter, professor of history, who received the Behrend Council of Fellows Faculty Research Award; and Dr. Robert P. Marande, assistant professor of physics, who received the Behrend Council of Fellows Excellence in Teaching Award.

Awards for Special Service were also given including the Guy W. Wilson Award for

Student Service to the College, which was given to Jamela L. Reid. Other recipients included David P. Shields, assistant dean of Student Services, who received the Benjamin A. Lane Outstanding Service Award; Moise Pringle and Brent K. Vernon, who received the Thomas H. Turnbull Award; Edith M. Bernat, who received the Eric A. and Josephine Walker Award; and Diana L. Ziemniak, who received the Irvin H. Kochel Award.

# Long distance phone service cut after student abuse discovered

Hundreds of dollars in unauthorized telephone charges prompted the suspension of long distance service to student government telephones last week.

In a memo from Dr. Chris Reber, dean of Student Services, several offices have abused long distance service.

"The nature of the abuse is so serious that I feel obligated to restrict telephone extensions...to local calls only."

David Shields, assistant dean of Student Services, said the abuse was discovered after reviewing the records of calls

from the SGA offices.

"We found a lot of calls were made at strange times - late at night and weekends when business calls aren't normally made."

He added they are investigating individuals who have made a lot of private calls from office telephones.

"One individual has made around six hundred dollars in calls. We're definitely going to ask this person to repay the school."

Shields said some selected lines may be restored.

"Organizations like Student Programming Council are really being hit hard by this. They have to make calls all over the country to handle the incoming acts they have booked for this semester and next semester."

He pointed out student organizations who need to make long-distance calls can make arrangements with the Student Activities office.

As for next year, both Shields and Reber said they will be looking at who needs long distance service and how the system would work.

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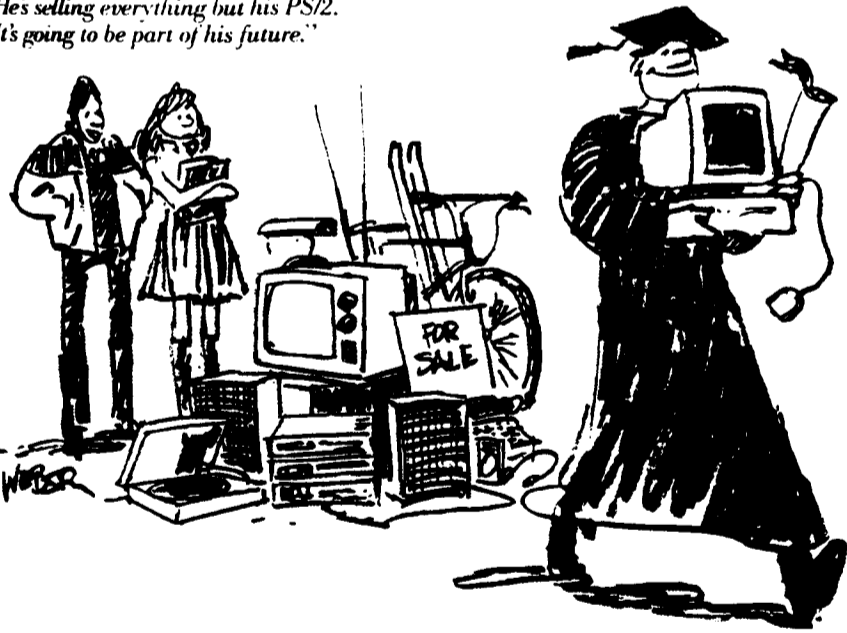
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