

# Opinion

## Editorial

### Casey should PEPP up education spending

"I touch the future, I teach."

That statement was made by Christa McAuliffe before her fateful Space Shuttle *Challenger* mission. If McAuliffe saw the state of education funding of Pennsylvania today, she'd be disappointed.

Gov. Casey just trimmed almost \$118 million from state-owned and related universities. The Pennsylvania State University is going to hand over almost \$9 million dollars. Behrend is going to lose about \$100 thousand.

These budget cuts are obviously going to effect University students directly, through increased tuition and fees.

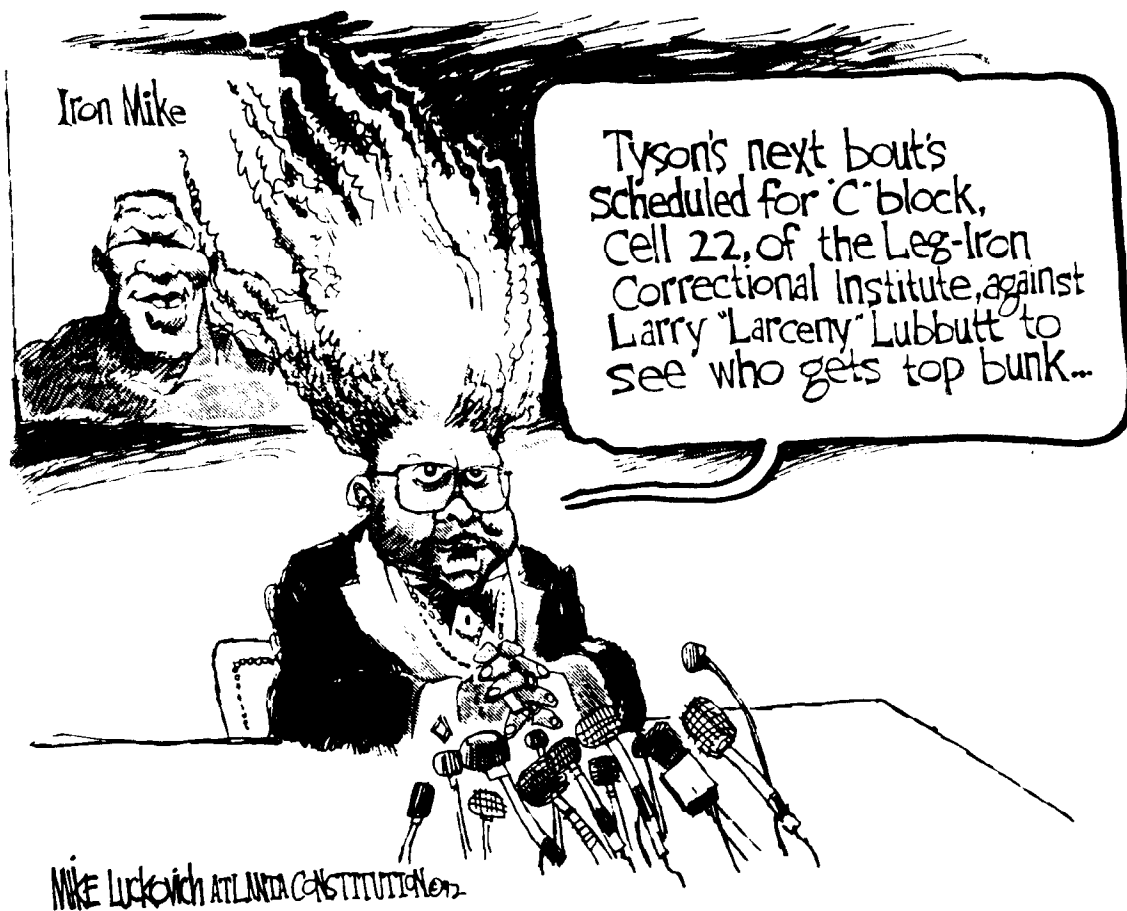
But let's take a second and look at the how this will affect local students.

The Penn State Educational Partnership Program (PEPP) hires college students to tutor local middle school students. These middle school students possess the desire and ability to continue on to a college education, but lack the catalyst and encouragement to further themselves.

To be a PEPP tutor, the guidelines are quite simple. "Be a strong influence on the students, show them the positive affects of a good education, and become their friend." However, the PEPP tutors were warned that after a few sessions, these middle school students will become attached to them, because they view them as mentors...so "don't let the students down, because they'll think that you don't care."

Thanks to Gov. Casey's budget cuts, some PEPP tutors were put on hold (not "fired," that's a negative word) because their services could no longer be afforded.

Gov. Casey and his whole educational budget cutting staff should personally explain to these young, hopeful students as to why they no longer have any tutors to look up to, respect, and follow. They should do all of the explaining...because they are the ones who let them down.



## Letters to the Editor

### Buy American...

Today we have much finger-pointing as to who is the cause of our economic plight. Cities blame states, and states blame the federal government.

However, one merely has to go into any department store or the many stores in our malls to see the real problem. As you look at the merchandise such as clothing, appliances, housewares, and electronic products, look at the labels or the back of the carton for where it was manufactured. What you will find are goods made in: Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Taiwan, etc.

If you think of these products in terms of American jobs it is clear as to why we have the amount of unemployment at this time. The number of manufacturing jobs lost is enormous.

No one can deny that we are part of a global economy and should allow a certain percentage of foreign products but there are limitations as to the amount of external manufacturing we can absorb and still have a viable economy. If we are to help many foreign countries economically, we must first be able to help ourselves. The manufacturing jobs we have lost affect all economic groups and especially those in the lower brackets trying to make ends meet.

Our local, state and federal governments must work together to help our industries compete by changing restrictive regulations, taxation and trade policies.

As students and Americans we have to work together to protect our economy, jobs, land and people from a flood of foreign products that are damaging us and our economy. Foreign

manufacturers are literally dumping their products into our markets at below cost, in an effort to drive the American companies out of business and into bankruptcy.

An effort we can make from our standpoint is to begin to purchase products that are Made In the U.S.A. This effort may be a small one, but the future of the United States' economy needs this support to sustain life into the twenty-first century and keep the American prosperity alive and well.

Thank you students of America.

Donald T. Krause Jr.  
Seventh semester  
Management

Martin Jackson  
Eighth semester  
Electrical Engineering  
Technology

### ...but not at local K-Mart

I recently contacted local area merchants to ask permission to solicit donations in front of their stores. The donations are for the ODK "Mile of pennies" fund-raising campaign. The proceeds of this campaign will benefit the construction of a playground at Emerson elementary school.

I must say, I was somewhat confused by the lack of cooperation on the part of one local merchant (K-Mart). The community has always benefitted from this campaign, and I find the one-way attitude of this merchant (K-Mart) disappointing.

What's the problem? Will a few coins disable the spending power of customers? How often do K-Mart customers turn around and go home because they dropped the twenty cents that they had to spend in a donation can?

"Customers have

complained," was the reason I was given. Can you picture the angry K-Mart customer saying, "Those damn kids are asking for money to build a playground!?! I can't see it."

If ODK was comprised of wandering bands of finger cymbal players, who chant their devotion to non-stick cook-ware, and plead for your posey-buying dollars, I could see their point. I don't think two students standing to the side of the entrance holding coffee cans constitutes an obstruction to customers.

Perhaps with less customer traffic, namely the hundreds of Behrend students who shop there, more space will become available in front of their store for future fund-raising events.

Ed. Note: If you would like to voice your views on an issue, write a Letter to the Editor.

*The Collegian* encourages letters on news coverage, editorial content or University affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced and signed by no more than two persons.

Letters should be no longer than 400 words. Letters should include the semester and major of the writer. All letters should provide the address and phone number of the writer for verification of the letter.

*The Collegian* reserves the right to edit letters for length and to reject letters if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste.

Letters should be submitted to *The Collegian* office, first floor of the Reed Union Building or *The Collegian* mailbox located in the SGA suite also on the first floor of the Reed Building no later than noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication date.

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