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OPINION

Attitude makes all the difference

By ANNA NEMCHUK
News editor

On the first day of class, there's a certain quivering in the air - a quickening, a pulsing, a flurry, if you will. A new beginning is at hand and the slate is wiped clean: new professors, new classes, new books.

The instructor explains the class's guidelines, hands out contact information, and the lecture begins. Half an hour passes, a day, perhaps a few sessions, the professor warming up to the subject, the discussions picking up energy...when there it is. The ball drops. A student lets fly a hand and imperviously demands, "Will this be on the test?"

The professor, skin suddenly tight around the eyes, slowly turns around and, pinning the lumbering questioner with a resigned glare, bites out an answer. The mood is shattered. Convivial chatter trickles to naught, teacher and students tense - feeling as if treading on a minefield, the class takes on a bitter, battlesome nature.

I am so tired of lazy students ruining my fun! Every class, every

year, some dolt will indubitably ask the dreaded question and remind the teacher, already bogged down by administrative balderdash, a puny salary and half the class having bought the incorrect text, of just what the students are really sitting there for. Not to learn, why would you do such a thing, but to pass the test, of course, then pass the course, complete a degree, transfer to another school, get another degree, find a job, and so on.

When did education stop being about learning? Perhaps a bit of the idealist still survives in me, but I remain flabbergasted when hearing, "I just need to pass this class, what's the lowest percentage for a C?" Why would you EVER go into a class intending only to pass it? It's one thing to try your best and receive a B or C for your efforts, there is nothing dishonorable about not going through school with a 4.0 GPA, and quite another to begin with the attitude that a half-assed attempt is good enough. As a student, I abhor students like that. As a teacher, I imagine I might become homicidal.

At the end of the summer semester, having successfully completed the course work for a history class and in the process of depart-

ing it for the last time, I asked the professor for a copy of the notes for a class I had missed earlier. His utter incomprehension at why I should desire information now totally unrelated to my grade and his more than mild shock when presented with the explanation that I had come there to learn and I wanted all the information I could get were depressing, to say the least.

We have trained our teachers to expect the worst of us. There are sites dedicated to rating them by how easily they grade, how many tests are given, even how hot they are. This is what college is about!

And as for teachers: the best teacher I ever had, a MSJHS English teacher named Patricia Allen, never raised her voice in a class of more than thirty rowdy kids. One glance from her and the bun crowning her head was enough to silence the most irascible among us.

Professor Barbara Tull starts out her week with two meetings and ends with twenty-four as the faculty senate president, yet her science fiction, Shakespeare and gothic novel courses are some of the most fascinating on campus.

History and Political Science Professor John Kenney single-

(Continued on Page 3)

Your shrinking budget

By ALTANETTE FORD
Correspondent

If you thought the cost of school was high last semester, I hope you've braced yourself for the next expected price hike. Sometimes I can't help but wonder if the present GOP administration has an axe to grind with education, the elderly, and poor people. Bush has a tendency to pay back those who criticize him where it hurts the most- in the pocket book.

It seems to be a habit of President Bush to seek revenge when folks don't agree with his decisions. The House of Representatives approved a bill for a budget cut of \$50 billion that will affect the poor, elderly, and students.

School is getting harder and harder to pay for, that is unless you're rich, or your dad is a CEO at Halliburton. Then of course, budget cuts don't bother you, because you've lucked out and hit the lottery as far as the government goes. The already very wealthy will get hefty entitlement checks in the form of \$70 billion in tax cuts.

While the poor and middle-class students will get to pay 8.25 percent interest instead of the previous 6.8 percent on their student loans,

parents will now pay 9 percent on loans that previously carried an interest rate of 7.9 percent. "Students graduating with an average debt of loan of \$17,500 the changes would increase the cost of paying off loans by \$5,800 in interest and fees," said Matt Petrie, Portland State University, Vanguard. College education in the future for middle-class and low-income students will be very slim. The budget, also, raises the interest rate for consolidation loans, and reduces subsidies paid to student lenders a total of \$20.5 billion in cuts over a 10 year period.

All of this is of course mainly the problem of people who are underprivileged already, and have the most desperate need of (additional) education.

President Bush and his administration are just in time to play the part of Scrooge during the Christmas holidays, and his GOP Staff can play the evil ghosts or the spider-webs on the wall. Some of us are going to need borrow the mailman's slogan for inspiration "come rain or shine" nothing will stop us from getting an education. Don't let the Robbing Hood bunch stop you. Where there is a will, there is a way.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

Have you turned in your transfer papers? Where to?



GRETTA EMMONS
Anthropology

"Yes, UC Davis"



KIRA MEIERS
Anthropology

"Yes, UC Davis."



VINNIE CLIMENT
Business

"Yes, Sac or SCSU."



MATTHEW WOUTERS
Sociology

"Yes, Indiana State for baseball."



BRENDAN BLAKE
Communications

"Yes, UCLA"