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NEWSPAPER**

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COMMENT AND OPINION



TROY LISTER, SUNFLOWER, WICHITA STATE U.

Tuition, toilet paper rub student the wrong way

By Chris Rice
■ The Parthenon
Marshall U.

I was out of toilet paper. Like many native West Virginians, I have to watch every penny. So I have to pass by the popular name brands and reach for the one in my price range — Sandy Wipe.

However, when I recently returned to the local supermarket I was shocked to learn that my old brand had been replaced. Now stocked high on the shelf in its place was New Sandy Wipe Plus, "Now with larger sheets!"

But after studying the competition, I soon realized no matter how I felt about the price increase I would still be buying Sandy Wipe. Not because I am pleased with the new larger sheets, but rather because the price is right. It rubs me raw, but I really don't have a choice.

I was out of high school. Like many native West Virginians, I have to watch every penny. I had to pass by the big name universities and go to the one in my price range — Marshall U.

However, when I received my bill for last fall semester I learned that the old tuition rate had been changed. The big black numbers on the white page demanded, "\$743.50!"

Sure the price had gone up before, but this was a \$127.50 increase. But after studying the competition I soon realized

no matter how I felt about the rising tuition I would still attend Marshall U. Not because I'm particularly pleased with the product, but rather because the price is right. Do I get what I pay for? It rubs me raw that I really don't have a choice.

I compare being out of toilet paper and being out of high school because in both cases you end up with a load in your hands.

The maker of New Sandy Wipe Plus had me, the customer, in mind when they raised their price. It may cost more, but I'm getting longer sheets.

But Marshall U. did not have the customer in mind. It did nothing to improve its product. What part of my \$127.50 is going to product improvements? Not a penny.

Some proponents of the tuition increase suggest the university can attract more and better professors by offering higher salaries. But by the time the state gets around to creating and filling these news positions, I'll be gone. Why should I pay for an improvement I may never see?

It doesn't bother me to pay for the university's plastic surgery. The price here is still right. What does bother me is that unlike Sandy Wipe there is no "new" or "plus" to the product. The only thing that will be different is the amount of money employees will be collecting each payday.

It's like paying for a nose job while cancer eats away inside your body.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Boycotts don't help

To The Editor:
It's wonderful that there are many students concerned enough about apartheid to want to do something about it ("Students protest Coke sales," November 1989), but boycotting companies for business relations with South Africa is not the right way to go about it. These companies give jobs to thousands of South Africans. Thus, not only do these blacks have the chance of pulling out of the vicious cycle of poverty, but it offers them a chance to move up on the ladder, so that they might be able to work

against apartheid from the inside. Over the past decade the lives of thousands of blacks have turned for the worse after the multinational corporations began pulling out. The actions only caused further deterioration of the economic situation in South Africa.

The very nature of the articles tended to incite other students to join this boycott, much to the woe of the anti-apartheid cause. I am an idealist, too, but when the actions taken by idealists defeat their intent because of ignorance, I draw the line.

Ngeng Hia Phua, freshman
Carnegie Mellon U.

Life on campus mirrors events in 'real world'

By Carolyn Karr
■ The Chronicle
Duke U.

Duke U. students often call their campus the "Gothic Wonderland," a four-year bubble that reality cannot puncture. Only in this land can students buy food, photocopies and school sweat pants with "points." And only here can a student run down the hall with a fistful of quarters to put his towels in the dryer and prepare for safe sex, all in one trip.

But many day-to-day events at college serve as a comprehensive prep course for the future. For example, the "new and improved" course registration booklets teach us we will not always get what we want in life, let alone the classes we may need. Registration also reminds us that you cannot always predict what you will be doing in life.

The class rank affords students another valuable lesson in educational survival. Certainly, people who work hard should be rewarded — with good grades in college and promotions later in life. Unfortunately, a person disappointed with his GPA may feel his hard work is not always rewarded.

In addition, the campus bus system provides students with a valuable tool to keep in their life-long survival kits. Although infrequent or late buses often inspire profanity, the bus service actually simulates real-life scenarios.

In order to get ahead in life, you must push your way to the top. So it goes with getting a seat on a campus bus. As children learn early in life to wait until it is their turn, many students apply this knowledge at the campus bus stops.

Students complain frequently about waiting in line for the bus, as well as for any other Duke service. Through every part of the day, we wait in lines. We wait for nachos at the snack bar. We wait for hours to get into basketball games. We wait for an available computer at the library. And at crowded parties, we even wait to relieve ourselves.

After four years of training, Duke is teaching its final lesson: good things come to those who wait . . . and wait.



**STUDENT
OPINION POLL**
1-800-662-5511

Should pre-game prayer be broadcast at sporting events of public colleges and universities?

(See related story on page 1)

Responses to November U. Poll

In November, we asked readers if they thought date rape should be made a campus offense, punishable by the student court. Students were evenly split as to whether they favored (51%) or opposed (49%) this measure. It is not known how this relates to students' thoughts on dealing with date rape in the courts outside of their school.