

► A big pain in the grass

The grass may be long and the floors may be dirty, but at least students at Ohio State U. still can get into classes.

Faced with a \$33 million state budget cut, the Ohio State Board of Trustees decided this summer to reduce campus services, including some cleaning and maintenance. The board reduced ground maintenance and litter control by 40 percent, leaving 164 acres of grass and 50 of 60 flower gardens neglected for a year. Eventually, they even hope to turn some of the land into a natural prairie.

Many OSU students simply are happy to have more classes open to them, even if it means unkempt flower beds and a layer of grime on the floors.

"At least they're not cutting my classes... as opposed to cutting the lawn," says Student Trustee Kristen Cusack.

Floors, once cleaned weekly, are cleaned monthly. Carpets in public areas, cleaned quarterly, now are cleaned semiannually or annually. And entryways, corridors, stairwells and classrooms are cleaned every other day instead of daily.

Pinching pennies may work for a while, but William J. Shkurti, vice president for finance, says cutting services is only a short-term solution to a larger budget crisis.

"In the long run it could hurt the university," Shkurti says. "It could leave a negative impression on the parents and students who are looking at OSU."

Junior Kurt Wolery says students attending OSU are getting the same impression of the school already.

"Appearance has a lot to do with attitude," he says. "If professors walk by trash laying all over the place and if the boards are never clean and rooms are filthy... it's going to come out in their attitude."

But President E. Gordon Gee says dirty floors are the lesser of two evils. University officials simply checked their priorities, he says. Being able to offer students classes came out ahead of lawn care.

"Some things are more important than others, and now the very important is going to squeeze out the important," Gee says. ■ Gloria Profusek, *The Lantern*, Ohio State U.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CINDY LLOYD THE LANTERN, OHIO STATE U.

Welcome to the jungle called Ohio State U.

► Tricks to funding a college education

At least one U. of Minnesota student has no trouble paying her tuition or bills. The 24-year-old graduate student has a well-paying, albeit unorthodox, profession.

But in Minnesota, her job is illegal. She's a prostitute.

And what's more, Jane (not her real name) claims she was introduced to the profession through a university speaker in a women's studies class.

Rebecca Rand, Minnesota's most notorious madam, has passed her message to hundreds of students at the U. of Minnesota, as well as St. Cloud State, Mankato State and Minneapolis South High School — schools that have invited her to speak.

Rand, who has been in the business for 20 years, says she believes prostitution is just another profession. There's nothing wrong with women providing sex in exchange for money as long as they like it, she says.

Rand was found guilty of racketeering and promoting prostitution in April, according to court documents. She was released in August after serving a four-month sentence and paying more than \$200,000 in fines.

A U. of Minnesota speech-communications graduate, Rand has given talks about her business at the school, and several students have worked for her.

Naomi Sheman, professor of philosophy and women's studies, says

Rand is a self-proclaimed feminist who believes women's participation in the sex industry can be empowering.

Though some consider the celebration of prostitution a controversial form of feminism, Sheman says having Rand as a guest lecturer fulfilled the university's commitment to allow diverse perspectives.

"I almost always give out my phone number for further information," Rand says, although she says she doesn't recruit at the schools or hire anyone who approaches her after a speech.

Rand holds fast to her feminist values and says laws against prostitution are governmental oppression of women. "Men want women to be available for them for money, but they don't want the profession to attract their wives or children," she says.

But the profession is attracting some students desperate for cash. Jane began working as a prostitute for Rand four years ago as an undergraduate. She works 25 to 30 hours each week and earns a weekly paycheck of about \$1,200.

Angie (not her real name) also attended one of Rand's university talks. She says she heard about what sounded like an easy life.

"[Rand] said 'You sit around all day, order Chinese food, and give blow jobs,'" she says. ■ Ann Foster, *Minnesota Daily*, U. of Minnesota.

► Go speed racer; go speed racer

Instructors at the Porsche driving school in Florida think Stanford U. sophomore Kathryn Johnson has been the same age for nearly three years.

Drivers must be at least 18 to race at the school, so shortly after turning 16, Johnson asked one of the school's instructors — her father — to misrepresent her age, convincing officials to let her on the track.

Johnson's first drive earned her recognition, although not the kind for which she'd hoped.

"The first time I was out on the track — the first lap I took, two weeks after I turned 16 — I spun out," she says. "If you spin twice, you're off the track for the day. This was my first session — first time ever — and I'd already spun. Everybody was like, 'Oh God, we thought she was a girl and would drive slowly.' So they nicknamed me 'Spin.'"

For two years Johnson was the youngest female driver registered with the Porsche Club of America. And as far as she knows, at 18, she still is.

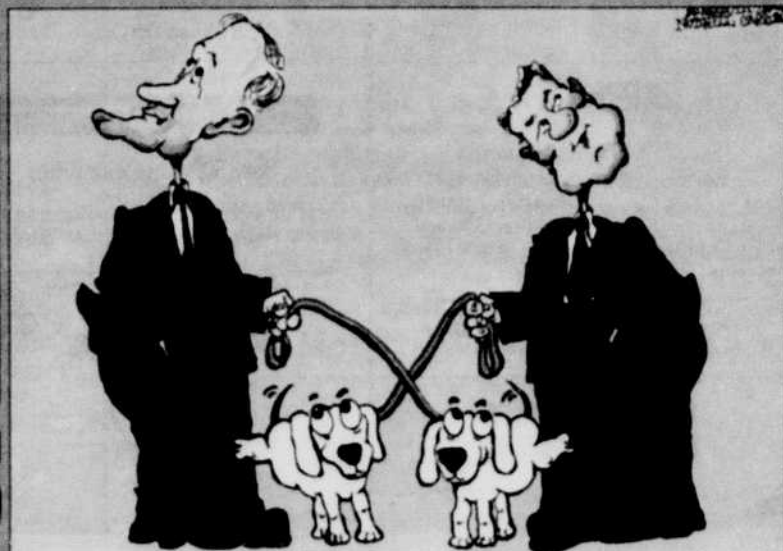
Because she is a woman, Johnson has had to earn the respect of her fellow drivers along the way. "Men really tick me off when they get that attitude like, 'Oh, you're a woman; you can't do anything,'" she says.

But women can compete with their male peers on the track, says Porsche racer Randy Greff.

"My opinion on women race drivers is that it's no problem for them to do it if they're fearless enough to push a car to its limits," he says. "Women can be excellent drivers — they tend to be smoother; men tend to try to manhandle the car and try to force it."

On the first day of the Skip Barber Racing School, Johnson was thrown out of the locker room for trying to get her racing gear. By the last day, though, she

GALLERY



ERIC ALMOND, THE MINNESOTA DAILY, U. OF MINNESOTA