

Congress puts a stop to raid on social security trust fund

Do you think about your future? Many students here at Rutgers would argue, well, of course I do, that is why I am here to secure my future. Yes, I agree, but what if in the future something happens and like many senior citizens you are left relying on the government for funds to sustain your self and perhaps your \$123.6 billion in Social Security revenues and \$1 billion in non-Social Security funds.

This is good news for working Americans, not to mention the 37 million seniors in our country. What must be done now is to make sure that the government never taps into this fund again. Congressman Bob Franks is in the final process of negotiating next year's budget with President Clinton. The House passed legislation that would ensure, for at least the next ten years, that this fund will not be touched. "The President says he, too, wants to avert future spending of the Social Security Trust Fund. But at the same time, he is calling for major

new spending programs that would exceed available revenues." In the President's view, the only solution is to "propose a series of tax increases and new user fees."

Congressman Bob Franks has spent seven years working in Congress to alleviate the tax burden on working families and businesses. Congressman Franks will not support this tax increase and neither should we. In this day and age, slowing the economy with a tax increase is the last thing the President should want to do.

The Social Security Trust Fund should remain intact and if should be hands off to the federal government. Social Security revenues should be used to pay the benefits of those who are retired. Its future goal should be to create stronger, more secure programs for today's seniors and for future generations of seniors as well.

Cheryl Marie Moore
Editorial Editor

Too bad R-N doesn't stand for "really nice"

There is definite need for a mandatory friendliness and manners 101 class for the non-teaching staff at Rutgers. It's bad enough that many on the Rutgers college scene are new students dealing with the harrowing experiences of parking, finding their classes, adding and dropping classes, and trying to stay sane, but God forbid your first impressions of Rutgers be ones of joy and ease.

Not only do students have to walk back and forth into different buildings, going through teachers, counselors, and offices, signing this and that, getting one signature after another, filling out a wagon load of forms, but they must face an equal amount of stress dealing with the sighs and the heavy breath of disgust and disapproval from those who are supposed to be there to help people become students at Rutgers.

The faculty are paid to guide us, inform us, and make sure that our decisions work towards our goals, but the vapors of an unfulfilled life, job dissatisfaction, and an array of problems (maybe unrelated to Rutgers), fall upon the students who rely on their assistance, and efficiency. At it's best, the hostility that exudes from these heartless beings is downright demeaning and discouraging.

To put it as bluntly as possible: the faculty needs some lessons in public relations.

The process of admissions and orientation was comparable to a cattle call, as students were rushed to and fro, obviously from one destination to the next, hoping that by the end of the line their name was in the sys-

tem, everything was taken care of, and all was done right. Many weren't sure if they were even students by the end of the day. Not only did each staff member have different answers to various admissions questions, but they were easily angered when the student was sent back to them. This is frustrating when you look to these people to give you enough respect to not make you feel like you're just there to bother them.

The long lines are also no mystery, especially upstairs in the business office. The weary sighs of disgust and discontent as they lazily trudge through each person and rush to misdirect the students who are in the wrong line, or who have questions. Their looks of bitter and belittling disapproval is enough to make a student insane.

Blumenthal Hall is festering with tensions. The staff's abilities to perform their duties in a pleasant and efficient manner are definitely in need of an evaluation and in dire need of improvement. This negative behavior is abnormal, unnecessary, and unfair to the students who need help, and who are already bewildered and overwhelmed. Is it so hard for the staff, particularly those handling admissions to understand that the students are having a harder time understanding the process than they are?

One would think that a reputable University such as Rutgers, known for diversity and excellence in education, would have an administrative staff that exhibited the same integrity and respect, especially since their

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No Star-Ledgers for R-N

If you live on campus and want to subscribe to The Star-Ledger, don't bother. Well, anytime soon anyway. Heading into the second week of my impressive intro journalism class, I was inspired to start reading the local, well-known newspaper conveniently headquartered in downtown Newark. Much to my dismay, Customer Service rejected my request to subscribe.

No, I didn't have bad credit. No, I didn't have a poor history with any newspaper service. And no, I didn't give the Customer Service Operator an attitude or a hard time. But after taking down my address, phone, and credit card information, I was told that there was a "temporary hold" on my subscription. Why, I ask. Apparently, there is no "active working carrier in [my] area". Translation: not enough people in my area of Newark subscribe to the Ledger, and there is no interest to deliver in the area (that the Ledger is aware of); therefore, no paper for me.

Although there is no paperboy/girl to deliver to individual customers, the Ledger can deliver to areas around me. Programs such as "News in Education" allow the paper to be dispatched to educational institutions like Burnet Street School po-

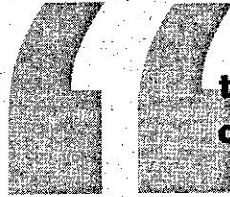
sitioned three blocks away (one and a half, if you cut through St. Mike's). Also, liquor and deli stores are sure to have the paper everyday. Or, I could always purchase from the various paper machines "sure to be located" nearby. (Delivery persons who supply the machines are not the same people who deliver to your front door. They take a specific "vendor route".) But why purchase daily when it could be delivered to your front door?

Yes, it is a disappointment to wake up each morning and not discover a delicately wrapped, neatly-folded newspaper eagerly waiting for me downstairs, coated in early sunrise dew. Then again, when do I ever wake up early in the morning to know what it's like?

Well, then what should I do? I mentioned how I thought it odd that a newspaper service located "just down the street" was unable to deliver to a student at an academic institution. My "best bet", I was adequately informed, would be to "keep calling back. Hopefully sometime in the near future, we're able to find someone to deliver in your route."

Tina Bui

Quote of the Week



"If a press is free, the facts cannot be concealed forever."

— Donald Treford

The Observer would like to solicit "Letters to the Editor" from R-N students, faculty, and staff. The Observer is a public forum, and its editorial section is a running dialogue of ideas. All letters on all subjects will be considered for publication. Add your thoughts to the R-N campus' dialogue.

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