Editorial:
Student equals broke

It is a fact as constant as death or taxes; a college student is broke, plain and simple. For a resident, college is a very strange environment to be in as far as money and spending are concerned. Basic needs are pretty much provided for. A resident has shelter, food and a bed, the bare essentials. So, whatever money that a resident has is devoted to extras, things like snacks, entertainment, and, for many, alcohol.

At the beginning of a semester there is a tendency to feel almost wealthy as far as college students are concerned. Most of us have money from working over a break, others get a bit from their parents before returning to school. So we go to movies, go to places we normally wouldn’t go to like Wal-Mart and even Home Depot and just buy stuff.

Then a month goes by and the ATM tells you that your balance is around $1.75 and your Bronc bucks are a distant memory. The money goes and it goes fast. Trying to scrimp together cash and borrowing from friends for the rest of the semester is not a wonderful experience and it has a tendency to make friends into enemies. And we all want to avoid those exhausting calls home begging for a few dollars.

The student financial burden is no lighter on the shoulders of commuters. Most commuters have a job, and have to pay for gas, car maintenance and a bevy of things that residents don’t have to worry about.

There are alternatives, of course, and they should be examined in an effort to help all of us who are strapped for cash better our situation. There’s always the possibility of an on-campus job but there aren’t very many of them and the majority don’t pay very much. However, the convenience of a job with flexible hours that a resident can walk to is a very valuable thing.

Then there is always the option of a job in the real world, off-campus, but that can often cause more complications since one must mold one’s school life around one’s week schedule. That means the weekends are usually sacrificed to the holy pursuit of a paycheck, a sacrifice that not all are willing to make.

Whatever type of job one has, it will still add to the general stress level of your life. So however you earn your money, you have to remember to stretch it as far as it will go. Try to watch those 3 a.m. Cluck-U orders, the $5 packs of cigarettes, the Blockbuster rentals and the PS2 games. Still, we have to enjoy ourselves, right? Supposedly these are the best years of our lives.

This is college. We have the rest of our lives to worry about bills and paychecks. There’s only one thing we can do to avoid the pressure of being flat broke. If we are wise with our funds, we won’t be forced to lock ourselves into the vicious consumer cycle of earn and spend, just yet anyway.
**Political Perspective:**

Absolutely nothing good about war

With America’s failure to capture Osama Bin Laden, it appears President Bush is beginning to lose support for his new war on terrorism. With Bush’s rating dropping, what better way to gain support and take the eyes of the citizens off our struggling economy than to go to war? Since President Bush and his team of hawks have no international support except from Great Britain for attacking Iraq, we are told we must go at it alone.

First, let me say that Saddam Hussein is a murderous thug and a monster but let’s remember that he was the same monster back in the 80s when he was our ally and trading partner. Iraq was our ally until he invaded Kuwait in what Noam Chomsky has said was simply “stepping on the wrong toes.” The United States fully supported Hussein, even when he committed atrocities against the Kurds. Although the talk of Iraq having weapons of mass destruction (WMD) may indeed be true, there is still no clear evidence that would justify military action, especially since the U.S. destroyed nearly all of Iraq’s weaponry after the Gulf War. Ex-Marine and former weapons inspector Scott Ritter has even said that Iraq presents “absolutely nothing” of a military threat, and with continued U.S. bombings there is no way Hussein has the capabilities to use his dirty weapons against the United States.

It is also important to mention that there are dozens of countries besides Iraq, including the United States, who possess WMD but are going to attack all of them? Iran or North Korea be next? When will it end?

Let’s also remember reports of Iraq having these kinds of weapons are nothing that Hussein is building weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to attack the world, but would also endanger the entire world, sending the message that any country can attack another that poses a threat.

That kind of mentality would leave the U.S. open to attack considering we have the most WMDs, and are clearly not afraid to use them. Let’s be realistic. Our government has absolutely no concern for liberating the people of Iraq. All the U.S. cares about is replacing a corrupt regime with another corrupt regime; however, this time the regime will know how to follow orders, especially when it comes to matters of oil trade.

Finally, an attack on Iraq would be devastating to our struggling economy. Senator Joseph Biden, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, estimated that with no allies, a U.S. led war on Iraq could cost up to $100 billion. If Senator Biden’s calculations are correct, attacking Iraq would cost tax payers in N.J. alone close to $4 billion. Let’s stop this war before it goes any further. Write or call your local and state representatives and tell them hands off Iraq!

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**Innuendos:**

Is it just a game?

In the English language there are many sports terms which are also used as slang to describe sex. This makes me wonder if sex is really just a sport.

If sex is a game, it must have rules. These rules are learned from experience and constantly change. As social norms change, so do the rules.

Men were once the winning team, but more recently, women haven’t been too far behind. The reason for this is that the new rules have allowed women to even the score.

No longer does a woman have to be at a disadvantage to the more sexually aggressive man. Women have developed their own plays over the years, which make the sport all the more interesting.

Like many other sports, there are intra- and inter-league games as well. Men compete against other men and women compete against other women. I feel that these “leagues” are meant for the pure purpose of validation. It can boost an individual’s personal score, or as you might call it, his or her ego. The male players would then be able to brag.