**Letters to The Tech**

**To the Editor:**

I am writing to forestall some misunderstandings that may arise following Harvey Baker's article, "Commons Deficit Studied," in your October 20 issue. The article itself was an accuracy statement for the information contained in the letter from Mr. Cantley to Ms. Stebbard. However, the letter and the attached documents form the basis of the Baker article, and as such was not intended for publication.

The letter was prepared in a very short time. At the time, it was intended to be distributed to the Housing and Dining Services, Dean's of- fice, and participants in the O'Keefe 15th Dining Service Advisory Committee, as a basis from which to renew discussion of the compulsory, voluntary Commons question. It was our hope that that such a document would be accurate, but as a working paper, it was subject to revision due to mathematical errors, assumptions about the figures, and the like. In short, it was a first cut at the financial implications of a number of possible changes in the system, and was to be the object of critical analysis.

During the past three days, while the letter has been available, the figures and the evaluation of the assumptions and the projections, we have unfortunately found several errors—ranging from minor errors of arithmetic to incorrect assumptions about food costs, utility costs, and depreciation allowances. These errors are, in most cases, unimportant (They result in larger losses).

In particular, this is the case in the Colonial Commons (all dining halls open). I cannot make specific corrections to the financial statements now, because our analysis is not complete. It is clear, however, that the housing costs and losses would have resulted if this plan were instituted. (Plan III, as is apparent in The Tech showed decreased losses by instituting optional Commons with all dining halls open). This latest result is not totally unexpected since the positions of the National Association of Black Students in lieu of funds previous NSA statements did not spend in the interest of brave the Colonial Commons, and the like. In all, this sum has been paid, and all profits from NSA services are placed totaling 20% of this sum of $50,000 on the books. (Payment of this sum was voted by the last two National Student Congresses.)

Nor are "political activities" the primary drain on NSA funds and staff time. Most staffers work on such things as student government organizing, legal rights services, women's rights services, student government information, writing, editing, and distributing educational materials. The latter involves considerations of political activity by NSA and the like. Political activity by NSA consists of publicizing the positions of the National Student Congress, calling press conferences, and communicating with students (e.g., Cambodian, women, minority groups, etc.).

I agree that joining the NSA was a political act; however, I think most students agree with NSA's politics and efforts. The last thing I thought of was a political organization. I thought that we should not be decided on the basis of distorted "facts."

Wells Eddleston

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