

Speaking Up

The letters in this section are but samples of the many hundreds of the letters sent to legislators with copies to Almanac or others at Penn. If other writers wish to have brief letters published in the May 26 issue, they should fax, e-mail or hand-deliver them for prompt consideration. See addresses in the staff box on page 12 of this issue.—Ed.

'A Lot of Leverage'

[To Rep. Ellen Harley; similar letters sent to Sens. Richard Tilghman and Vincent Fumo]

I ask your support in restoring the Commonwealth appropriation to the University of Pennsylvania. You've told me that you and your family have ties to Penn, so you know that Penn is an important resource to the Philadelphia area and to Pennsylvania.

Currently, I chair Penn's Faculty Senate. In that position, I see the efforts of Penn administrators and faculty to run the University efficiently and effectively. It's a long way from perfect, but I honestly believe that they're doing a good job with our money. The state gets a lot of leverage from that money.

Pennsylvania doesn't have an oversupply of institutions that can keep talented young people in the state, and attract talent from elsewhere. Penn certainly does that. Of course, we attract a lot of students from the 149th [district], but we also make major efforts to bring in students from all over the state. The nearly century-long tradition of Commonwealth support has been important in maintaining that attraction and in supporting Penn's efforts to serve Pennsylvania students. To eliminate it suddenly would be extremely reckless.

A startling number of Penn people live in the 149th district. The well-being of Penn certainly bears on the well-being of the district. I hope you'll agree, and will use your knowledge and skills to help restore the appropriation.

—David Hildebrand
[Professor of Marketing]

Interdependence

Penn needs the State and the State needs Penn.

That sums up the reality of the situation: the University of Pennsylvania, as I'm sure you know, is the largest private employer in the entire Delaware Valley. In addition, the money which students spend in the area is also considerable, contributing to the economic well-being of our city and state.

You have the opportunity to maintain one of the world's premier schools of veterinary medicine in the Commonwealth. Not only does the Vet School contribute directly to the agribusiness of Pennsylvania, but its outstanding research in parasitology benefits the health of all our citizens as well.

Please remember when discussions take place, but especially when voting occurs, that *Penn needs the State and the State needs Penn.*

—Louise P. Shoemaker
[Dean Emeritus of Social Work and Past Chair of the Faculty Senate]

'Prevent, as much as may be...'

[To Sen. Allyson Schwartz]

This is to appeal to you—as strongly as I know how—to vote in favor of the Commonwealth's appropriation to the University of Pennsylvania for FY 1993.

I was born in the Chestnut Hill Hospital [...] years ago; I live in your district; and, although I am a registered Republican, I happily crossed party lines and voted for you in your last election.

I have worked at the University of Pennsylvania for 42 years and am keenly aware of its import to the Commonwealth and the state's recognition of that import through 88 years of consecutive appropriations.

Even in these extremely difficult financial times, it seems incredible to me that the Governor is not acutely aware of this University's unique place in the Commonwealth and its tremendous economic impact on all of his constituents. I can think of no program on any thinking administration's agenda that is of greater importance to every facet of life, growth, well-being and stability in education.

I implore you to help reverse the alarming proposal and to influence your fellow legislators to vote in favor of a full restoration of funding for the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1749, Benjamin Franklin wrote with customary eloquence and foresight:

"Obtain the advantages arising from an increase of knowledge and prevent, as much as may be, the mischievous consequences that would attend a general ignorance among us."

Please, Senator Schwartz, support such advantages and help avoid the mischievous consequences.

—Bruce Montgomery
[Director, Penn Glee Club]

Out of Poverty

[Summary to Dean Edward Andrews]

I have written to the elected officials that represent me in Harrisburg, requesting their support of and funding of the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania in this year's budget.

Rather than send your office a copy of my personal correspondence with my Senator and Representative, I will give you a summary of the focus of my letter.

This year, I reminded Senator Fattah and Representative Oliver of my letters last year, and asked them to focus this time on the issue of education as a means to raise people out of poverty and despair. I reminded them that if one wants to promote education and good citizenship, one needs educational institutions like the School of Veterinary Medicine. I also reminded them that the people who teach at the Veterinary School are members of communities at home, too.

We teach by example as well as didactically, and each of us participates in community activities that allow us to be role models for "success through education and hard work." We share our knowledge, skills, and resources in our local communities as well as at the Veterinary School. Thus, I hope to remind my elected representatives that not only does the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania need the Vet School, it needs also the people who make up the School because we are good citizens, tax payers, and voters.

It seemed to me worth reminding the legislators that one cannot promote education by closing educational institutions and losing a community of educators. I hope the Commonwealth keeps investing in an educational future for its citizens.

—Betsy Dayrell-Hart, Assistant
Professor, Clinical Studies/Vet

'Repays Sixfold...'

[To Rep. James Roebuck]

I am writing to you because of my concern over the governor's plan to eliminate a \$37 million contribution to the University of Pennsylvania. I urge you to do your part to prevent this from happening. Cutting aid to education is penny wise and pound foolish. The University of Pennsylvania is the third largest private employer in the entire state. Cutbacks that this reduction in funding would necessitate would increase unemployment costs and increase the demand for social services for those laid off. Why perpetuate the vicious cycle? Penn is an economic engine that is vital to our region. Students come to Penn from all over the country and indeed the world. A significant number remain in the area to become contributors and taxpayers themselves.

The University does not wall itself off the community and the city, but is an active and concerned neighbor. The University impacts on the West Philadelphia community in literally hundreds of ways. On Saturday mornings community children come to the gymnasium, the swimming pool, the skating rink, the tennis facility, and to the University Museum for free movies. The Graduate School of Education has conferred advanced degrees on Philadelphia school principals in a very important program. Penn undergraduates tutor children in the community through a variety of University-sponsored programs. They also volunteer at Ronald McDonald House, and help rebuild homes. The University has channeled the gift of the George Weiss foundation to the children of one of the city's poorest schools, Parkside Elementary School. The University has contributed \$1 million to the last dollar scholarship fund of the City. The University contributes scholarships to the students of Philadelphia. Even though the number of

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these is currently in dispute, this should not overshadow the fact that whether the number of scholarships turns out to be 500 or merely 125, this still represents a substantial expenditure by the University for the good of the city. The University public safety department is aiding the 18th police district by patrolling as far west as 43rd st. As a community resident I am particularly grateful for that one. The University of Pennsylvania has been a good neighbor in countless ways. Now is not the time to abandon us.

I am a particularly concerned about support for the School of Veterinary Medicine. Whereas the University of Pennsylvania would survive a complete cutoff of state funds, the School of Veterinary Medicine would not. The School would probably be dead in two years. This would be a pointless tragedy. Whereas there are other colleges and universities in Pennsylvania, and other medical and dental schools, there obviously are no other veterinary schools. Ours is the finest veterinary school in the country and probably in the world. Closing of VHUP, the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, would be a blow to the entire Delaware Valley, and loss of New Bolton Center would ripple through the racing industry of the tri-state area and more. The loss to Pennsylvania agriculture and the poultry industry would be severe. The secretary of education made the tragically ignorant observation that Cornell and other school could supply Pennsylvania's veterinary needs. He must be unaware that the number of Pennsylvanians in Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine is zero: they have no interest in educating our students, and are too small a school to do so.

Once again, the School of Veterinary Medicine is an important engine to the well being of our region and state. Our students live in our community and purchase goods and services. Our faculty and staff contribute their taxes. Our hospitals provide a quality of animal care that is the envy of the nation. Furthermore, our research enterprise benefits not only animals but people as well. For example, laboratory animal health is essential for human medical research. The development of interspecies gene transfer by Dr. Ralph Brinster is work that may pay huge dividends in the quality of human life in the future. Work on sleep cycles in cats by Dr. Adrian Morrison has led to the development of a treatment for a serious human sleep disorder.

The University of Pennsylvania and the School of Veterinary Medicine have served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in countless ways. We are an economic engine that repays investment by the state sixfold. Make no mistake: the very survival of the School of Veterinary Medicine is at stake. Please give us your support

—Peter Dodson
[Associate Professor,
Anatomy/Animal BiologyVet]

Other States DO...

[To Sens. Loeper, Mellow, and Tilghman and Reps. DeWeese, Ryan and Flick]

We are writing you to ask your support for reinstatement of the appropriation for the University of Pennsylvania, especially that for the Veterinary School, which was completely omitted from Governor Casey's budget. We have long recognized the importance of the veterinary school of the University of Pennsylvania, in our state and in our community: our township Health Officer is a veterinarian, and a graduate of Penn Veterinary School—Jeffrey Szanto. In this role he has been the point man for several cases of rabies which have affected our township and its public health. In addition, he and other graduates of the School have been invaluable in care of our pets. The relationship of people with their pets is one that can sometimes be trivialized, but the emotional well-being this relationship fosters is a direct consequence of the health care provided by veterinarians trained at Penn. I also understood it was a unit of the Veterinary School that recognized a very infectious disease of chickens, and that their prompt work in this prevented the poultry industry in Pennsylvania, and possibly the Nation, from being wiped out.

It is our understanding that other states recognize the contribution of veterinary schools to their and their citizens well-being by direct support of these institutions, as state schools. Although apparently no such relationship exists between the Commonwealth and the Veterinary School, it does not make practical, let alone fiscal sense, for the Governor to completely wipe out the School of Veterinary Medicine's appropriation request. Please consider our request and do all in your power to reinstate the Veterinary School's support, and thus ensure the viability of such an important Pennsylvania institution.

—Marianne T. McDevitt
and David S. McDevitt,
St. David's, PA

Students Speaking Out

Various petitions have been sent to Harrisburg by students of veterinary medicine, including one signed by over 90 that said, "Your recommendation...will effectively destroy the veterinary medicine effort in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We urge you to support agriculture and support New Bolton."

Another petition, signed by 40 members of the Class of 1994, said:

[To Rep. Matthew J. Ryan]

As second year veterinary students at the University of Pennsylvania, we are extremely alarmed that the School faces being shut down due to the decrease in funding proposed for this year. The School cannot function with a \$17.4 million appropriation removed as this constitutes 40% of our operating costs.

For the past 108 years the School of

Veterinary Medicine has contributed agriculturally and medically to Pennsylvania and the surrounding states. As a result it has a proud history and an excellent reputation. We understand that the current financial situation warrants budget cuts; however, the impact of closing the only veterinary school in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will be long term effects which, we believe, far outweigh the immediate financial goals.

Techniques in veterinary medicine developed at Penn are used in animal hospitals and on farms throughout the country. The research projects conducted here contribute to human medicine throughout the world. Diseases currently being studied include hypertension, asthma, infertility, arthritis, cardiovascular disorders, epilepsy, and others. What is presently being learned here may one day benefit you or someone you know. It is important not to halt this progress by depriving the School of its necessary funds.

As students, we are naturally disappointed by any efforts to decrease the budget and consequently close down the School of Veterinary Medicine. More importantly, however, are the many sick humans and animals that will suffer. Please consider this carefully and help to reinstate our \$17.4 million appropriation into the current budget.

'Myopic and Counterproductive'

Governor Casey's elimination of financial support for the University of Pennsylvania from the Commonwealth budget is both myopic and counterproductive. Moreover, his contention that the University is wealthy, is totally inappropriate. People are wealthy. The term does not apply to institutions. A person's needs are limited and when that person's means far exceeds his or her needs, that person is wealthy. An institution's needs are a function of its size and what it does. In absolute terms an institution may have a very large endowment indeed and still find that the discretionary income generated by that endowment is quite small relative to its total budget and its needs. Governor Casey's remarks reveal a failure to understand how the University functions and its importance to the Commonwealth.

The University does not serve only the wealthy. A very substantial fraction of its undergraduates receive financial aid. It has a substantial endowment but most of it is restricted and a significant part of the financial aid the University provides for undergraduates has been made possible by state funds. The impact of state funds on financial aid, however, cannot be measured solely by the fraction of those funds currently allocated to that use. If state aid is eliminated, funds will have to be found to finance some of the other activities supported with state funds. It is possible, indeed probable, that some will have to come from other funds now used by the University to provide financial aid.

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A large endowment does not necessarily translate into a great ability to provide for need-based financial aid. Of the undergraduate financial aid budget of over \$30 million, less than 10 percent comes from endowment income restricted to financial aid, and that is a significantly smaller percent than comparable institutions have to spend from the income from their endowment funds. The University recognizes its responsibility to the community at large and will never willingly eliminate need based financial aid. However, it would be strange indeed if when the nation (and possibly the Commonwealth) are threatened with racial violence, the Commonwealth should choose to curtail the University's ability to discharge that responsibility and contribute to the solution of the problem.

The University's contribution to the poor in Pennsylvania is not confined to financial aid to undergraduates. As the Los Angeles riots have made clear, there is a wide gap between the races, and effective programs are sorely needed. The University is located adjacent to a community that encompasses areas ranging from gentrifying neighborhoods to poor inner-city enclaves. The University provides recreational facilities, tutoring community children, and help in rehabilitating homes. Indeed the ways in which the University services the community are legion. Every school in the University participates on one way or another in the improvement of the West Philadelphia Community. It also aids the city police department in patrolling nearby off-campus areas and supplying emergency service. Without Commonwealth funds some aid to the University's neighborhood may have to be cut back and at precisely the wrong time.

The willingness of the Governor to witness the destruction of the only School of Veterinary Medicine in the Commonwealth is incomprehensible. The University's School of Veterinary Medicine is not only considered one of the best in the country, but one of the best in the world. The contributions of this school to the agriculture of the Commonwealth are simply immeasurable. The Commonwealth certainly can't do without veterinarians and getting into Vet schools is just a little easier than getting a camel through the eye of a needle. There is no doubt that other Vet schools have little interest in training people to practice in Pennsylvania. For instance, there are no Pennsylvanians studying at Cornell's Vet School. There is no doubt that the survival of the University's Vet school hinges on the restoration of Commonwealth funds. The University's budget is not sufficiently flexible to permit the divergence of enough funds to sustain the Vet School. Once it is closed, the faculty scattered and the physical assets disbursed or dissipated, the revival of a school coming close to the quality it now has would be, at best, extremely time consuming and expensive and, most probably, impossible.

The importance of the University of Pennsylvania to the community, the Commonwealth, and the nation lies not only in the programs to improve the economy of Philadelphia and to aid the Commonwealth's agricultural economy. The University is a leading education and research institution. The nation, of which the Commonwealth is clearly a part, is struggling to maintain its competitiveness on the world markets. It will not succeed without substantial improvement in its intellectual as well as physical infrastructure. The University, one of the leading universities in the country, is an important part of that intellectual infrastructure and this is the time to strengthen it, not weaken it. It is inconceivable that any member of this Commonwealth's legislature can believe that the Commonwealth's economic health does not depend in substantial part on the economic health of the nation as a whole, that because the nation benefits from the nation's intellectual infrastructure, the Commonwealth has no responsibility for contributing to the maintenance and improvement of that infrastructure.

—*Morris Mendelson*
(*Professor of Finance*)

'A Vital Force...'

[*To Sen. Francis J. Lynch and Rep. Frank L. Oliver*]

I am writing to endorse legislation to restore and maintain funding for the University of Pennsylvania—the \$37.6 million in Commonwealth appropriation for FY 1993.

I came to the University of Pennsylvania in 1968 as a freshman. Subsequently, I have received my Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees from Penn. Officially, I maintain my association to the University by teaching in a graduate program there. My personal experience at Penn spans more than two decades, and I am well-informed and experienced with Penn and its importance to the community. I am writing to you now as an individual citizen, a resident and taxpayer. My expert conclusion is that the University of Pennsylvania is a vital force in the Philadelphia community and within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and it is in the best interests of everyone in the Commonwealth that the Commonwealth continue its support of the University.

With the Commonwealth's appropriation, the University General Instruction, School of Veterinary Medicine, School of Medicine and School of Dental Medicine are all funded. I would like to focus on just one area—the School of Veterinary Medicine. Without the Commonwealth's appropriation, the School of Veterinary Medicine will be phased-out and eliminated. That will produce a severe hardship upon the Commonwealth's agricultural community, the dairy and livestock industries. To import veterinary health practitioners from out of the region (The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine is the only school of

veterinary medicine in the region) would be foolhardy and more costly.

My experience with the School of Veterinary Medicine is with the Small Animal Clinic that it operates. It has the highest caliber health practitioners, state of the art equipment and facilities. It is known for its research in animal and human diseases. I had a dog whose life was extended from the latest clinical research, research that had been conducted at Penn. Every "extra" day of her life was a blessing. My experience, though, is not unique. There are many other companion animals who are alive only because of the clinical care provided by the staff at the School of Veterinary Medicine. There are many humans who are alive because of the discoveries made at the laboratories at the School of Veterinary Medicine.

The University has always been concerned with its relationship with other communities within the Philadelphia area. I personally credit the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine with providing much harmony in a very diverse area. Ultimately this is the most cost-efficient effort.

All things considered, I want my money, my tax-dollars, spent on the University of Pennsylvania, supportive of the University in education, research and community service. If the argument runs that other States do not support private higher education, I would suggest that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania take the initiative and leadership in the nation to demonstrate how this is not only fiscally efficient but also an accurate reflection of our highest societal priorities and values.

I hope that you will support legislation to restore and maintain funding for the University of Pennsylvania.

—*Andrew Behrendt*,
Philadelphia, PA

From Another Commonwealth

[*To legislators and to Dean Andrews*]

Last year, faced with the same economic hardships that now beset Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts barely averted what could have been a most grievous error in political foresight. To satisfy fiscal constraints, the legislature threatened to withdraw its subsidy to the private educational institution, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. The societal advantages of the school were never disputed. Research in the veterinary sciences benefits human health directly, since most of the current therapies of human disease have been investigated and perfected in veterinary research laboratories. The contributions to the world's food supply by enhanced food animal production and improved health of farm and marine animals have been of immeasurable international benefit. The research accomplishments of the country's veterinary schools have been one of the driving forces in its primacy in agricultural technology. Fortunately, Governor Weld

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and the legislature of Massachusetts recognized that the subsidy of the veterinary school was a fiscally sound investment, since the school returned to the Commonwealth's economy several times its annual appropriation. It continues to receive generous Federal funding of its research programs. Its special services attract international consultations in recreational, wildlife, and companion animal care. Its continuing educational programs for post-graduate veterinary practitioners and for animal owners and producers draw visitors to the state. Not only does the school create jobs directly, it also attracts biomedical research industries, which are a significant factor contributing to the emergence of Massachusetts from its recent economic recession. Maintaining its subsidy to Tufts has proven to be a wise political and sound economic decision.

Pennsylvania now faces this same political challenge. Withdrawing its appropriation to the University School of Veterinary Medicine may appear, in the short term, to save money. However, the jobs lost if the school must close, and the educational and Federal research funding that will consequently leave the state will negate much of that saving. The state's leadership in biomedical research, education, and practice will suffer; and the potential of attracting new biomedical and agricultural research industries will be forfeited.

Before you decide about Pennsylvania's appropriations to the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, may I respectfully suggest that you consult with the governor and your legislative associates in Massachusetts and learn how their subsidy of Tufts University of Veterinary Medicine has benefited their state, both societally and financially. The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine is among the most prestigious veterinary schools in the world. It is a true jewel in your state's crown of nationally recognized educational excellence. Since the school will continue to repay your subsidy in the form of jobs, research grants, and the attraction of new industries, it will show sagacious foresight for the Pennsylvania legislature to continue its appropriations to the only veterinary school in the state.

—Sheldon C. Binder, M.D.
Cambridge, MA

[Parent of out-of-state student at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine]

Quality an Investment

[To Rep. Ryan with copy to Dean]

The Governor has apparently decided to no longer fund private educational institutions in the Commonwealth. This action, if allowed, is economically unsound, inappropriate, and short sighted. Certainly wasteful programs should be eliminated from personal, business, and government spending. However, the past shows us that

education is the basis for future research and development in most areas of man's endeavors. Basically, quality education is a sound investment. Personally I know this to be true in two ways. I am a veterinarian. I am the product of two fine private educational institutions, Albright College, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. I have experienced the great educational value that occurs when private institutions are funded by the state, and I am part of the social assets created and that are functioning in the Commonwealth today. Also, I have invested over [5 figures deleted] dollars in my two daughters' primary private school education to date. I hope you can see that I am committed to the private educational process.

Please do not eliminate private educational institutional funding from the budget, and more specifically please do not eliminate the \$17.4 million appropriation for the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

—Steven A. Seward, V.M.D.
Pottstown, PA

Chaos in Agriculture

[To Sens. Loeper and Mellow and Reps. Ryan and DeWeese]

Alarm, distress, concern only mildly describe our reaction to the news that U. of PA Vet School will no longer be funded. *Panic* is closer to the truth. We would absolutely be *lost* without the services of this organization, as would the rest of our neighbor farmers.

Any savings this lack of funding may produce will surely offset later on by the chaos in the agricultural community or by the state all of a sudden in desperate need for veterinary personnel and finally realizing that they no longer have a training facility in the state.

Please reconsider!

—Robert C. Legnini and family
Newtown Square, PA

'I Vote Only...'

[To Sen. Loeper with copy to Dean]

...I am outraged at this proposal!

I live in Northeast Pennsylvania and have been involved with horse and pony care for over 30 years. I have used several of the services that are available to PA residents at New Bolton Center and I have been very satisfied with the results. To suggest that this excellent institution might face extinction through budget cuts is not acceptable to me.

I depend upon the resources at New Bolton Center, their expertise and knowledge are very valuable to me as the owner of several ponies. I have invested large amounts of time and money to maintain competitive sport animals. I am committed to the health and welfare of my ponies which requires many of the services available at New Bolton Center.

If I did not have New Bolton Center to use as a resource, I would be forced to find

other out-of-state services (i.e. Cornell University). Therefore, I hope that every effort will be made to endorse the programs at New Bolton Center.

Please understand that my recommendation is to fully fund the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and its activities. I will vote only for the legislators that have the foresight to acknowledge the value of this unique institution.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Lloyd, Dallas, PA

After 88 Years

[To Sen. Fumo and Rep. Josephs]

I am writing to urge you to vote against Governor Casey's proposal to eliminate Penn's entire \$37.6 million appropriation from the FY '93 Commonwealth budget. I am one of your constituents and a consultant to the University.

Restoration of Penn's entire funding is vitally important to the state of Pennsylvania because this organization is a central player in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania's economy. In addition, the University is one of the best managed in the United States and deserves to be recognized for this high quality by its own state government with continued financial support.

I would like to outline the following economic benefits that Penn generates for your review:

1. Largest private employer in the five-county region of Philadelphia and fourth largest in Pennsylvania.
2. \$2.5 billion in economic activity in Pennsylvania.
3. Contribution of \$950 million to Pennsylvania household earnings.
4. Support of more than 42,000 jobs in Pennsylvania.
5. Contribution of more than \$25 million in taxes to the city and more than \$17 million in taxes to the Commonwealth.
6. Attraction of more than \$500 million annually to the Commonwealth from out-of-state sources.
7. Students and visitors to Penn spend nearly \$100 million annually in the State of Pennsylvania.
8. Faculty at Penn attracts over \$200 million in sponsored research funding.
9. More than 25,000 alumni of Penn work in Pennsylvania and 20,000 work within the five-county region of Philadelphia.
10. The University of Pennsylvania maintains the only veterinary school in Pennsylvania.
11. The School of Veterinary Medicine treats more than 25,000 large animals at the New Bolton Center and more than 22,000 small animals at the Veterinary Hospital in Philadelphia.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly has approved state appropriations to Penn for 88 consecutive years and I ask that you work with your colleagues in Harrisburg to restore Penn's funding so that we do not in any way reduce the economic benefits of this great institution to our city, state and country.

—Mrs. Birtan Aka Collier
Philadelphia, PA