

New Editor Takes Collegian Helm

University Park, Pa.— Jerry Schwartz knows he has some pretty big shoes to fill as editor of The Daily Collegian, student newspaper at The Pennsylvania State University.

And it makes little difference that they happen to be ladies' shoes.

Schwartz, you see, is the first male editor of the Collegian in three years.

"That really is inconsequential as far as I'm concerned," he said in discussing his approach to the role of editor. "It really doesn't matter one way or the other. Of course, we've been joking a lot about it at the paper."

A sophomore journalism major, Schwartz, of Willow Grove, has been a member of the Collegian staff since his first term at University Park. He was a police and administration reporter and

served as copy editor and news editor during the past two terms. His one-year tenure as editor begins with the opening of the Spring Term on Mar. 9.

"There's no question that being editor of the Collegian is a very, very tough job," he said. "The editor supervises an organization of about 100 persons who work every day to put out a paper. It's no small enterprise."

Schwartz sees tuition as the biggest issue concerning students in the coming year.

"This is a hard time financially for everyone," he noted, "and in the past few years there have been tuition increases. As tuition goes up, fewer students can afford college. I hope the Collegian can lead the way in trying to find some answers to the problem."

Is Penn PIRG Really A Rip-off?

KYRA GOIDICH

8th-general arts and sciences
Within the past several weeks, in the library and in the Lion's Den, in apartments and in dorms, Penn State students seem to have increased their vocabulary by one word: PennPIRG. There seems to be very few who do not wholeheartedly support the concept: a group of students and professionals working together on many of today's most pressing problems. But the big hang-up seems to be the funding mechanism. Some have even gone so far as to call PennPIRG a "rip-off". But can that statement really be justified?

Everyone who doesn't like the proposed plan usually has one of their own to offer. Of the number of alternatives suggested, the voluntary check-off seems to be the most popular. But this plan has been proven to be not feasible. By now, hopefully most Penn Staters know what PennPIRG is, how it operates and what it can do. But to fully understand a Public Interest Research Group, to realize just how much potential it really has, you must see it work—from a problem to be researched to a solution that benefits everyone. Too much of the energies of PennPIRG would be devoted to publicizing and selling itself to the students, and not to important research. You must let PennPIRG prove itself with action, not words. But the voluntary check-off plan "forces students to decide whether or not they want to support the plan before they have the information to make an intelligent decision. It puts incoming freshmen...in a particularly bad position", ("Action for a Change, Ralph Nader and Donald Ross).

For these reasons, the voluntary check-off plan has not proved to be the best funding mechanism for PIRGs. The refundable fee mechanism has. The PIRGs on 135 college campuses in 21 other states use this method. It is the most hassle-free for the administration. If a voluntary check-off plan were used, each tuition bill would have to be computed separately, i.e., some should have \$2 tacked on and some would not. But with the refundable fee system, the \$2 fee is tacked on to all bills. The administrative burden (connected with the refunding) is placed on PennPIRG, where it belongs. The refundable fee mechanism of the PIRG is based on the democratic idea of majority rule with protection of the rights of the minority. This country is based on this same principle. If the majority of students say that they want PennPIRG to be established, then it should be, as long as the rights of those who do not want it are protected. And they are by the fact that the fee is refundable. Those who say that they believe in a democracy but do not believe in the PIRG refundable fee mechanism are being inconsistent.

The mechanics of a refundable fee are quite simple: \$2 is tacked on to your tuition bill each term. If you don't wish to participate, you are entitled to a full refund during the first three weeks of the term. The Minnesota PIRG uses three different ways to obtain the refund: a table in the student union building, a table at registration which every

student must pass, and a postpaid card sent along with the tuition bill, which students who don't want to participate can send in and get a refund by mail. Several of these methods involve no hassle whatsoever to those who desire a refund. It can't be said that you are being penalized for being in the minority because you have to go out of your way to get a refund.

There always will be the hard-core though, who will still say that they like the PIRG idea but do not like the funding mechanism. They should sign the petition. They can always get their money back if they choose not to support it. If you are one of these and you like the idea, you should not keep others who do want PennPIRG from having it. If PennPIRG does get established, even those who do not fund it will benefit from its work. So you are cheating yourself from PennPIRG's benefits if you don't sign.

Finally, there are the seniors who say that they do not want to sign because they will not be here next year and they do not want to determine how incoming freshmen should spend their money. If seniors do not sign, and PennPIRG is not established, the freshmen who do not want PennPIRG will be satisfied, but what about the freshmen who do? But if seniors do sign, and PennPIRG becomes a reality, both groups of freshmen will be satisfied. Those who want PennPIRG will have it, and those who don't can get a refund. So again, if you seniors like the PIRG idea, sign the petition.

If you've already signed, you've already done your part to help PennPIRG become a reality. If not, consider what's been said and think it over again. Support PennPIRG. It's the best \$2 bargain around.

Reprinted from Feb. 22 issue of the Daily Collegian.

Cohabitation, Marriage, Are Contradictions

Salt Lake City, Utah.—(I.P.)—Living together to see if two persons are suited for marriage is "a contradiction of terms," according to a University of Utah social work professor. Veron G. Smith, director of the Marriage and Family Counseling Bureau, says "practicing marriage without a license" is relationship without commitment. "The substance of marriage," he says, "is the commitment that a husband and wife make to work out problems together."

The bureau is a training arm of the Graduate School of Social Work which also provides counseling to students, staff and faculty. Services cover individual, premarital, marital, family and divorce counseling.

In the non-marital relationship, two persons can simply part if problems arise. "There is no test of the individuals if there is no commitment," say Smith, a recognized national authority in marriage counseling.

"However, we do offer counseling to unmarried couples as well, but interestingly enough, their most common complaints are the same as those of most married couples," Smith says.

"Some people consider marriage a threat to individual freedom," says Dr. Dean H. Hepworth, professor of social work and a member of the bureau counseling staff. "Of course, marriage needn't -- and shouldn't -- reduce a person's individuality. The basis of marriage is having two persons learn to grow together, and most individuals work this out to their own satisfaction."

20-Questions Supplements SAT

Clemson, S.C.—(I.P.)—A Clemson University professor has devised a game of "Twenty Questions" with a serious purpose. Bernard Caffrey, the head of Clemson's psychology department, selected 20 questions from the California Personality Inventory (CPI) to form a five-minute test that rivals the four-hour Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in predicting the grades students will attain in college.

Unlike the SAT, which measures aptitude, the CPI exam measures motivation. Caffrey says that with average SAT scores declining and average grade point ratios (GPRs) climbing, that SAT is no longer as accurate in predicting performance as it was 10 or 15 years ago.

He doesn't expect his test to replace the SAT. He sees it as a useful supplement to the SAT in determining which students have the best chances of success in higher education. Caffrey notes that the SAT has come under fire from some educators who claim that it

has an ethnic-cultural bias against some portions of the population.

His theory is that the test he devised avoids that problem. "Another step would be to have a colleague at another institution try to repeat the test results to add more validity."

So far two groups of students have been tested. Results indicate the sophisticated game of 20 questions is slightly less accurate than the SAT in predicting college grades. The standard error of estimate in predicting grade point ratios by SAT alone was .540. That is, 68 per cent of the students was a predicted GPR of 3.0 would wind up with a GPR between 2.46 and 3.54.

The standard error of estimate for the CPI items alone was .563 for a sampling of 66 juniors and seniors and .568 for 110 sophomores through seniors. Caffrey is undecided about politicking to have the registrar require applicants for enrollment to take the test. "In the scientific world you hate to go out on a limb".

VENDORVILLE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
7:15 A.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Grill open until 7:30 P.M.

Friday
7:15 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Grill open until 2:30

Have
A
Night
Class?



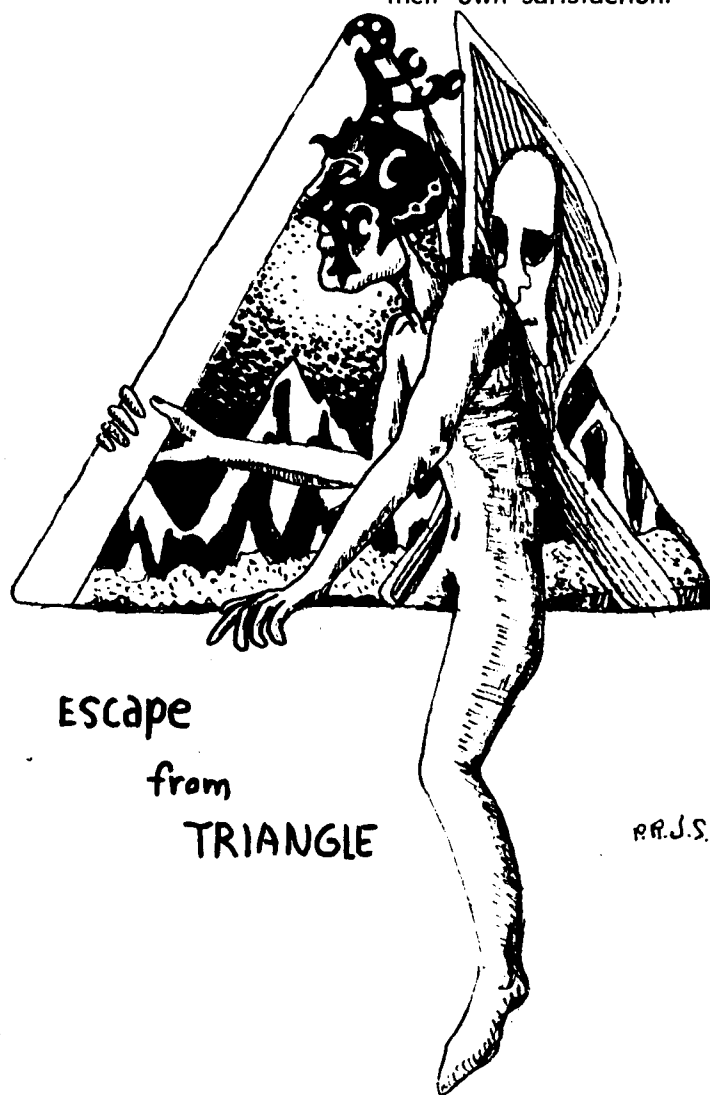
STOP DOWN IN VENDORVILLE AND GET A REAL CUP OF COFFEE BEFORE CLASS. THESE NEW EXTENDED HOURS DEPEND ON YOUR CONTINUED PATRONAGE.

Housing and Food Service

Capitol 'First' Art Display

A "first" in art exhibits will be held at Penn State-Capitol Campus featuring works owned by faculty, staff and students. The show is on display from Monday, March 10 through Friday, March 21 in the Gallery-Lounge at the University.

Maxine Lewis, exhibit coordinator, stated that the art committee "hopes to attract a display of the highest quality, from the 2700 members of the Penn State-Capitol Campus community."



R.R.J.S.