

Editorial comments



Why didn't
YOU
vote?

Remember him? This editorial cartoon appeared in the February 1 edition of the COLLEGIAN. In a special election election held the previous week, only 29% of the eligible student voters turned in a ballot.

With this in mind, the COLLEGIAN has attempted in this issue to make students aware of a very important election - an election in which the SGA executive offices and most of the seats are to be filled. Next year the Hazleton Campus will become a 24-hour campus. This means that the responsibilities of the Student Government will be increased proportionately.

This election will be held on May 6 and 7 - so if you forget your articulation card on Thursday, you can still vote on Friday.

Keep in mind the importance of this election - AND VOTE!

Price of progress

America pays a high price for progress.

Wherever a shopping center goes up, stately edifices of another era come down. The more product consumption, the more littering. The faster the cars, the more exhaust spewed into the air. The more cars, the more highways, the more billboards. The more boob-tubes, a still higher cost of living, and so on.

These are only a few examples. You can probably think of a dozen or so more.

Within the last month, Highacres has indirectly paid a price through no fault of her own. Route 93, adjacent to the entrance of our campus, has been a nicely wooded area dotted with a few residences. Soon it will also be dotted with two gas stations. Lots have been cleared of all foliage for the construction of not one, mind you, but two gas stations directly facing each other across the highway.

Where once stood towering pines and a peaceful, natural environment, we will soon be treated to the sight of gas pumps, bright lights, and plastic commercialism.

We realize that gas stations are a necessity, especially in such close proximity to Interstate Route 81. However, it is ironic that a service station already exists several hundred feet from the site of the new ones.

That one could suffice for any emergencies. Also, along the two mile stretch of Route 93 from Highacres to West Hazleton there are ten station in business. The two new ones will make it twelve. That's a gas station every one sixth of a mile.

Are two more really needed? We don't think so.

The Highacres Collegian

The Collegian office is located in the Memorial Building. Office hours are Monday thru Friday, 1-4 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- John Roslevich, Jr. Editor-in-chief
- Paul Pianovich..... Executive Editor
- Kris Karchner..... Managing Editor
- E. J. Pietroski..... Business Manager
- T. W. Heppel..... Production Manager
- Richard Campbell..... Faculty Advisor

STAFF

Assistant to the Editor: Gloria Smitrovich. NEWS: Alice Bright, Armine Cumsky, Margie Grega, Susan Kisthart, Anne McKinstry, Celine Student, Jean Yeselski. SPORTS: Tom Caccese, editor; Mark Braskie, Jack McCutcheon. CREDIT: Susan Kisthart. CIRCULATION: Gloria Smitrovich. TYPING: Susan Kisthart, Kathy Motyl, Mary Polasick. ADVERTISING: Ed Pietroski, manager; Bob Allison, Barb Fahringer. COMPOSITION: Joan Mente, Alice Bright. EDITORIAL WRITERS: John Hancock, Mel Mundie, Richard Rockman. PHOTOGRAPHY and ART: Paul Pianovich. MEMBER: The Press Association of Commonwealth Campuses, Association Press Services Newspaper Council of the Press Association, Intercollegiate Press.

Letter Policy

Opinions expressed in The HIGHACRES COLLEGIAN are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of The COLLEGIAN. Unsigned editorials represent the official opinions of The COLLEGIAN. Responsible comment to material published in The COLLEGIAN is invited. All letters must be type-written and signed. Faculty members are students are invited to submit articles to be published in a special section of The COLLEGIAN entitled "Impact." Articles and other material (poems included) should be no longer than 400 words and must be typed.

Big Brother's bubble bursts

by Richard Rockman

What does "The Amazing Spiderman" have in common with "All in the Family"? And why are the May, June, and July (1971) issues of the Spiderman comic book (issues 96-98) different from almost every other comic magazine at your neighborhood drug store?

For the answers to these and other exciting questions, we must first look at the top right-hand corner of the cover of each of the aforementioned issues of Spidey to see what is missing. Yes, that's right, we must not look for what is there, but for what is missing!

Well, don't you see anything missing? That's right, Bunky, the seal of the Comics Code Authority is missing-that symbol which you've grown to know and love over the years; that symbol which has been virtually an institution in the lives of comic magazine aficionados; that famous symbol which has been gracing the covers of your "Betty and Veronica's Summer Funs," "Supermans," and "Captain Americas" for these many years. Yes, Armageddon has come at last, the turning point is past: in other words, the latest issues of The Amazing Spiderman HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY! That's right, kiddies. Just think about it.

You might be saying to yourself, "But, what does it all mean?" Rest assured, I shall explain for the uninitiated that black and white stamp of the Comics Code of whose mysterious meaning you stopped wondering about years ago and haven't given a thought to since has been around for almost seventeen years. It means simply that the comic book upon which it is placed does not violate any of the rules and regulations which the Comics Code has established. And just what does the Comics Code prohibit stamp-displaying comic magazines from portraying? Among other things: narcotics. And that is exactly what the Marvel Comics Group is portraying in Spider-man.

How did all of this come to pass? Well, the Comics Code was created when comic books were being blamed for everything from juvenile delinquency to illiteracy. Up until a few years ago this false notion was still in acceptance by the vast majority of the unenlightened population. Some people wouldn't be caught dead reading a comic book. Even today, the connotation of "comic book" is one of degradation to some.

For the most part, however, today comic books are held in high regard by educators and artists alike. This is mainly due to the precedent setting trend put in motion by the Marvel Comics Group. Leading the long list of Marvel madmen/geniuses is Stan Lee, editor and writer. A few years ago Mr. Lee felt that the comic buying public was not getting the most out of their dime (now 15 cents). He felt that the people of the world were ready for more than "Will Lois Lane find out that Superman's secret identity is Clark Kent this issue" and the never-ending sickening cycle of "Goodguy meets badguy, goodguy fights badguy, goodguy defeats badguy" in a world where noone has any problems and noone dies. He felt that the world was ready for a comic book which dealt with reality in a fantasy situation. And so, he created comic book characters who got hurt, felt pain (mental as well as physical), and got into situations that people get into in real life. He created comic characters who didn't always defeat the badguy. In fact, many times you couldn't tell the goodguys FROM the badguys (as it is in real life).

In addition to these improvements in story lines, Marvel also raised the quality of artwork by using extremely talented

artists(such as Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Jim Steranko, etc.) who helped put the illustrated comic magazine on the level it is today: a recognized form of art.

In the magazine produced by this innovative group of creative people you were to first see any portrayal of the black man and his problems, pollution, and other real-life situations and problems in comic books. Since then, Marvel's competitors have jumped on the bandwagon, at first with mediocre results (they were not used to handling a world where things weren't always as black and white as the Comics Code stamp), and finally have actually become quite creative (mainly Marvel's competitor DC, which used to be the leader). And all of this is well and good.

Now Marvel has led the way again by taking the next bold step in the interest of giving the public an entertainment medium which still incorporates real life situations. They have published a series of magazines that have not been approved by the Comics Code because they deal with drugs. They have done this deliberately and with complete foreknowledge that they would not be approved and would be open to criticism by their competitors as well as some of the comic reading public.

The fact is that these issues of Spiderman portray drugs negatively. For example, after rescuing a freaked out young man who is jumping from a tall building exclaiming, "I can FLOAT..fly like a BIRD.. Spidey is seen saying to himself, "I sure hope that poor guy'll be ALL RIGHT. But I wouldn't BET on it. Any drug strong enough to give you THAT kind of trip..can DAMAGE your brain..but BAD! But how do you WARN the kids? How do you REACH them? My life as SPIDERMAN is probably as DANGEROUS as any..but I'd rather face a HUNDRED SUPER-VILLAINS than toss it AWAY by getting hooked on hard drugs!..Cause that's ONE fight you CAN'T win!..maybe we've got to do MORE. If only SPIDERMAN could.. The plot thickens and comes closer to home for Spidey as his best friend gives in to the urge to experiment with hard drugs in order to escape his personal problems in the next issue. But this doesn't matter to the Code. They don't care whether you put down drugs or build them up, they just won't allow it.

And now, after all of this, you ask me, "Alright, already, what does any of this have to do with 'All in the Family'?" The same thing. "All in the Family" is a television comedy which deals with real-life situations which are common to almost everyone's experience but have not been portrayed on the three major networks before. The acting is superb, the comedy is outrageous, the dialogue is meaningful, and it is performed before a live audience thereby destroying the need for an asinine laughtrack. But because it uses language and experiences which do not fit the "black is black and white is white" mold which is as common to television as it is to comic magazines, it is different from any other American television series up until now. It is to CBS's credit that they saw fit to present such a program at this time. As we have seen with other innovators, the competitors will wait to see what the public's reaction is. If it is good, they will jump on the bandwagon also, first with cheap copies, and then, hopefully, they will finally come out with entertaining programs of meaning and quality to fill the void of "the vast wasteland."

"All in the Family" is not the first refreshing television program to hit the airwaves..such shows as "60 Minutes" and "First Tuesday" have also helped matters, in addition to many entertaining and informative programs which are broadcast by National Educational Television and Public Broadcasting Service such as "The Advocates," "Fañfare," "Sesame Street," and "The Great American Dream Machine." But programs such as these have been the exception rather than the rule.

What it all adds up to is that the media have finally caught up with the desires of the public and have begun to stop insulting the intelligence of their viewers. It also means that people are finally becoming less fearful to put their God-given Freedom of Free Communication to good use.

this is not really a filler, just consider it a mini-editorial - vote!

Truth for the masses

by John Hancock

It has been shown that certain truths are self evident. However, many must be pointed out to those of us not capable of grasping them for ourselves. Thus it came to pass, that the following were revealed to me in a most poignant manner:

- Paul Cerula is actually a very nice man, only doing his job.
- Library rent on books kept for an extended period is quite necessary for my own well-being.
- The most appropriate name for a new classroom building is, of course, "Classroom Building." Another structure erected for the same purpose could be labeled, "Other Classroom Building," and nausea infinitum.
- It is much more prudent to buy and mount a chime system which enables one to know when and what the exact hour is, at the hour. Also, it indicates the half hour, but not exactly what half hour is being chimed. Silly frivolity would prefer having timepieces installed in every room, which would indicate the exact time to a large number of people, whenever they cared to know. Of course, pigeons would have a difficult time roosting in clocks, and every successful campus should give pigeons the opportunity to alight. In addition, what loyal patriotic heart will not be warmed by the resemblance of our bell, to the Liberty Bell?
- Shuffleboard and ping-pong are actually noble games. Chinese-American relationships were renewed through the latter, and American supremacy over Poland may soon be illustrated by the former.
- That all who lecture within the confines of the Memorial Building are not living dead zombies, but, after all, are paid to union scale.
- That we should fall on our knees and thank God for the new athletic field, which is located next to the one being utilized.(Geology and Phys. Ed. may soon be scheduled at the same site)
- That shower facilities are not inadequate, though one of the two does not function.
- That the author is nasty because he does not picture the truth as it ought to be portrayed.



Dick Gregory

the light side / the dark side

F. B. Eye

It's taken a long, long time, but finally the persons who have been on the receiving end of J. Edgar Hoover's surveillance activities are beginning to strike back. On April 6, Rep. Hale Boggs of Louisiana spoke from the floor of the House of Representatives, comparing Hoover to Hitler and Stalin and condemning the practice of keeping members of Congress under surveillance. The April 9 issue of LIFE magazine designated Hoover as the Emperor of the FBI, carrying a cover photo which clearly placed him in symbolic line with some of the more notorious emperors of the Roman Empire and a few pages of copy which indicate the problems of a man who has been too strong too long.

Senator Edmund Muskie picked up the chorus the next week condemning the FBI surveillance of speakers at the April 22, 1970, Earth Day rally in Washington, of which Sen. Muskie was one. Sen. Muskie called such activity "intolerable in a free society" and "a dangerous threat to fundamental constitutional rights," suggesting that if an antipollution rally is considered suspect by the FBI then no political activity in America is safe.

The next day the New York Times told of an FBI informant going into the office of Rep. John Dowdy of Texas last year with a tape recorder strapped to his back, thus giving a new definition to the concept of spinal support.

Of course, there has been warnings before. Most notable was the information in Justice William O. Douglas. book which spoke of the FBI practice of wiring hotel rooms, equipping them with two-way mirrors and other bugging devices. So the telling of what the FBI has been up to for quite some time was nothing new. It's just that in unprecedented proportions of late we're seeing some prominent people who have been bugged by the FBI getting "bugged" in return.

The impact of such unprecedented criticism can be measured in President Nixon's compulsion to launch a defense of J. Edgar Hoover as the President spoke before a banquet of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. The President praised Hoover as "nonpolitical and nonpartisan." thereby joining the ranks of Presidents who have been afraid to blast the Hoover image. Tom Wicker in LIFE magazine quotes former President Lyndon Johnson as indicating the hope that Hoover would last in his job longer than LBJ would last in his. Said LBJ: "I don't want to be the one who has to pick his successor."

Therein lies the problem so many people are just beginning to wake up to at this late date. The FBI has grown so powerful and independent under the direction of J. Edgar Hoover that it can tap the phones, bug the hotel rooms, and otherwise watch the private actions of priests, nuns, ministers, lawyers, college professors, civil rights workers, doctors, government officials, etc. without any curb on its activities. When such a network of surveillance grows to the magnitude it now has, the time is very close when no one in America is safe.

Which brings us to the real issue-that of defining the legitimate role of the FBI. The FBI has become totally hung up on Director Hoover's obsession with his personal view of "internal security" at the expense of the real function of the Bureau. The FBI should be the number one agency in the country which throws the fear of justice into the real outlaws and criminals in our society. By definition the FBI should be the investigating agency involved in the apprehension of criminals rather than the self-appointed guardian of internal security.

A quick look at the FBI's 16 Most Wanted List will indicate what has happened to its own self-image. The list, by the way, has grown from 10 to 16 precisely because the Bureau is so hung up on "internal security." Half of the current list is comprised of persons wanted for so-called left wing radical political activity. Without them, the FBI would only have an 8 Most Wanted list.

And isn't it odd that of the entire list of 16 there is not one dope pusher, not one dope smuggler, not one person involved in the illicit traffic of narcotics in any form? Any neutral outside observer would have to look at the FBI Most Wanted list and say that narcotics is not a problem in America.

Of course the observer would be partially right. It's not a problem the FBI seems to want to be concerned with. The Bureau is more concerned with the destruction of a university Mathematics building than the life of a nine-year-old kid.

Shades of grey

by Mel Mundie

Today! There has never been a more exciting time to be alive.

Change, Awareness, Speed. A nation still too busy growing to learn the fine art of leisure. We've come so far in such a short time. So far, so fast, that we can never turn back. There is no room for yesterday today.

There has always been change, but the awareness of the last century, a by-product of all those before, has created the speed, the pace, of the "Now" generation. The train that labored painfully up the grade for nineteen centuries has reached the great and begun the breathless, free-wheeling ride toward the gravity of the future.

Too fast? The battle lines have been drawn. On one hand, those who wish to apply the brakes, and on the other, those who look forward to increased acceleration.

If you believe in a black and white world, the choice is simple. Choose one side and fall subject to polarization. I would prefer, however, that you contribute, rather than damn. Look for the blend, the shades of grey. If you can learn to recognize the shades of grey, you can understand that change is inevitable; that the blend is the only method of keeping the change orderly.

Randy Sparks has capsuled the logic in a recent recording entitled "Hazy Sunshine." He suggests that if you can't see shades of grey - go away! He writes:

"Hey, old man, bend a little...or cling to your throne as it falls. The old ways are gone and the oak has gone brittle. Down will come cradle and all."

Exciting!! Don't stand in the way of change. Tomorrow will run over you. Think about it.

