

THE LION'S EYE

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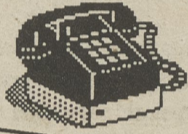
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THE FRONT DESK



Ed Tomezsko

On Sunday, December 18, 1988, the Honorable Louis A. Bloom died. He was 88 years old. With his passing, literally an era ended. The Judge, as he was lovingly called, served for a long time as a lawyer, State Representative, Assistant District Attorney, and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and he served well...When he died, Penn State lost a dear and valued friend.

The Judge was the second President of the Campus Advisory Board, succeeding General MacMorland in 1967, and served for twenty years until retiring in 1987 at age 87.

Indefatigable is the best single word I can use to describe him. Yet there is a strong temptation to write a list here so that those of you who never knew him would know him now. Just think of any and all of the good words and these words fit the Judge.

The Judge was a gentleman and a gentle man. He always dressed well. He had a dignity and refinement about him that reminded many of his older, immigrant friends of the "European style" and evoked within many memories of their European beginnings.

I was fortunate to have known him since 1981 and to work very closely with him since 1986. To give you his flavor, he called me "young fellow" and Penn State - Delaware County Campus the "greatest campus" in the world. The Judge called himself "one of the toughest judges he had ever met."

Did the Judge exaggerate? Maybe a little. He enjoyed laughter. What he did do a whole lot was to love. He loved life and he loved people. He seemed to be determined to spread his love everywhere and even in the fall of 1988 as he grew tired, it was a delight to talk with him and to be inspired by him. His gift to people was a small, embroidered red rose, about which he would say with a laugh "now you are a Bloom too."

It was his "responsibility" to say hello to everyone when he walked through the streets of Media. A one block walk from the Court House to the Towne House Restaurant for a lunch could take an hour each way. We walked together twice. After a few minutes into the walks, I had to stand back and marvel at the man. Everyone was "young fellow", "young lady", "handsome", "beautiful", "great", "best", even the animals found there on the way got a friendly pet and a good word. Everyone knew him and everyone enjoyed the walking visit with him - brief but full.

The Judge had a testimonial dinner two years ago, perhaps five hundred people, truly representative of the diversity of Delaware County life, were there. The Judge talked to everyone as we all expected he would. Even though the evening seemed to take forever to get started, no one minded because the Judge was enjoying everyone and everyone was enjoying the Judge. There was a lot of good natured teasing and reminiscing in the speeches - one message stood out, the Judge was an institution in the County. His funeral was a lot like the testimonial dinner, about two hundred people met in the synagog. We really celebrated the Judge, no tears, just fond memories.

Someone will keep the name of the Honorable Louis A. Bloom alive forever at Penn State through the scholarship named for him. I hope that when the student receives the scholarship, we tell the student who the Judge was.

My embroidered red rose means a lot to me. I will keep one particular recollection of the Judge foremost in my mind - he kept trying and never stopped loving. The Judge would expect that of you too if you would have met him.

ED TOMEZSKO is the Campus Executive Officer and columnist for the LION'S EYE. Comments are welcome.

VIEW POINT



A Penn State Student works out in the new weight room

Overcoming Sexism in the Gym

This fall at the Delaware County Campus we all began to make use of our beautiful new athletic facility. Well, maybe not all of us. In fact, when the exercise room with its stationary bicycles, and Polaris machines was opened, there was hardly a female Penn Stater near it. The gym also seemed to be inhabited only by men during recreational hours.

Is this an example of sexism at Penn State? Of course there is no sign that says "No Women Allowed." Times have changed since my experience as an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania when I was prevented from playing squash on the "Men Only" courts.

It is true that, three months later, the number of PSU women using the exercise equipment is on the increase. But is it possible that the small number of women at the gym is due to the fact that women are somehow excluded from this shining new facility? Or do they simply choose not to make use of it? Or both.

For some women who might like to use the facility, the main reason they avoid the exercise room is that they just don't feel comfortable around a gym. In their minds, athletics still is largely a male preserve. They may not be familiar with the machine, and don't want to appear stupid if they need to ask for help in learning how to use them. Since most of the time there are many more men in the room than women, their notion

that this type of exercise is only for men may be reinforced.

Other women avoid the exercise room because they are concerned that they might be embarrassed by the comments, the looks, or the body language of the men who regularly use the facility. It is to the credit of men on this campus that I have witnessed no instances of this kind of sexist behavior at all. Both women and men using the exercise room have been helpful to one another and even to those of us senior citizens on faculty and staff who regularly work out there.

Sexism has certainly not been defeated completely—neither in our society nor at Penn State. But the gradual increase of women who feel comfortable and welcome in what a few years ago might have been seen as a male preserve is heartening. Men should realize women's hesitation to participate in these activities and should make a special effort to welcome them and make them feel comfortable. Women on the other hand should put aside the fears that they don't belong or will be ridiculed in what traditionally have been seen as "unfeminine" activities and have the courage to try. Together we can make sure that our facilities are fully used by all the members of the Penn State community.

Joan D. Mandel
Associate Professor of Sociology

Central America and Low Intensity Conflict

by Chris Frye
Political Editor

One of the most difficult problems the Bush administration will face in the coming years is Central America in general and El Salvador and Nicaragua in particular. Although the Reagan administration touted its policy towards Central America as a good one, nothing much came from it except a bickering Congress and the Iran-Contra scandal, not to mention what the policy did to the region of Central America. The cost to the U.S. for all this failure has been enormous.

The U.S. has poured over \$12 billion in military aid and supplies into Central American nations such as Honduras and El Salvador.

In addition, we have poured nearly \$5.3

billion into Central America to jump-start economies and wheedle military-dominated allies into political reform.

And what has all the spending given the U.S.? Not much. After a decade of crisis, the political balance of power in Central America has been little affected by U.S. efforts.

And if Washington has little to show for all its efforts, Moscow has even less. Still, Nicaragua's economy, with annual inflation projected at 40,000 percent, is the region's most chaotic. The Soviet Union has provided Nicaragua with \$2.4 billion in military and \$2.8 billion in economic aid from 1982 to 1988.

Much worse than the amount of money spent is the number of lives which have been taken in both Nicaragua and El Salvador as a result of superpower-financed wars.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3