

Gentle Thursday

TO THE EDITOR: This letter is in response to the May 2 article about USG's \$25 donation to Gentle Thursday. First of all, Gentle Thursday is one of the more worthwhile events held at Penn State. It generates a feeling of togetherness and sharing, two things that this campus is greatly lacking.

So why all the hassle about USG's contribution? Other donations have been received from various other student organizations, such as OTIS, ARHS AND GSA. The USG Senate voted 21 for and 4 against USG's donation, which is a sign of Gentle Thursday's past significance. The generosity of the town merchants and Penn State students has shown that they too believe in Gentle Thursday as a day of sharing.

The object of the day is to lessen inhibitions, to increase the level of interaction, to enhance feelings of comfort, confidence, warmth and happiness. Your implication that Gentle Thursday is nothing more than a "big party" shows that you haven't made an attempt to find out the real philosophy behind Gentle Thursday.

Carolyn Hickey
[3rd-psychology]
Gentle Thursday Committee

Editor's note: In the May 2 article about the election of the USG president pro-tempore, USG Senator Regina Canuso termed Gentle Thursday a "big party." The article did not express the opinion of this newspaper.

'Do yourself a favor'

TO THE EDITOR: This letter is directed to "Name Withheld" whose letter appeared in The Daily Collegian May 3. In regards to the issue of abortion, you said that you have to laugh at letters written by males who say that abortion is murder. Further, having had an abortion yourself, you said that, "I can't see how anyone can form an opinion on a matter that involves so many emotions" and "If I was ever in this situation again, I don't know if I would choose the same way or not."

Well, dearest, all I can say is that it is the faculty of reason that allows us to form values and opinions, make decisions and escape injuries and wrongdoings without having to resort to first hand experience. It is the objectivity of logic, removed from the emotions, that engenders confidence in our nation's judges, our friends and our personal conscience. As your comments indicate, for an issue as grave as this, you certainly haven't formed a basis from which to make decisions. I suggest that this contributes to your emotional uproar. Do yourself a favor, look ahead in life and consider other issues that you may have to deliberate upon. No priest or counselor will decide them for you.

R.L. McRoberts
[graduate-human development]

Not so, Depner

TO THE EDITOR: In his May 5 article, which ostensibly analyzed the implications of the Equal Rights Amendment, William Depner presents opinions and assumptions as facts. He states that ERA is an ideological solution, therefore threatening "sound American philosophical tradition." Although he believes that we have never sought, and tend to

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dislike ideological solutions, our country was founded on the concept of democracy, the fantasy of freedom.

According to Depner, Golda Meir is a doubtful leader and all naturally egalitarian people are primitive. I agree that male aggressiveness is responsible for American action — and destruction.

He claims that "making" women equal will remove constructive male aggressiveness, "pull men down to equality," lower their morale and consequently reduce their capacity to "provide and protect." Man would be no better than woman.

True enough, when you consider women as individuals with unlimited potential. Their abilities, strengths and sensitivities have developed despite a male-dominated economic, political and social system. The idea of free mobility is still a myth for women and a rationalization for men.

Depner states that ERA will tie men's hands and minds, limiting their flexibility to respond. But he demonstrated through his article that both his mind and emotions have already been severely handicapped. His capacity to respond is limited to a male stereotype which dictates behavior and values and determines self-image.

Masculinity and femininity are relative qualities. As women become less feminine (i.e. less narcissistic, less masochistic, less passive), many men feel less masculine. If one's identity depends on either sex role, redefinition is threatening.

I believe that Depner is scared, not that men will be lowered to the potential of mere women, but that they will be bettered by them. This "proud white man" can feel superior only if there are inferiors. A self-admitted racist and sexist, his self-esteem depends on the suppression of someone else.

I question The Daily Collegian's motivation in publishing his article.

Kathleen Coelos
[10th-architecture and biology]

Editor's note: William Depner did not write an article. He submitted a Community forum column which expressed his own opinion.

Who do you turn to?

TO THE EDITOR: I have lived in University-run dormitories for nearly two years, and until last Saturday I have been able to trust the RA to stop waterfights before the damage became too great.

Last Saturday, though, I found our floor in a massive waterfight that our RA was encouraging and participating in. I can not believe that this school employs people who will fully destroy and deteriorate University property and personal belongings.

Whom is a student to turn to in this situation? Who will reimburse him for personal belongings that are damaged? Who

is to prevent these irresponsible acts?

In fact, there is no one. The dorms have become nearly unlivable, and there are those who cannot find an acceptable alternative to them. Possibly the RA's screening should be more extensive or security personnel should be available to stop this destruction.

I do know, however, that the RA's "fun" will be at an expense—the students, of course.

Name Withheld

Have you heard?

TO THE EDITOR:

New Student: Who was Wells Keddie?
Old Student: He was a professor who was dismissed in the summer of '72.

New Student: Who was Albert Reed?
Old Student: Oh, he was some guy that clubbed a student during an anti-war demonstration. He was released without charge in the summer of '72.

New student: Where is Fisher Plaza? It's not on the map.
Old student: Across from West Halls. They built it, after they tore down the last tennis courts in that area, in the summer of '73.

New student: Why are those students writing four-letter words on those rocks?
Old student: They're mad because a rock garden was built against their wishes in the summer of '73.

New student: I guess students don't get involved anymore.
Old student: No, I guess they don't.

New student: It's a shame.
Old Student: Yes, it's a real shame.

Al Bradbard
[6th-rehabilitation education]

Film review?

TO THE EDITOR: "Time to Run" was not intended to win an Emmy Award. More important was the message of a free gift to all. Our "film critic" called the film a commercial. John 6:51 says, "...if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." How can something that is free be commercial?

According to our "film critic," the hero turned to "...that old time religion." Fortunately, Christianity isn't a religion. It is a life. John 10:10 says, "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."

Our "critic" referred to "A dramatic religion-versus-science confrontation" as "a standard religious gimmick." Countless books have been written on this subject. That confrontation isn't a gimmick. It is for real. Timothy 6:20 says, "...keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science so called."

Our "critic" failed to substantiate "extremely 'bad' characterization and performance. The only "support" was a biased mind-reading of Ed Nelson "wishing desperately" and "obviously realizing" that. For a few paragraphs I forgot I was reading a "film review" (tongue-in-cheek). In fact, through the entire "review," I had to keep looking at the page title to remind myself I wasn't reading an editorial.

It is my turn to use the "stomach distress bag."
No, I am not a member of Campus Crusade.

Dave Klipp
[9th-speech and broadcasting]

America, slow down

TO THE EDITOR: And anyone else who cares. Here it is — finally — my last term at this campus, and I'm writing my first letter to this paper. And I've seen it all, from SDS and the Young Socialists to the Campus Crusade for Christ, Krishna, Transcendental Meditation and the Guru Maharaj Ji.

I offer my philosophy: man is generally a very suicidal animal. He overpopulates his planet and then complains that abortions are "immoral." He "needs" all kinds of luxuries (e.g. cars) and paraphernalia (e.g. posters and other such junk) and wonders why the Earth is polluted. He smokes tobacco on purpose! He takes hard, addictive drugs on purpose! He consumes tremendous quantities of alcohol and wakes up feeling bad... on purpose! He is obviously suicidal when he makes war with, murders, and harms... other people? ... no himself!

What's wrong with America? I'll tell you what's wrong. Americans are consumers. Americans are lazy button pushers. Americans are piggy polluters. Americans are greedy grabbers. We defend our country in Vietnam (!!!) while it rots on the inside. We are quickest to point the finger and slowest to act. We create atomic bombs to protect ourselves!!! We test them, discover they produce fallout and continue to test them!!!

Enough! America, reduce your population (not just zero population growth). Stop building. Slow down. Calm down. Become the "free" country you can be.

Americans, concentrate on reducing your suicidal tendencies. Have abortions (and save us, who are alive). Don't throw your trash around. Slow down. Go back to using bicycles. Fight for your own freedom before someone else's. But first sit down, think about what you are doing and then act intelligently.

Michael Vircsik
[12th-science]

the Collegian

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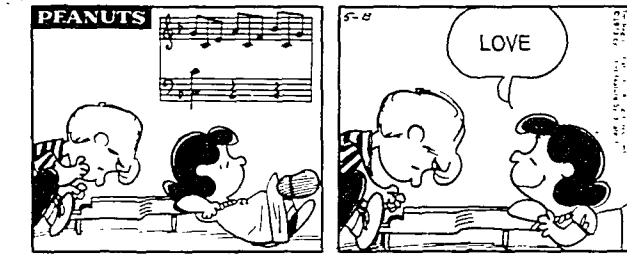
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The Daily Collegian welcomes comments on news coverage, editorial policy or noncampus affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double spaced, signed by no more than two persons and no longer than 30 lines. Students' letters should include the name, term and major of the writer.



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See USG Secretary

Must be submitted no
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May 16th, 1 p.m.

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108 FORUM

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