

Letters to the Editor

We didn't do it

Editor's note: the following letter was sent to The Daily Collegian as an open letter to the University department of housing and food services.

GENTLEMEN: In the past we have had few complaints about the service we had received from you. Other than numerous holes and widespread stains in your sheets, everything was fine. An incident has occurred, though, which we feel merits your attention.

On April 23, we deposited two sets of used bed linen in our appropriate linen slot. On May, however, we discovered that we were not to have any sheets returned to us.

When confronted with our plight, you informed us that we had 30 days to return the sheets we had obviously removed. When we questioned the reliability of your employees in filling slots, you graciously admitted that there was a slight chance that someone had erred, but that we would still be held responsible for the "theft."

We then asked whether we would be charged for the missing sheets. After 10 minutes of doubletalk, we received no answer.

This incident is not just an isolated one. Last term, two other girls on our floor were convicted of sheet stealing.

Have your employees erred? Could this be a plot to deplete our general deposits? We hope that now that this has been brought to your attention again, you will investigate and give us a fair trial before we are again pronounced guilty.

Janice Davin
(3rd-liberal arts)
Rita Schmitt
(3rd-division of counseling)

Too bad, Depner

TO THE EDITOR: This is an open letter in reply to William Depner's diatribe entitled, "ERA: Ideological Craze of Our Time," which appeared in The Daily Collegian May 4. It surprised me to see such an aggregation of brash, unsubstantiated claims written by one of that "superb combination of mind and force which white men are."

"Women cannot now legally be discriminated against in employment or education," says Depner. "They can hold office and vote. What else is there?" Did you know, Mr. Depner, that in many parts of the U.S. a married woman cannot make purchases on her own credit? As a housewife, a woman can work a 75 hour week without a guaranteed minimum wage. In the states which still have "coverture," the husband legally controls a couple's joint possessions, simply by virtue of his being male. And in some states, if a woman moves to another city and her husband refuses to accompany her, she is deserting him, but if he moves elsewhere and she refuses to go along, she can still be prosecuted for deserting him! Now what, sir, is the basis for your statement, "There are no real inequities to correct?"

You praise America's traditional one-at-a-time approach to problems. Wasn't it this approach which brought us to our present environmental and economic crises? Do you really believe that since the world's most powerful and "successful" nations have "capitalized on male aggressiveness," male supremacy as we now have it is good, and should be

perpetuated? This sounds like a rephrasing of the old "might makes right" doctrine. Can't you see that the "constructive male aggressiveness" you praise is what makes rapes and wars possible?

I do not feel the need for a superior being (i.e. a man) to protect and provide for me for the rest of my life. In fact, I would welcome the right and the opportunity to protect and provide for myself. It is too bad, Mr. Depner, that it would lower your morale to acknowledge me as your equal.

"The egalitarian ideology is false. We all know this empirically from personal experience and intimate relationships," you declare. I can tell you that if you have never shared an intimate, personal relationship with someone whom you recognize as your equal, you have missed an experience of infinite value.

The term "chauvinist" — meaning one who has excessive pride in his or her particular group or country — certainly applies to you. I must disagree, however, with your exaltation of the white male. I simply don't see white men, as a group, endowed with extraordinary strength and wisdom. What they do have is power — and power isn't necessarily earned by honest means.

I only wish I could turn you black and female, and leave you for six months in a society run primarily by palefaced men. You would lose patience with the white male ego.

Alison Moll
(4th-liberal arts)

Try smiling

TO THE EDITOR: In reference to "Cardboard Cool," the letter by "Name Withheld" in The Daily Collegian May 9. The idea that many students at Penn State lack "personality" is indeed a problem. It is a problem with you, my friend.

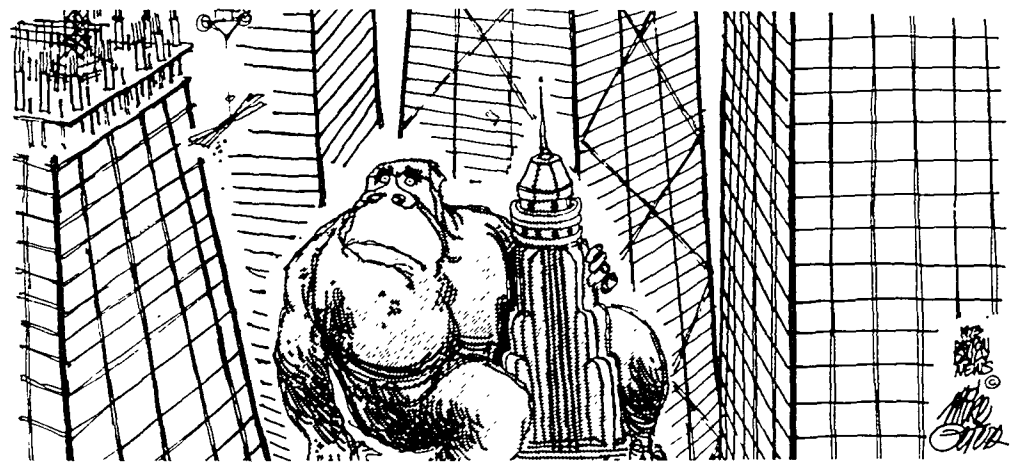
Perhaps the reason that everyone was so unemotional in your presence was directly related to your presence itself. Perhaps your disgruntled face and cynical outlook were contagious. Maybe people didn't want to talk to you because you found very little good in anyone or anything. Possibly they were turned off by your profuse hang-up with the word "fuck"...I really don't know. The answer really lies in yourself and those who are around you.

Let me make a few suggestions that might give you a better idea of what I am talking about. A smile here and there would make somebody's day...like your own, for instance. It's great for the facial figure, and they come cheap. In most cases, they're even free.

You'll find that by striking up a conversation with somebody that they will usually light up and be quite cordial in reply. The word "fuck" has its place along with other similar words of the "four-letter" variety, but you'll find the word so overused that it doesn't have any meaning anymore anyway. Besides there are quite a few people that would prefer not to have the word used in their presence for their own particular reasons.

Look at it this way. What you are displaying is some kind of cynical facade that is not really yourself. You're jumping on the "I hate Penn State bandwagon" because right now it seems like the thing to do. Is it really the thing to do or are you just bitter because you didn't have the guts to leave this place four years ago? Remember, it was your decision to stay on, and if you got nothing good from the people of this community, then we've wasted your time.

Henry Sosinski
(10th-law enforcement and corrections)



A chance for change

Editor's note: The following column is the opinion of the author and does not necessarily represent the views of any organization.

By JOHN MARTONICK
13th-community development

On May 15 students who have registered to vote in State College have the chance to change the priorities of the town government. For some time now, editorials have called for student involvement in town politics, students complain about the treatment they receive from certain town merchants, and requests made of local government officials have generally fallen upon deaf ears.

What is involved here is not student control over the Borough of State College. What is involved here is not the liberal plea for equal representation under a quota system. As a matter of substance, this particular viewpoint is written by a conservative man. The

Community forum

conservative man fears the type of government which has existed in the Borough of State College for quite some time. When one particular group monopolizes power for such a considerable length of time, a degree of stagnation develops. The past record of the government of the Borough of State College typifies this stagnation.

But, perhaps more importantly, voters in the Democratic primary should address themselves to two factors.

The first of these is that the same people who have developed the negative, do-nothing, non-progressive approach to State College problems are running for the same offices, backed by the same people, year in and year out. In essence the bureaucratic structure tends to be

more concerned and content with perpetuating its own existence than with providing the services which all the citizens of the community expect from their government. The government on any level, but especially on the local level, is, then, viewed as service oriented rather than primarily a governing body. Indeed, should the government not provide the desired and expected services, its legitimacy with the residents would be severely challenged in regard to law-making and code enforcement.

Secondly, the Borough of State College is a rapidly growing community. No person can stop this growth and no one should try. However, there is an inherent danger here. If the proper planning procedures are not applied, the rapid growth will bury us. If they are applied, the Borough of State College will become the hub of Central Pennsylvania.

What this means is, of course, increased economic growth, job opportunities, the possibilities of modern efficient transportation systems, etc., everything associated with an important residential area.

If the proper planning does not take place, all of the problems that are associated with an important residential area will also develop.

In the end, therefore, it is essential that progressive minds be at the helm of the local government; people who are more obsessed with guiding the Borough through this important phase than they are with perpetuating their own growth as a clique intent on maintaining the status quo, granting political favors to their friends, and battling those who would attempt to change the existing conditions.

Who are the candidates? Why are they any better than those who hold office at the present time?

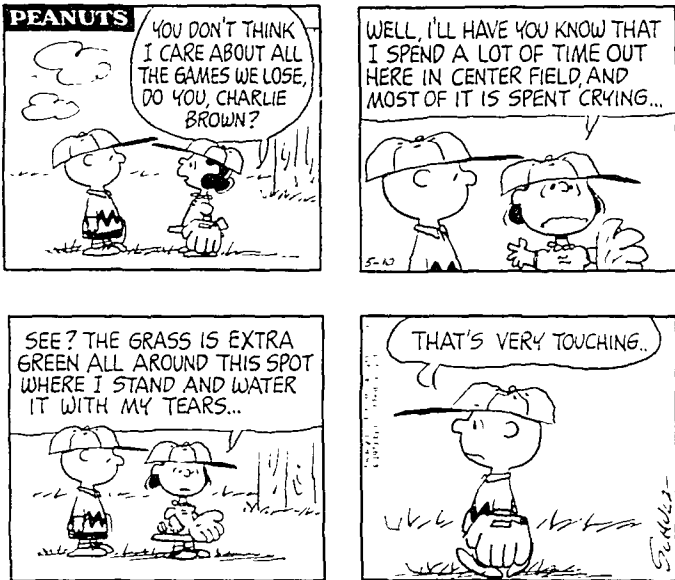
They are Lew Hirsch for mayor, Dean Phillips and James McClure for borough council, Marie Garner for tax collector, and Dan Chaffee and Terri Novak for school board.

They are different for several reasons. All have a stake in the future of State College and know that so do students. Mr. Hirsch is a graduate student in mathematics, Mr. McClure is an incumbent borough councilman who has always had an open ear for the concerns of everyone, Mr. Phillips is a student who has been a resident of State College for a number of years, Ms. Garner was instrumental in securing student voting rights in Centre County and has resided here for 26 years, Ms. Novak is a community development professor and Mr. Chaffee, an engineering student.

It is essential that every student who is registered to vote in the Democratic primary give these candidates careful consideration. It is equally essential that all the candidates for local office on the Democratic ticket be given consideration. Only if the ideas of all the candidates are taken into consideration will your vote for the aforementioned candidates be justified.

None of the candidates mentioned here are oriented toward a particular group. If they were, they would be defeating their own purpose of fair and equal representation for all State College residents regardless of their occupation or political affiliation.

Those of us who are registered Democratic have the responsibility of supporting the best candidates that our party has to offer in the primary. No matter what reason you vote for, do vote. After so many years of unresponsive government you owe it to the community to vote for the most capable candidates and, more importantly, you owe it to yourself.



the daily Collegian

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Successor to the Free Lance, est. 1887
Member of the Associated Press

Editorial policy is determined by the Editor.
Opinions expressed by the editors and staff of The Daily Collegian are not necessarily those of the University administration, faculty or students.

Mail Subscription price: \$17.50 a year.
Mailing Address: Box 467, State College, Pa. 16801

Office: 126 Carnegie

Editorial Staff: 865-1828
Business Staff: 865-2531
Sports Staff: 865-1820

Business Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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S. 1400: a serious threat to the free press

By PAUL SCHAFFER
Former Collegian Editor

President Nixon surprisingly gave credit recently to a "vigorous free press" for revealing the truth about Watergate. But with all politicians — and particularly Nixon — we must watch their actions, not their words. Nixon's recent actions are truly shocking and frightening.

The latest is his proposed "Criminal Code Reform Act" of 1973, which was sent to Congress March 22 and introduced March 28 as S. 1400. Hidden deep in this 336-page document are several provisions which, if passed into law, will pose the most serious threat to the free press since the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798.

Sen. Edmund Muskie, D-Me., has spoken out sharply against the bill, saying it "would establish in peacetime a system of government censorship that a democracy could hardly tolerate in a time of war." As proposed, the bill would:

- punish government officials who disclose almost any kind of defense and foreign policy information, regardless of whether its disclosure would endanger national security;

- punish newsmen who received such information, unless they reported the disclosure and returned the information to the government;

- punish all responsible officials of the publication, as well as the reporter, who had a role in making the information public;

- punish government employees who knew a colleague had made an unauthorized disclosure and failed to report the colleague.

The penalties for these violations range from three to seven years imprisonment and \$25,000 to \$50,000 in fines. Muskie says these penalties would be imposed "on actions which are not now considered crimes; which are, instead, the applauded work of investigative journalists."

It is difficult to think of any recent journalistic coup d'état, such as the Watergate or Pentagon Papers cases, that would have been possible —

legally — if S. 1400 had been on the books. The Nixon Administration obviously wants to send investigative reporters back to collecting unemployment checks or, at least, doing obituaries and retying public relations bulletins.

S. 1400 does do a reasonably good job of defining "classified information." The problem is that disclosure of such information is automatically punishable, regardless of whether those involved can prove that publication did not damage security. This is crucial when you consider the way in which documents are classified.

In spite of recent attempts to lower the number, there remains about 20,000 persons qualified to stamp something top secret, secret or confidential. None needs to explain why he chose to "classify" anything. As Muskie points out, very often that power has been used to hide incompetence, conceal waste, camouflage corrupt behavior and cover up facts.

Jack Anderson's staff has revealed how ridiculously far this system has gone. For instance, the FBI has classified a Turkish newspaper article on the writing habits of James Baldwin. A "classified" newspaper article! Yet with S. 1400 as law, Anderson's entire staff could be sent to jail for up to seven years for revealing that document.

These practices — combined with the quite reasonable feeling employees might have of "when in doubt, classify" — have resulted in files of 20 million documents in the Defense Department alone and a 26-year backup in release of information from the State Department.

S. 1400 also tries to define "information related to the national defense," since under the law it would be a felony to communicate such information to someone not authorized to receive it. But the definition is so broad, it could include just about anything. It reads:

"Information relating to the national defense is defined as information, regardless of its origin, that relates to U.S. military capabilities, planning,

communication, installation, weaponry, weapon development or weapons research, to any intelligence activities of the United States, and to the conduct of foreign relations affecting the national defense."

A further indication of S. 1400's power is that mere possession of such information is enough to put someone in jail for seven years. It would be a felony for a reporter to fail to report that he received such information; it also would be a felony for him not to give it promptly to "a federal public service servant entitled to receive it."

As Muskie says, "Thus all reporters not only commit a felony when they use the information, but they commit a felony if they don't turn themselves in when they receive it." In addition, editors, publishers, distributors and anyone who repeated the original publication would be liable to punishment.

"When these ... provisions are taken together," Muskie concludes, "they can only be described as a 'national secrecy act.'"

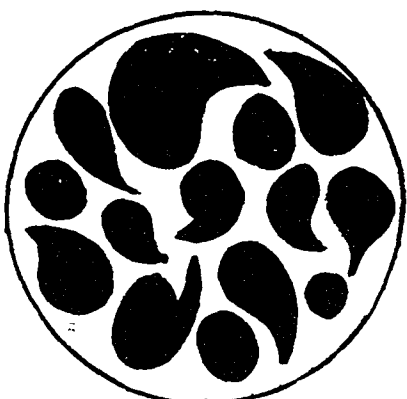
The defeat of S. 1400 is of vital interest to every citizen — not only to the small minority who are reporters, editors and publishers. The system of government we have now is far from perfect: take away the people's right to know — the journalist's right to act — and the people have nothing. Without a free press, the people know only what the government wants them to know; and that is one of the characteristics of a dictatorship.

Those in government must remember that if they have little to hide from the people, then they also have little to fear. Journalists don't take fiendish glee in fabricating corruption or in tearing down governments by themselves; they can't do it. All they can do is seek the truth. What happens next is up to the people.

The defeat of S. 1400 will insure your right to continue hearing the truth, not "public information." Journalists will appreciate your support; remember, their fight is your fight as well.

CHAOS-IN-THE-QUAD 1973

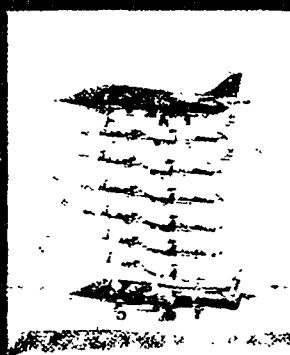
This Saturday - All day
May 12 - Noon - 1a.m.



- Art Exhibition
- Morning Song (1-4:30 PM)
- Mudshark (9-1 AM)

West Halls
Quad

The Harrier



THE
MARINES
ARE LOOKING
FOR A FEW
GOOD MEN TO
FLY IT.

Apply now for pilot training

1st Lt. Thomas Dunkelberger USMC, a 1971 PSU grad, will be on campus May 14 and 15 to discuss Marine Corps aviation opportunities for college seniors. Lt. Dunkelberger will be in Room 320 Wagner Bldg. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HOMEcoming

is only 144 days away; Sept. 29, 1973. So let's start planning now for the best one ever. Applications available at the HUB desk on May 8, for over-all, pep rally, lawn display, motorcade, window display, banner, publicity, half-time program, homecoming queen, booklet, secretary, and business manager chairmen and committee memberships. Return them to the HUB desk by May 15, 1973. If you have any questions call UUB office at 865-8651 or Jerry Blake at 237-8504.