

# A lost cause

The referendum is over, and students have voted overwhelmingly that the Association of Residence Hall Students should hold open elections. ARHS meets tonight. Will its members sit around toying uselessly with the idea of appealing the USG Supreme Court decision, or will they accomplish something?

ARHS must give up fighting for lost causes. It cannot appeal the March 17 Supreme Court decision requiring ARHS to hold open elections by the eighth week of this term. The USG constitution requires appeals of court decisions to be filed within five class days of the court decision. Sixteen days have passed.

ARHS must not hold open elections and must do it by the eighth

week of the term as specified in the court decision. If ARHS members want to retain any control over the organization so that the politics of open elections do not damage its present high credibility with the administration, they must decide tonight what manner of open elections it wants to hold, including what qualifications a student must have before he can run for ARHS president or vice president.

If ARHS can agree on these amendments to its constitution tonight or very soon, the court must not force ARHS to use the USG election committee or procedures.

The USG constitution guarantees student organizations the right to choose the manner of elec-

tion for their presidents. As long as ARHS agrees to hold open elections by the eighth week of this term, the court should ratify any reasonable amendments ARHS drafts concerning the manner of ARHS elections.

The Court must display objectivity and intelligence, not power. If the ARHS elections are not held properly the new ARHS president could end up as powerless as a USG president.

ARHS could become a political group rather than a service and representative organization if the court insists that ARHS hold the elections in a manner the USG court rather than ARHS chooses.

ARHS members: don't let it happen. Get to work.

# Tear down the wall

All townies hate students and rip them off whenever they can.

All students are communists who streak every night.

These old truisms are not always true. But they do cause misunderstandings and hard feelings between State College residents and Penn State students.

The Organization of Town Independent Students is trying to dispel these harmful misconceptions. As a result, you may see people from the other side of The Wall sitting in your classes and eating in your dining hall today.

No, not the Berlin Wall — the State College Wall, the wall on College Avenue which separates campus from town and students from town residents.

OTIS has invited 60 townspeople ranging

from businessmen to politicians to see you and the campus, giving them a chance to know more of Penn State than just the football stadium.

For perhaps the first time, State College residents and officials will see students on the job studying rather than on The Wall drinking. And for perhaps the first time, students will see that State College officials do not kick every bicycle they see.

The type of interaction between town residents and students that will occur today must occur more often. It will promote better understanding between the two groups which can result in increased cooperation. And with that kind of cooperation, constructive things can be done and the wall, in effect, will be torn down.

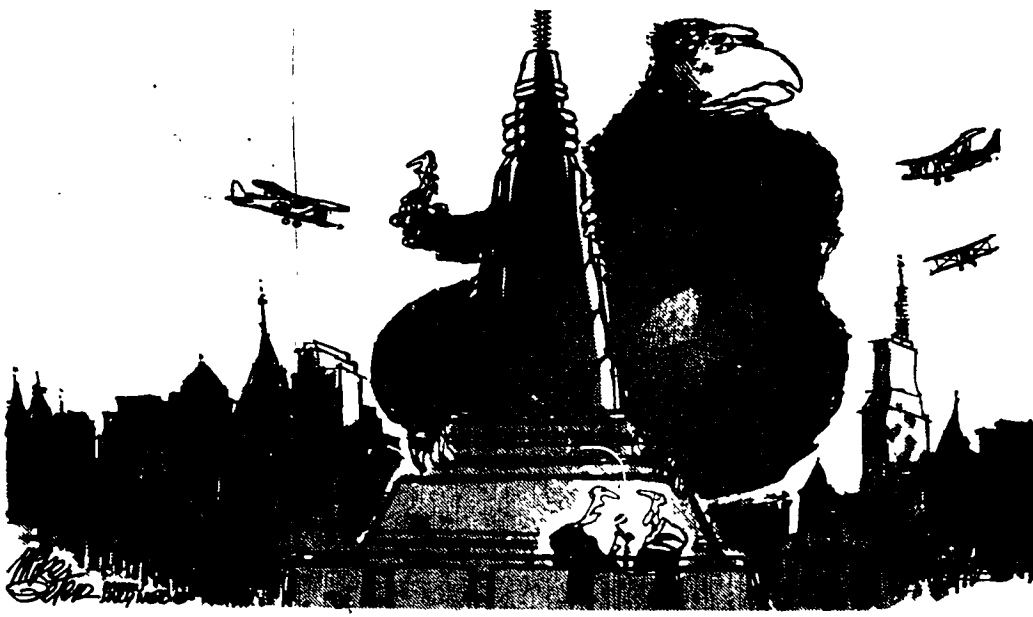
# the Collegian

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## Letter policy

The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and campus and off-campus 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.



# Nixon's Europe blunder

Editor's note: Peter Roggen is an exchange student from Germany studying at Penn State this term.

By PETER ROGGEN  
For the Collegian

President Nixon's frontal attack on Western Europe in Chicago March 8 marked a dangerous climax in tensions between the United States and Europe. When he warned the Europeans that "the day of the one-way street is gone" for Europe to benefit from American security protection while rejecting the American version of political-economic cooperation, he predictably infuriated the Europeans. European countries, especially France, oppose a link between military security and political-economic cooperation.

Nixon's and Europe's viewpoint on these questions are not new, and an increasing of the tensions is neither wished nor useful. The reason Nixon attacked the Europeans so strongly seems to be in good old authoritarian traditions: the best way to get people's minds off domestic problems—namely Watergate—is to direct their attention to foreign problems.

The question of cuts in the level of American troops committed to the defense of Europe is not new, but Nixon seems to have hoped that the American public could be rallied around an embattled chief executive faced with global challenges.

But, in fact, Nixon's statements will not help him because the insecurity about his presidency prevents the Europeans from finding final conclusions to the problems of the basic differences between the United States and Europe.

Washington demands to be cut into the process of European political consultation at a point early enough to know which way decisions are going and to register complaints about things that seem unacceptable to American interests.

And the question of whether the United States is a partner or a leader has existed even since the foundation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. During the Cold War period, the United States wished to have a powerful and unified partner in Europe against the Russian threat. This too was a reason for the foundation of the European Economic Community (EEC).

During the post-war years the situation changed. The Europeans became more independent of the United States. They built up a new and successful economy and American influence declined.

The West-East detente caused Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to initiate a new "Atlantic Charter" in April 1973 in his New York speech entitled "The Year of Europe."

From there the relationship has gone steadily downhill. The

new "Atlantic Charter" received welcome in Europe which ranged from luke-warm to openly hostile.

Kissinger had seriously miscalculated the European situation. The EEC was not ready to join in a new act of alliance policy.

The EEC is in the middle of one of its biggest crises and has problems enough. The unification process goes too slowly, the economics and monetary problems split the community and a single nation's interests differ in nearly every negotiation.

Kissinger's concept sounded to the Europeans like a statement of relations among adversaries rather than among allies. So, they flattened it into meaningless and bland statements.

The American-European crisis flared into open hostility during the October Middle East war, when the United States felt it had been left isolated by its NATO allies. The Common Market nations decided to adopt a pro-Arab stance, fearing the loss of oil would paralyze their economies. France adopted an especially independent energy policy, and the U.S.-French disagreement broke out vigorously at the 13-nation Washington Energy Conference in February.

On March 4, Kissinger's attempts to forge a unified Western policy toward the oil-producing countries was wrecked when the Common Market decided to initiate political-economic cooperation with 20 Arab nations. The reaction was Nixon's warning of an American disengagement in Europe.

Now the positions and tactics are clear. The French government prefers to speak with the Arabs for itself and recognizes a new evidence of an American-Soviet "condominium" over Europe, now escalating its reach in the name of detente.

West Germany is in a dilemma because it fears being forced to choose between the bilateral connection with the USA which guarantees its security, and France which is its biggest trading partner and is essential to its economical and political success. The security given by NATO and especially by the United States is the needed background for the German-Russia negotiations, the so-called "Ostpolitik." The Alliance between Germany and France is the core of the European Community.

Despite the possible popularity brought by annoying the "ungrateful" Europeans, Nixon's widening of the American-European rift will thrust him into more difficulties.

The French newspaper Le Monde stated: "The trial of strength between Europe and the United States has begun...the confrontation can't end before one is defeated."

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Established brother-sister camp in Pocono Mountains will be interviewing for general and specialty counselors on April 11 and 12. Sign up for interviews in the Student Employment Office, 105 Boucke or write to Camp Akiba, Box 400, Bala Cynwyd, Pa. 19004.

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**Collegian, Inc.**

... the controlling body of The Daily Collegian is taking applications for five positions on its Board of Directors. Applications should include name, address, telephone number, student's term and major, and a brief summation of why applicant wishes to work with The Daily Collegian's policy-making Board.

The following positions are open:

- two undergraduate students to serve two-year terms;
- one graduate student to serve a one-year term;
- one faculty member to serve a three-year term;
- one person with business expertise to serve a two-year term.

Student applications should be sent to Chazz Salkin, 200 Highland Ave. Apt. 209, State College (238-2827); and faculty and business applicants should send applications to Harold White, 60 Rec Bldg., University Park 865-9202).

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