

Freedom of ideas

Without a free flow of ideas, Penn State could not be considered a university. Yet University officials in three colleges have impeded that flow — at least temporarily.

American Association of University Professors (AAUP) newsletters announcing a meeting were taken out of faculty mailboxes in the College of Agriculture last week. Pennsylvania State University Professional Association (PSUPA) newsletters similarly disappeared from mailboxes in the colleges of Earth and Mineral Sciences and Human Development last spring.

In all three cases the newsletters were "remailed" later so the flow of ideas was not blocked. But the flow was slowed down which is just as bad, since the same principle — freedom — is injured in both halting and slowing the flow.

Freedom is the right to choose. The United States is a free country because its citizens have the right to choose everything from their brand of deodorant to their careers to their political leaders.

Freedom is basic to education. An "educated person" is exposed to a wide variety of ideas, concepts and philosophies, from which he chooses those he believes are the best or the most true or most practical. Or he conglomerates several of them to make what he believes to be an even better idea, concept or philosophy.

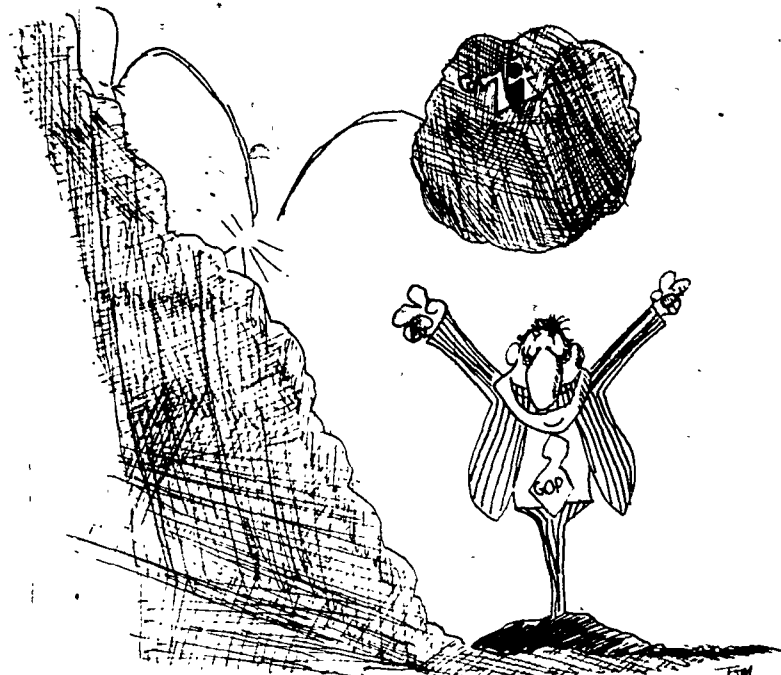
This selection and conglomeration process is severely limited if the input a person receives is limited. Purposely limiting the flow of ideas a person receives could be called propagandizing. In other words, if you consider unionization a bad idea, you try not to let the

workers know the good effects but tell them all the bad effects unionizing could have.

Propaganda has no place in a university. "Universal," the root of the word, means all, everything. A university must be a place where all ideas, or as many as possible, are available for the selection and conglomeration process to take place.

Just as United Postal Service packages and students' late assignments are not removed from faculty mailboxes, neither must unsolicited student evaluations of their instructors and newsletters be removed.

A faculty member has the right to restrict for himself the flow of information he receives by not reading evaluations or newsletters before throwing them away. But in a free country, and especially at a university, no one must assume anyone else's right to restrict that flow.



'Landslide!'

the Collegian

PSORML

Apathy, not lack of leadership, is to blame

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By BRENDA GESKE
and CHARLES W. EIGENBROT, JR.
Penn State Organization for the
Reform of Marijuana Laws

In recent years, decriminalization of marijuana has been one of the most controversial and debated issues in the United States. Why has this issue gained so much attention? To begin with, estimates of up to 35 million Americans (according to Mississippi's James O. Eastland's committee's latest finding) have smoked marijuana. More than 420,000 people, 88 per cent of whom were under the age of 26, were arrested in 1973 for marijuana-related offenses, which represents a 30 per cent increase over the previous year. As of this date, medical arguments have been inconclusive; however, one point is obvious — criminal laws have not been an

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effective deterrent to use. A Consumers Union study entitled "Licit and Illicit Drugs" states: "It is much too late to debate the issue: Marijuana versus no marijuana. Marijuana is here to stay. No conceivable law enforcement program can curb its availability."

We should continue to investigate the possible harmful effects from marijuana use, and we should make this information known to the general public. But the lack of any significant findings to date is convincing evidence that whatever harmful side-effects are

eventually linked to marijuana will be minor. There is certainly no evidence to indicate the type of threat to the public health which would warrant the imposition of criminal laws against the user.

According to the FBI, more than 1.1 million individuals were arrested for marijuana offenses between 1970 and 1973. The Shafer Commission uncovered the unsettling fact that 93 per cent of the arrests are for possession, and two-thirds of these involve a quantity of one ounce or less. It is obvious then, that the user bears the brunt of the laws. The typical marijuana user hardly fits the stereotyped image. Former President Nixon's Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse, which incidentally spent more than 2 million dollars while conducting the most exhaustive and thorough study to date, concluded, "The most notable statement that can be made about the vast majority of marijuana users is that they are essentially indistinguishable from their non-marijuana-using peers by any fundamental criterion other than their marijuana use."

The marijuana laws stifle the already overburdened criminal justice system with the processing of minor arrests. Furthermore, to the millions of young citizens who are defined as criminals, these laws engender disrespect for the entire legal system. The consequence of these laws necessitate the decriminalization of cannabis sativa.

PSORML, the Penn State Organization of the Reform of Marijuana Laws, is a registered student organization affiliated

with the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). Since our inception last year, we have worked toward our goal — correcting the injustices inherent in the existing laws of this state. The leaders of PSORML are admittedly amateur politicians. This fact explains some of the problems we have encountered. Nevertheless, it has been our policy to welcome new ideas and encourage new members to assume positions of responsibility. However, student apathy — and not lack of leadership, as indicated in the Oct. 17 Collegian article — has been and remains our biggest problem. In keeping with our above-stated policy, we lowered membership dues and now have more than 200 members — not bad for a start, but disappointing in light of the fact that there are about 30,000 students at University Park. A PSORML survey completed last spring revealed that 69 per cent of the undergraduate population has used pot. Of this same population, 55 per cent (15,500 people) consider themselves regular users, and yet only 26 per cent have even a rough understanding of the current Pennsylvania marijuana laws.

We have a three-pronged attack outlined for the coming year: judicial, legislative and grass-roots. Plans are under way to challenge the constitutionality of the Pennsylvania marijuana laws in a civil suit brought by PSORML. The introduction of decriminalization bill(s) is being actively considered in coordination with a state-wide petition drive to gather support for the bill(s). Penn State will become the center Pennsylvania NORML's activities, as PSORML's president, Steve Rudman, has been appointed its director. Other plans include (a) establishing a reference center-office in the HUB, (b) a speaker's bureau to debate our position and inform the public, (c) an up-to-date survey, (d) a Free University course focusing on the latest legal, medical and social implications of marijuana use, and (e) a committee consisting of PSORML, student government leaders, University Safety and administration to discuss the enforcement policies on campus.

Wake up, Penn State! The time has come to get involved. The American Civil Liberties Union has indicated that it is illegal to discriminate against members of legitimate political organizations such as PSORML. We need active support from the Penn State community if we are to succeed. We want to hear from you before you, or someone you know, gets busted.

PSORML's purpose is not to advocate the use of marijuana; rather, we seek to first inform our fellow citizens about the laws, and second, lobby for their revision. Since we are not funded by Associated Student Activities, we have, unfortunately, been forced to make fundraising our main activity other than the establishment of a lawyer referral service and information centers around campus.

Editor's note: The Daily Collegian apologizes to PSORML for any inaccuracies in the article mentioned above and for any inconveniences it may have caused.

Letters to the Editor

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.

Letters should be brought to the Collegian office, 126 Carnegie, in person so proper identification of the writer can be made, although names will be withheld on request. If letters are received by mail, the Collegian will contact the signer for verification before publication. Letters cannot be returned.

Mature freshmen cheers

TO THE EDITOR: This is in response to a letter in this paper on Monday, Oct. 21. Three students in their 10th term wanted to know what was wrong with the present freshman attitude at football games. Why do students have to become barbaric like these students said they did? Can't they enjoy the game and get drunk if they wish, without becoming so rowdy? Why do they have to make complete asses out of themselves like these three students say freshmen did when they were in their first term? Maybe we are a little more mature than they were. If that's not true, why aren't these students still acting this way, why must it be only freshmen? Let's grow up some, and realize what we are at the games for in the first place.

Also stated was the fact that there are no cheers coming from the frosh section. I don't know what games you've been to, but at the last two home games the Crawford Hose Company has led a sizable crowd in some imaginative and original cheers. Again I ask, why is it only the frosh who are supposed to lead the cheers?

Name Withheld

Destroy the occult

TO THE EDITOR: I must protest the excruciatingly uneven treatment of spiritual matters by your newspaper. You disparaged Josh McDowell, the servant of God, as a fundamentalist in an article buried deep within the newspaper;

you report the activities of the servants of Satan in the occult Colloquy in glowing terms on the front page. This reflects hideously upon the moral and spiritual state of those responsible for The Daily Collegian.

Involvement in any aspect of the occult is condemned by God in the strongest possible terms, (Leviticus 19:26 and 31, 20:6 and 27, Deuteronomy 18: 9-24), the penalty for such being prescribed as death, (Exodus 22: 18, Leviticus 20:27). It is because the inhabitants of the land of Canaan engaged in the abominable practices of the occult that God decreed the destruction of their nation, (Deuteronomy 18:12). Those who do not wish to see the United States similarly destroyed can only mourn the spread of diabolical occultism while seeking God's help in destroying it.

Henry A. Christoph, Jr.
Graduate-history

Find out about USG

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to commend USG President George Cernusca; Vice President Marian Mientus; Senators: Joanie McCarthy, Pam Michaels, and Rick Glazier; and other members of the staff for coming out to East Halls to start a campaign to stimulate student's interest in the Undergraduate Student Government. (Other USG members were present but did not participate to any useful extent.) If this meeting was a sign of what is to come from USG then there is hope for the survival of USG.

The students, including myself, attending the forum were

given a chance to comment on recent happenings in the USG, and to offer suggestions on new programs.

I hope this "stimulate student's interest" program continues. Also I would hope that students get out to meet these panels when they come to visit the different dorm and off campus areas because this is their big chance to complain, offer suggestions, and find out what USG is about.

Timothy Brown
2nd-business administration

Million not billion

TO THE EDITOR: On Monday, Oct. 21, 1974, this paper published a letter to the editor by me entitled "Freedom for cubans." One significant correction must be made in my letter. In the final paragraph it is stated that "The Soviet Union spends between \$1.5 and \$2 billion a day to keep Cuba going." This is incorrect. This statement should read as follows: "The Soviet Union spends between \$1.5 and \$2 million a day to keep Cuba going." All the facts in this letter can be verified in issues of nationally circulated periodicals, such as, Time, Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report, etc.

Frederick J. Jones
4th-secondary education

Frozen books too

TO THE EDITOR: As being an employee of this unorganized University, I am making a complaint and directing it to the

building superintendents of the University, or whoever is responsible for the temperature of the buildings.

This morning, after walking for 15 minutes in 30 degree weather, rushing to get into the warm building, to my surprise, I found that Pattee Library had the air conditioning on. What a joke! I am presently sitting here typing this letter, with two sweaters on, and a coat over my legs.

I really don't know who's responsible, but what's the matter with you people? Are you sitting comfortably in a nice warm, plush, office? If so, I hope you walk out of your luxurious suite and catch pneumonia!

I have to sit in this stupid, freezing office all day, along with the rest of the working staff, and put up with this bullshit.

It wasn't bad enough that I had pneumonia this past summer because some ass didn't know how to regulate the air conditioning, but to have to be subjected to it during the winter, it's crazy! Come on you jag-offs! Believe me, we're not about to have an Indian Summer this year, it's fall, and it's cold! This library has the craziest heating system I ever saw. It has no control as far as warmth and coolness. It's either blazing hot, or freezing cold. Have you ever heard of a comfortable, moderate temperature? Like a nice 70 degrees year round. It's either 40 degrees or 95.

I think you people should get something together and learn how to regulate a thermostat. Honestly, us working people shouldn't have to put up with these kinds of conditions.

Name Withheld

A bad case of jammy-itis

By JANICE SELINGER
of the Collegian Staff

It's another Saturday night and you ain't got nobody. So where do you go? To a jammy.

Jammy! When I first heard the word I had visions of hundreds of college kids dressed in pajamas and jiving to music. With this image in mind I was not totally sure that I ever wanted to go to a jammy, but my curiosity got the best of me, and I went.

Now I do not want you to get the idea that this was some sort of a fatal mistake on my part, but jammies are somewhat like cigarettes — once you take a puff, you can't stop.

Some people don't necessarily like smoking, but that doesn't make them quit. In the same way, girls don't necessarily enjoy jammies, but they still go. Jammies are habit-forming — once you go to a jammy you are hooked and destined to spend the rest of your Saturday nights jammy-hopping.

My own intimate relationship with Penn State jammies started last fall during Orientation. These jammies mostly consisted of hundreds of kids

just standing around in East Halls or Pollock quad listening to music and not jiving. Then my acquaintance with jammies spread to include the only real jammy: the fraternity jammy.

The fraternity jammy is in a class by itself. In my life thus far, I have found nothing that even remotely resembles it.

At first glance, a jammy looks like a reunion of the dropouts from Alcoholics Anonymous. Practically everyone has a glass of beer in hand and is staggering around the dance floor.

The jammy is a throw-back to high school dances where the girls line up on one side of the room and the guys on the other.

The whole thing gives the overall impression of a meat factory. While waiting for some handsome young man, beer in hand, to ask you to dance, you begin to feel like a bar pick-up and wonder if there are any lamp posts available for you to lean on. Meanwhile, fraternity males are standing around rating you on the Richter scale from one to 10.

If you love to dance, a fraternity jammy is probably not the place for you. At most jammies, either very few people

dance or everyone is bumping and there is no room to move on the dance floor. You are packed in like sardines in a can, and at least three times a night someone is sure to spill some beer on you.

Beer is the lifeblood of a jammy. In fact, the terms beer, jammy and fraternity are practically synonymous. Where the beer flows the party goes, and when the beer stops so does the jammy.

The beer, available in large enough quantities to satisfy all the party-goers, usually is the cheapest, flattest and worst tasting beer around.

Because of the overabundance of beer, a jammy is a marvelous opportunity for picking up a drunk guy. At most fraternities a girl can be asked to dance by any one of 40 or 50 eligible drunk men. All she has to do is be able to support him so that he does not pass out in a drunken stupor during the dance.

Now you are probably saying to yourself, "If it is such a humiliating experience, why do you go?" Why does an alcoholic take that drink? Why does the smoker take those puffs? That's why I go to jammies.

