

Long-term payments

Two years ago Joe Student began two long-term payments one on a car and one on an education.

Before Joe bought the car, he looked at many different models and makes. He checked out the big, gas-gobbling Cadillacs and the little, cheap Vegas. He test-drove a fast, powerful Jaguar and a puttering, powerless VW.

Before he enrolled at Penn State he looked at many different sizes and styles of higher education institutions. He checked out terrifying Temple in downtown Philadelphia and little Lock Haven in upstate nowhere. He visited liberal arts colleges in which free electives abound and technical engineering colleges in which practicums are required for graduation.

When Joe finally chose a Corvette, he based the selection on several factors. He wanted a sports car, but he did not want it to be small. He wanted to get an American car rather than a foreign one. And he liked the lighter fiberglass body. He also chose it because he was able to get it in avocado, a color he liked and knew not many other cars came in.

When Joe chose PSU, he based the selection on several factors, too. Joe wants to be a

doctor, but he did not want to go to school forever to get his stethoscope. And Penn State offers a five-year medical program. Joe liked the big-college advantages in the small-town setting. And he liked the wide variety of courses and facilities Penn State offers. He also chose Penn State because it has a term calendar, a system he liked and knew not many other colleges operate under.

Joe has paid almost half of both his long-term payments now.

By now he could have traded in his car if he discovered he really did not like avocado, and he could have transferred to another college if he had found out he really did not like the term system.

But then, Joe may not have switched colleges or cars because he realizes that the color of a car does not make it "intrinsically superior" to any other car, just as one calendar system is not "intrinsically superior" to any other, according to the PSU Calendar Commission Chairman Asa Berlin.

It would cost Joe some money to switch cars, as it would cost some money for Penn State to switch calendar systems. Joe may be

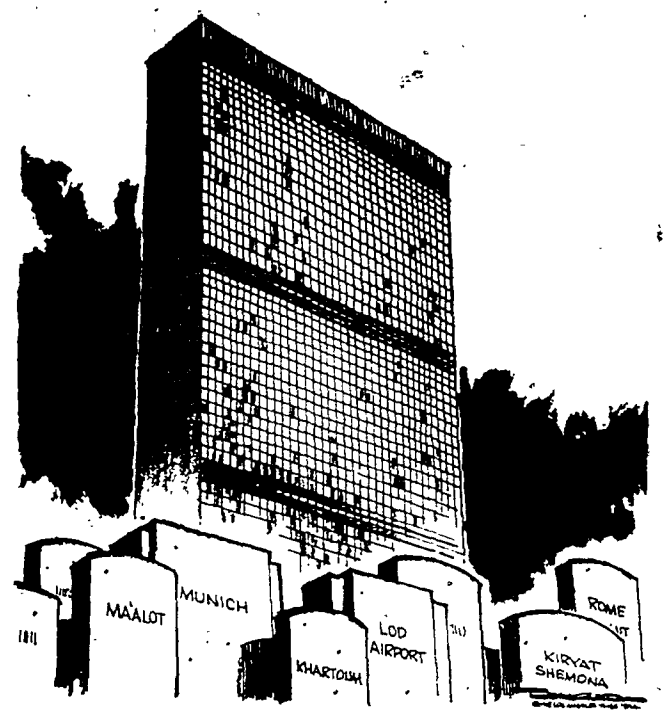
against that switch of color or calendar because he will not be getting a superior product for his money.

General Motors would never think of informing Joe that he will have to paint his Vet orange in 1976 because GM managers had decided they no longer liked avocado and did not want their make of cars running around in that color.

Similarly, Penn State administrators should not inform Joe that he will have to attend school under a semester system rather than the term system because PSU administrators decided they no longer like the term system and do not want their school running under it.

If Joe Student agreed to the change in either case, it would be all right. If the Academic Assembly poll shows that students prefer the semester system, the change is justified.

The results of the Academic Assembly poll are not in yet and may not be until next term. But whatever the result, it is the students' choice as consumers and therefore must be a serious factor in University President John W. Oswald's decision whether to switch calendar systems.



Letters to the Editor of the Collegian

Unfair grading

TO THE EDITOR: This letter is one of reaction to unfair and invalid grading policies by the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps unit at Penn State.

It has been my experience that a substantial percentage of the final grade is based on subjective material and not objective examinations of the student's ability. It is a common practice in the Army Military Science Department to have students enrolled in the same class as other students, grade their peers from criteria that can only be based upon their own views and feelings. This could never be considered valid criteria for a grade and should be stopped. Factors like: hair length, appearance, bearing, and attitude, to name a few are used for the grade. The final grade received by a student in a ROTC class is placed on the student's academic transcript and is tabulated into his all university average.

It is our responsibility therefore to plea to this University to re-evaluate the Army Military Science courses at this University and to end the accreditation of these courses if this unjust policy is continued.

Michael Gaffney
11th-psychology

And malfeasance in that a data-bank controller has inserted into a government data-bank, information totally irrelevant to the purpose of that data-bank, even to the point that the person involved knew nothing of the action.

Both of these aspects are equivalent to what the FBI in Media, Pa. did to war activists and others, what the Army did to civilians, and what Nixon did with his enemies list, but, even in those situations, the Hippocratic Oath was not involved.

Please call for the removal of all such immaterial documents from the Medical Records in question and aid in establishing a policy against all such collections. A University is not the place for such actions in any case.

Dennis A. Van Dusen
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for the Hershey Medical Center
Computerized Medical Record
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Flaherty and skybus

TO THE EDITOR: That newspapers endorse candidates is the rule, that they do it justly is the exception. This is true of The Daily Collegian.

I realize that the Collegian's choice for United States Senate, Richard Schweiker, was a qualified and capable individual. Mayor Flaherty was also an outstanding candidate.

In my opinion, the editorial staff of the Collegian, or specifically the author of the article endorsing Schweiker, should have done some research before making statements which I will prove invalid in the following paragraphs.

In a direct quote from the article "The Democrats, it is said, are running Pittsburgh Mayor Pete Flaherty, who was able to cut taxes there, because they want to get him out of Pittsburgh."

One year ago Peter Flaherty sought reelection as Mayor of Pittsburgh. His number one opponent, Richard Calaguri, had served on city council and was a popular man in Allegheny County. He was defeated by Flaherty, who had hardly campaigned.

In another quote from the article, "When Flaherty cut the budget in Pittsburgh, maybe no vital services were lost, but no new, innovative programs were gained either. That is why the Democrats want to get rid of him so they can get rapid transit and other necessities in Pittsburgh before inflation makes them more expensive."

Skybus is the rapid transit system proposed by Pittsburgh's Democratic-political-machine-controlled city council. The independent mayor's office has been, and will continue to, fight skybus for what I, and many other residents of Allegheny County, feel are valid reasons. The easiest way to describe this form of transportation, engineered

by the Westinghouse Corporation, is as a remote controlled monorail system. Of course under this system there is the obvious advantage of never having to pay drivers, but how efficiently can a remote controlled form of mass transit be expected to operate?

The overwhelming argument against skybus is the cost — a million dollars a mile. Granted, Pittsburgh needs some form of mass transit, but skybus is not the answer. The concept is new, and Pittsburgh would become a showcase if skybus were built, but the city's taxpayers cannot afford to spend millions of dollars on a novelty.

I hope in the future, members of the Collegian's editorial staff will realize their responsibility as journalists, and write accordingly.

Therese Ambrosi
1st-forest science

Short discrimination

TO THE EDITOR: In their response to my previous letter concerning my experience in the Blue Band, Ms. Nowlin and Ms. Sweitzer have shown that they missed my point. There are many bands which only recently were forced to go co-ed by law, and there are also many bands which were co-ed way before equality was strictly enforced. The fact that Penn State belongs to the first group has definite significance.

I do not contest the seniority basis of uniform distribution — it is done that way in most bands. But there is usually a certain amount of flexibility so that no member is completely forced out because of the lack of a uniform. Compromises can be worked out.

I was never specifically told that if they could not fit me with the uniforms left to the alternates, I would be removed. I guess the directors assumed that I would come to that conclusion on my own, and I didn't.

The fact remains that there is a definite lack of small uniforms which limits the amount of small people in the band. The situation was not remedied by any small new uniforms this year. I think that small uniforms should be ordered in a quantity that would seriously increase the chances that what happened to me would not happen again to anyone. Small people would not be at such a disadvantage. That is not an unreasonable request. Enough Women have already missed out on the marching band experience for a long time. There is no need to prolong it.

Anita Weissman
1st-agronomy

From a fellow student

TO THE EDITOR: I am a student at the University of Thessaloniki in Greece. My country has just been freed from a military dictatorship and for the first time after eight years we, the students, will elect our representatives.

We feel very strongly against the United States Government because

it has collaborated closely with the dictators and now supports Turkey in destroying Cyprus. The Turkish army (a NATO army) equipped with American arms has invaded Cyprus, killed over 5,000 people and left 250,000 people homeless with no food and no place to sleep. These people are desperate and so are we. The real reason of this tragedy is that Henry Kissinger and the American CIA do not tolerate a nonaligned nation, like Cyprus, in the Mediterranean.

I know the ideals that prevail in the American Universities. Freedom and self-determination are undeniable rights for human beings and nations. Therefore, I would like to ask you to raise your voice as a student representative for the application of these ideals in the case of Cyprus. Write a letter to your Congressman, Senator, the Secretary of State or President Ford in support of:

1. the condemnation of the Turkish aggression
2. the return of the refugees to their homes
3. the removal of all foreign military personnel from Cyprus
4. the territorial integrity of the Cypriot nation

Thank you very much

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the Collegian

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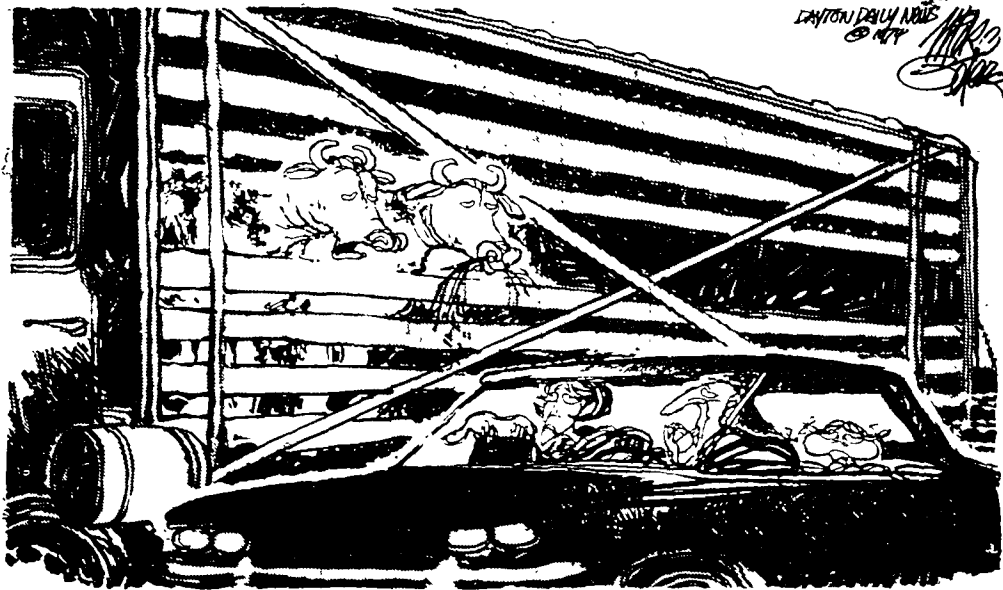
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Illegal records

TO THE EDITOR: I sat aghast as I read the letter to the editor from Ms. Bentzel in the Tuesday Collegian. There she describes the filing of her letter to the editor into her permanent Medical Record at the Ritenour Health Center by a Dr. Hargleroad. As a Computer Science Graduate Student and Research Assistant who is deeply involved with a large Medical Record Data Base, I could not believe the ignorance shown by Mr. Hargleroad, the Director of the Ritenour Health Center, in placing a non-medical document into an official medical record. What the Doctor did was both against the intent of the Hippocratic Oath and also on the verge of being illegal, setting a horrible precedent.

The Hippocratic Oath states in part: "Whatever houses I may visit, I will come for the benefit of the sick, remaining free of all intentional injustice, of all mischief and in particular of sexual relations." What I may see or hear in the course of the treatment or even outside of the treatment in regard to the life of men, which on no account one must spread abroad, I will keep to myself holding such things shameful to be spoken about."

As for the law, there are two aspects bearing. Breach of the right to "due process" in that a government official has made note of an individual's statement and, with that action, has shown that he wishes to punish that individual at some time, without the due process of law, even to the possible extent that he and his staff would deprive that individual of her rights for proper medical treatment or just cause her unnecessary anguish as has already occurred.



"LOCK, THOSE POOR THINGS ARE PROBABLY ON THEIR WAY TO MARKET....."

Life goes on for GOP

By PATRICK SOKAS
of the Collegian Staff

One facet of the results of last Tuesday's elections could have been predicted without the aid of a computer: the Democrats did better than some people thought they would and not as well as some expected.

As the night grew late, it began to seem as if CBS's Walter Cronkite and ABC's Howard K. Smith were talking about different elections. Howard was speaking of "contained defeat" for the Republicans; Walter made it sound as though it was time to make room in the elephant graveyard for the Grand Old Party.

Things do look bad for the Republicans. The Democrats have won about two-thirds of the seats in the House of Representatives and close to three-quarters of the statehouses. These are undeniably impressive figures.

It was often mentioned that the party in the White House is expected to lose seats in an off-year election, which would indicate that Republican losses are not surprising. This view fails to take into account the reasons behind the results. Victorious Presidential candidates traditionally carry with them many members of

their party. Two years later, many of these seats are returned to the party out of power.

In 1972, however, the Nixon landslide did not produce the usual generalization. Partly because he deliberately isolated himself from the Republican party, partly because he was never a truly inspirational figure, Richard Nixon did not produce much of a coattail effect. The Republicans did not make substantial gains in either House.

Thus the off-year election effect should not be strong this year. The Republican losses are very real.

The GOP has survived worse, though. At times during the New Deal, Republicans became far scarcer than they are today. And the Republicans do far better in campaigns for the White House than for the Capitol. In the last 25 years, 13 have been under Republican rule.

It might be wise to keep a closer eye on the Democrats in the near future than on the Republicans. The Democrats have a habit of helping the GOP out of trouble. When they start feeling confident, Democrats often start to feel their differences more strongly. Landslides tend to produce fratricide. The fact that there is

a presidential nomination up for grabs adds to the likelihood of bloody warfare in the party.

Perhaps even more important than the party statistics is the number of new people who will be coming to Washington. According to The Philadelphia Inquirer, even before the election 73 senators and congressmen were leaving. With the defeated incumbents added in, the figure could be much higher. It will be a fresher Congress.

Although President Ford's veto-proof Congress was merely an ineffective scare tactic, he can expect tougher going in the next session, and, yes, a greater number of overrides for his vetoes. The Democratic majority in the Senate is too small to insure overrides, but with friends like Richard Schweiker, Charles Mathias, Charles Percy, Jacob Javits and Lowell Weicker, Gerald Ford doesn't need any enemies. The US Senate seems to be the last resting place for Republican liberalism.

Congress will be different next term, but in the past, the more things changed the more they stayed the same. As usual, even after a decidedly unusual election, life simply goes on.

USG: 'Let's not take a giant step backwards'

By GEORGE CERNUSSA

Undergraduate Student Government President

Once again the USG was thrust into turmoil. Was it because for once it was considering student interests rather than selfish self-perpetuation? Or perhaps it was because the senate was debating a piece of legislation which directly affected all of the undergrads at University Park? Of course not! That would be in direct violation of the USG tradition.

As a matter of fact, the catalyst of the controversy was an issue which the self-professed liberals of the USG and press could not and would not understand. Under

Collegian forum

direct and venomous attack was the right of an individual not to be discriminated against because of sex, skin color, religious beliefs and age.

The vice president of the USG had resigned, and the president had the gall to consider as a replacement a 56-year-old third term student. Even though this person had students' interests at heart and was dedicated to strengthening the student voice in the University, his age was too much for even a liberal liberal to take. ERA, racial equality, academic freedom? Certainly! But trust anyone over 30? It seems that it's not "cool."

Fortunately, 56-year-old Albert Mische spared his hypocritical opponents the painful process of publicly admitting their bigotry. He did this by removing himself from the list of prospective vice-presidents. However, by removing himself from the list, Mr. Mische could not, unfortunately, remove the impediment to progress which has kept the USG in impotency for the last several years. This removal is difficult to achieve because the impediment is firmly ingrained in the membership of the Undergraduate Student Government.

The University administration has been strongly organized for decades and the University faculty is in the process of unifying their ranks through unionization. The students, however, have all their eggs in the USG basket which, admittedly, is not, and has not been, in the best of shape.

What to do? Well, a few of our more myopic comrades have decided that the reason for USG's ineffectiveness can be traced to the semantic structure of the constitution. Others feel that if we perhaps inverted Article One, section b with Article Three, section d, USG will suddenly metamorphose into a viable and effective voice of thirty thousand students. And perhaps if we sacrificed our democratic structure for an oligarchy of student "leaders" we might trade our current sterility for dictatorial fertility. These interest groups would have us

believe that the root of our problems is purely structural. Bull!

An organization is only as effective as the sum of its component parts. No more, no less. The person who would have us believe that some bureaucratic realignment will cure all ills is more of a fool than he takes us to be. People make an organization tick and people have to bear the responsibility when it doesn't.

At the Nov. 7 meeting of the Constitutional Convention it became readily evident that the problems facing student government cannot be solved in a two-hour "rap session." The convention reinforced my fears that in our haste to flee from a period of minimum activity in student government, we may be jumping from the proverbial frying pan into the fire. Certainly there are many areas of the present system which cry out for improvement, but that does not mean that we must proceed with the uncertainty of a sleep walker in the rectification of those short comings.

As a suggestion may I propose that the dilemma be approached in a more realistic fashion. Let us first determine exactly what is expected from a student government. Certainly it would be foolish to start construction of a building if we did not know what was expected of the building and how the building was to be used. It would be even more foolish if we failed to consider the reasons for which the old structure was inadequate. Possibly with a

minimum of resource addition the old structure could be converted into maximum usefulness.

Student government is in trouble in every area of the nation: Penn State is no unique in this regard and even those "showcases of student involvement" such as Berkeley and the University of Michigan are not exempt from a need for self-examination and repair. The solution lies in the examination of the concept of "student government" rather than in the arbitrary relocations of student government appendages.

The educational process has been completely transformed from the days in which Plato or Aristotle would share their knowledge with a few select individuals who would travel great distances in the hope to learn. Aristotle was not subjected to an ever burgeoning administration, and I'm sure that he never once thought of faculty unionization. Neither he nor any of his associates received defense grants or had direct ties with the local merchants. Of course the educational scene has changed a great deal since then, and unfortunately Henry Ford's blueprint for mass production doesn't only apply to automobiles. In the last several decades many institutions of higher education have begun to churn out graduates in the same manner that Buick Specials are produced.

Student interests and desires would be lost for the sake of administrative efficiency if some form of student

voice were not included in the dynamics of the present educational system. Many members of the faculty feel that the academic controls are found almost exclusively in the administration building and they feel that faculty unionization will help achieve a more balanced balance of power. However, to create a most real structure of the checks and balances system it is imperative for the student community to have a say.

An organization which effectively portrays the student point of view will give us a more powerful voice in the decisions of academic affairs, and it is surely every student's responsibility to insure that that organization does so in a real way and not only in a theoretical manner.

It is here that we find ourselves when we speak of a constitutional convention. We must recognize that the present Undergraduate Student government is not the most efficient and effective voice of the student body, and we must react to guarantee ourselves that voice.

Let us not, however, in our haste for reform, trade bad for worse. Let us be careful not to underestimate the importance of the quality of membership. And let us not be hypnotized into thinking that the full answer can be found in structural relationships.

If we do, then we might deny ourselves the very strong voice which we desperately need. Let's not take a giant step backwards.