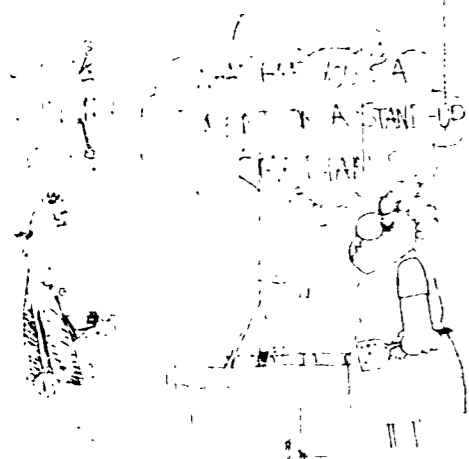


Letters to the Editor

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.



Snail protein

TO THE EDITOR: When I read the letter by Barbara Graham and Deborah Oliver concerning the worms in the food of the dining halls, I was slightly shocked but passed it off as either a mistake or an accident that wouldn't happen again. However, that evening, my roommate returned from the dinner saying that she ate a very nourishing meal of pie and cake since she had found a snail or some similar creature on her plate along with her rice and roast beef au jus. Upon commenting upon it to the ladies behind the counter, they just gaped at her.

I realize that one could argue that these creatures contain protein and other nutrients that are "good for you," and indeed may be better for you than some of the other "foods" that the dining halls serve; however, paying \$413 per term for room and board, I expect to get meals which do not turn my stomach at the sight of them because of a worm, snail, or other creature not on the menu. I have seen the kitchens at least in Findlay dining hall, and they are spotless. Couldn't the dining hall workers take as much care with the food as they do with the floors?

Cynthia Carrington
6th-horticulture

Shady timing

TO THE EDITOR: I do not know Joe Kaplan. I have never met, nor to my knowledge, even seen him. Yet, after reading page three of Tuesday's Collegian, I consider Joe Kaplan a true friend of mine and of every other student at Penn State. At a time when we are faced with an issue that will determine the future of our education, it is good to know that there is a person like Mr. Kaplan to defend our rights.

The University Calendar Commission would do well to listen to Kaplan if it is really interested in what the student wants. Many students, like myself, strongly support the Academic Assembly and its president in the bid to save the term system. Two polls, with margins of six to one and three to four (both running in favor of the term system) are not what one might call subtle hints.

Kaplan feels the UCC was "premature" in narrowing its alternatives to four semester options while totally excluding the term system. The UCC's chairman, in his open letter of Nov. 5, unwittingly confirms Kaplan's observation. Mr. Berlin, in answering Kaplan's inquiries, answers with such definitive statements as: "No one can say authoritatively," and "This highly pertinent question will require additional study," and "This requires more analysis," and "a complete list is not yet available," and finally, "Again a good question that will spur more inquiry than we have done." If so many questions are left unanswered, why is the UCC rushing for conversion to the semester system for 1976? If the UCC would hold off its decision for six months or a year — thus giving the problem proper attention — there would be less suspicion that the Administration is trying to shove the semester plan through with minimum opposition from the students. A better way to reduce outcry, Mr. Berlin, would be to air all possibilities out. At the present, students wonder why a year old commission finally hits the limelight a mere two-and-one-half months before its termination and when the student's organization, the USG, is at its weakest. No one can prove these suspicions, but the commission's timing is nevertheless "shady." The commission simply has to delay its action to stop suspicion.

The Academic Assembly and its leader Joe Kaplan must be commended for their role as consumer advocate. The Assembly proves that student government can work under good leadership and with capable members. I hope Joe Kaplan is considering a run for USG president. I think he could turn the USG to much better things.

David E. Williams
3rd-journalism

Question of learning

TO THE EDITOR: I am writing this letter in reference to the current scrutiny of the present calendar system. I myself have received a taste of both, having attended a semester-orientated school for the last two years. Proponents of both systems have their arguments for supporting the system that they do and I'm sure that most of us are familiar with them. All must be considered, but one aspect weighs heavier than the rest. This is the question of learning. In which system is learning made easier and more beneficial to the student? I stand with the semester system. I've heard it said that the semester allows for less pressure on the student. I've also heard this statement questioned. In my mind there is no question, the semester system gives one more time to learn and thus reduces the pressure upon him. Mid-term and final exams, which are a common occurrence here, could be replaced with a greater number of exams covering shorter periods. This not only reduces the pressures of large midterms and finals but enhances the student's ability to cope with the material. In the same light, the student has the chance to better his grade by having more grades to work with.

Many people fear the addition of another course in the semester system. But they fail to realize the addition of the extra five weeks that accompany it. With a fifteen week semester the material can be presented more slowly and can be consumed much more easily. Within the present system the professor seems much too concerned with keeping to schedule. The semester would relieve some of this pressure and possibly allow him the option of dwelling on problem topics which can be discovered before the last minute review for final or mid-term. Too often this term I have felt frustrated and angry as the professor insists on trudging ahead in spite of the students' uncertainty about material already presented. Too often have I heard the professor refer us to the text because he just doesn't have the time to present everything that should be presented. Too often do I find myself trying to decipher the "most important" from the "not-so-important" material so the latter can be neglected because of lack of time. And now that the present term is drawing to a close I sometimes find myself even more perplexed as the prof makes a final superhuman effort to include the "most important" and neglect the "not-so-important" and still remain coherent. These situations could be alleviated to some extent if the class time was drawn out over a longer period. Things could move slower, retention could be increased, and college life could possibly be a bit more enjoyable for us all.

Bob Smolic
7th-general arts and sciences

Biking more than sport

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to make a few comments on Ms. Tenyson's article on Bike Lanes. I am glad she takes biking seriously — for a sport. Some of us, however, use it as a means of transportation. This, of course, has a few beneficial spin-offs: we don't pollute, we don't deplete the energy supply, and the overall cost of production in manufacturing our vehicles does not endanger other natural resources.

I would tend to agree that the bike lane planned on South Allen Street will cause further problems. These problems result from the lack of an overall coordinated implementation of a system of bike lanes in the area SECO (the Student Environmental Counseling Organization) already has the designs for such a system. We have advised the borough and the University against the adaptive strategies currently in use. If we are going to change transportation, the impact of that change in terms of redirection of traffic flow, safety features and possible types

of utilization all have to be considered. They have not been considered in the current proposed bike lane — a simple experiment for solving a very complex problem. You do not try to heal a bleeding ulcer with a band-aid.

Bike use is more than a sport, it is a multiple sum gain for the entire community. Consequently, government should facilitate use. Co-existence and consideration of each other's rights is not a solution to the problem. It takes much more than that. It will soon be very difficult to co-exist with our atmosphere and the depleted supply of oil, water, metals and minerals consumed by our automotive system.

John F. Elliott
Graduate-community systems planning and development
Director, Student Environmental Counseling Organization

Amazing pedestrians

TO THE EDITOR: Although I am biased by being a bicyclist, some pedestrians never cease to amaze me. Most just don't look where they're going when they cross the streets, others, despite looking both right and left, cross out in front of the bicyclist. Not only is this disturbing, but it also could lead to serious injuries. It takes time to stop a bike, especially when one is going downhill or when the roads are wet. I ask consideration on the part of some pedestrians for the bicyclist.

Nancy Klalps
1st-math

Who are leases for?

TO THE EDITOR: In response to Mark Hoffman's letter printed on Nov. 7, I agree that if students are registered to vote in State College, they should pay taxes here. But he seems to think that the 12-month mandatory lease is fair to the students. But let me pose one question. If there were no students in this town, for whom the present 9 month lease is drawn up, would there even be any apartment complexes?

This entire town is set up around the fact that students comprise a vast majority of the population, and the leases should reflect this. Also, if it takes cents to be a person, as Hoffman implies, then what are all the things who are on welfare or are part of the 6 per cent unemployment figures in the United States? I suppose that they, along with millions of others of poor beings throughout the world, must be non-persons.

If Hoffman would grow up a little, he might realize that people are more than just money, and people are what the real world are comprised of.

Leonard Hetz
8th-business administration

Easy to meet

TO THE EDITOR: In a recent study conducted by a group of five Penn State students, the problem of meeting people on campus was researched. The initial goal of our group was to show how to facilitate ways of meeting people on campus.

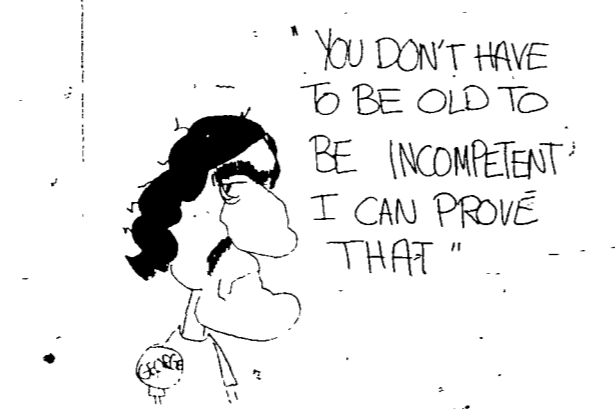
We formulated a questionnaire to be handed out to 200 students in a classroom situation. Numerous personal interviews were also conducted. The survey included students from every college, all term standings and were equally distributed between males and females and town and dorm occupants. Many surprising results were found from the data collected.

The findings from the research shows that the students at PSU seem to think that it's easy to meet people, that most people on campus are friendly and that they rate themselves high on a friendly personality scale.

In direct contrast to these results they said that they didn't know anyone and they also didn't want to meet anyone new. The students were also asked if they thought chances for meeting people could be improved at such a large university. The response to this question was yes, but very few suggestions were offered. When asked where they meet most of their friends the students said in the dorms.

The conclusions drawn from this research are that students consider themselves friendly, easy to meet but could care less about meeting people. Is this really the way it is?

Chris Boue
10th-accounting



Geritol students too

TO THE EDITOR: I have usually enjoyed the caricatures in the Collegian, but Wednesday's drawing of a feeble old man was at best in bad taste. Fifty-six-year-old Albert Mische is hardly a feeble old man, and if he were, he would not be any less capable of fulfilling the position of vice-president of USG. What he has to say, and his experience in life and at the University alone, seem to indicate he would be an asset to USG.

Why should USG be restricted to young members? Mische deserves credit for taking an interest and having the courage to face the criticism that would obviously result from his accepting the vice-presidency. If we want to be included in what the older generation is doing at PSU, why don't we allow them in our activities? Are you afraid they have a master plan to overrun the USG? That there is an organized underground of middle-aged students devoted to oppressing and enslaving young students? The USG is supposed to represent all students, including those on Geritol.

Gloria DePaolis
1st-earth sciences

Negative value

TO THE EDITOR: Thursday's article about Citizens Concerned for Human Life, an anti-abortion group in State College, contains so much misleading information that its value should be a negative one.

The oft-quoted Dr. Michael Marshall becomes a negative one as a State College dentist. This would have prevented the assumption that he is an M.D. and placed his remarks in a different perspective. In fact, when Marshall cited Japanese statistics, we should have been aware that he is not a specialist in this area, but merely a concerned citizen who happens to be a dentist.

The writer of the article had a responsibility to examine Marshall's statistics and inform us of her discovery so that we could have had some basis for making our own judgments, rather than accepting Marshall's.

Subsequently, the charge that anti-abortionists are using "grossly distorted statistics" is attributed to a Mary Gere, incredibly, she chose to ignore Marshall and accused someone else of using this technique of distortion. What is the point of having Gere's opinion follow as a contrast to Marshall's if she ignores him?

A lone Centre County physician, E. Val Liberace (who, by the way, is never identified as a physician), is finally introduced as an anti-abortionist who admits that U.S. statistics (again, we have to assume this for he does not say) indicate that few women, percentage-wise, suffer physical damage from abortions, but no figures are cited. It's all very mysterious.

Liberace later says that as many as 10 abortions are performed at Centre County Hospital each week. It's a shame that Marshall or any of the other anti-abortionists with Japanese statistics were not pressed

to give some statistics on the casualty rate of local abortions. The writer should have obtained this information because it is relevant to this article.

The writer later says that "other physicians agree" with Liberace, but only one, a Dr. Shettle, from far-off New York City, is mentioned.

Although the local anti-abortionists refer to themselves as "pro-life," the writer takes liberty and on her own refers to "pro-life leaders like Mary Johnson." Anti-abortionists may use this label, but the writer editorializes when she uses it herself. Regrettably, it makes the pro-abortionist stand out as anti-life.

Howard Picus
Graduate-journalism



Team play

TO THE EDITOR: Have you ever watched a drunken and boisterous football crowd or a drunken and boisterous football team and wondered what it's all about; have you wondered what it's doing to the crowd, to the team, maybe even to the psychology of the country? We used to be winners and to what extent we could we used to play fairly; now we just play with a mania which is something like the crunch of drugged shoulders hitting each other. Why drugged? Well, it's because you don't feel the pain as much that way and because you don't think of the pain that way whether you are giving it or taking it. If there's no thought then the mania can be all that much greater. Then, why not run the country that way?

Have you ever watched a football team play together on the field or with a girl. Team play is a pretty sight on the field; every cog, hopefully, turns in the right direction and a beautiful play is executed by a bunch of automatons who have to be smarter than ordinary because they have to remember the plays when all drugged up. Team play on a girl just doesn't appeal to me; it seems as if each fellow ought to be able to find and handle his own relationships.

Maybe it's time that football were abolished at Penn State. Then, here as elsewhere, perhaps we could get on the right track, start thinking again, and be the impetus to get the country moving again. Athletics should be games of skill, developed by individuals, which sharpen the mind and the body rather than dull it.

Murray S. Jacobson
Instructor in pharmacology

Hockey support

TO THE EDITOR: You don't have anything to do and it's Sunday night. Get all your friends together and go to an ice hockey game! The Penn State ice hockey club deserves your support. The team competes with other collegiate and amateur varsity level hockey clubs. The games are played on Sunday evenings during the winter term. Ice hockey is an exciting, fast-moving game which is coming to the forefront in the sports world. With your support and interest, ice hockey will soon become a varsity sport at the University. Come on, Flyer fans, football season is over, so go out to the hockey games.

Kenny Schwartz
7th-agricultural business management
Jody Raffensperger
7th-education of exceptional children

Superstar Flyers

TO THE EDITOR: This is in reply to an article written by Mr. Brian Ek of the Collegian sports staff titled "Expansion and the Flyers." It is our understanding that Mr. Ek feels that quality players have decreased in the NHL because of the new expansion teams in the last few years. We contend that the New York Rangers being exceptional athletes and "superstars," as evidenced by their payroll figure being the highest in professional hockey, have not achieved the ultimate goal in hockey, the Stanley Cup. In contrast to these superstars are the young and talented Philadelphia no-names who were able to achieve this ultimate goal within seven years of their birth. Why? Because quality players, and not all superstars, fell to form a winning team. Clarke and Parent are considered superstars. Yet without the help of Rich MacLeish, who was the second leading goal scorer in the 73-74 season with 50 goals, and the services of all-star defenseman Ed Van Impe and Barry Ashbee, the Stanley Cup would not be in Philadelphia. In essence, a team of individual playing superstars is not enough to be a winner. Rather quality players who give one hundred percent at all times, showing determination, hustle, and team unity will achieve the ultimate goal. The Flyers are an excellent example of this new breed of hockey player who has achieved this ultimate goal, the Stanley Cup. If these "mediocre" players can win the Cup what good is it being a superstar?

Joe Pawlikowski
7th-finance
Lou Camagna
7th-accounting

Track coaches

TO THE EDITOR: Recently the Collegian published a feature article about John Lucas, professor of physical education and sports historian. This article contained some inaccuracies concerning the women's track and field team. In this article, an error was made in naming the coaches of last year who were Maribeth Peiniger, head coach, and Alice Simpson, assistant coach, and not John Lucas as was stated by the article. It was these two people who combined their time, efforts, knowledge, enthusiasm, and love of the sport to make the 1974 season a success and rewarding experience for all involved. We, the members of the 1974 track and field team, are sincerely grateful to Maribeth and Alice for making the team what it was.

Karen Johnson
7th-biology

Inadequate coverage

TO THE EDITOR: The Collegian's coverage of the Intramural Football Program has been totally inadequate, in that a total bias toward the Greek Leagues has existed. In terms of pictures, headlines, number of articles, etc., one would have to assume that the fraternity boys are the only ones playing the game. In case the sports editor does not know, there are three other leagues competing this fall: graduate, dormitory, and independent. The cashmere sweater crowd has received enough print. Objective, nonmyopic reporting would be a pleasant change.

Name Withheld

Cut scholarships

TO THE EDITOR: It is our understanding that Dean Scannell, as Dean of the College of Health and Physical Education makes recommendations concerning the allocation of funds for athletic scholarships to the Faculty Senate. It is also our understanding that he is responsible for the cut in scholarship funds to those athletes living off campus.

The athlete living in the dorms receives full room and board, the equivalent of \$412.00 per term. The athlete living off campus, in a frat or in an apartment, receives a check for only \$322.00 per term. This is a cut of 22.4 per cent. This policy is never explained to an athlete when he is recruited.

Through a member of the board of trustees we were informed that Scannell believes the cut is justified because of the free meals athletes receive while on road trips. If so, what is the explanation for the cut in scholarship funds for the off season terms and the cut for athletes who don't make the road trips?

Dean Scannell's response, in a letter to the editor, would be most appreciated.

Tom Burns
5th-liberal arts

No mention

TO THE EDITOR: On Sunday, Oct. 27, 1974, The Pennsylvania State University, and in fact Central Pennsylvania, witnessed an event unparalleled in the history of the area. The Black Christian Fellowship under the able leadership of Reverend Leon B. Hall sponsored a Gospel Festival in Schwab Auditorium which hopefully was the dawn of a new era in human relations and understanding.

We attempted to bridge the gap of misunderstanding which seems to exist between peoples of different races, creeds and religions. In this seemingly small way we hoped to bring together people of many interests and attitudes.

We note with dismay the lack of attention afforded this concert by the Collegian, yet several days later the Southern Hillman and Furay Band received first page attention.

I wonder had this event been of a more controversial nature would it have received at least honorable mention in your newspaper? Is the Collegian anti-religious; anti-Christian, anti-black, or just disinterested in non-controversial programs sponsored by the black groups on this campus?

Stewart W. Strothers
President, Black Christian Fellowship

Abortion again

TO THE EDITOR: Maybe it doesn't bother professor Taylor that when abortion was illegal poor women had to resort to no less than butchers for control over their bodies. Maybe he doesn't see a woman's right to choose as a right to life. But I see it as such and I'm sick and tired of men undermining my freedom. Pregnancy is still a condition which a woman undergoes.

Also, the reason why doctors accept abortion is not because they have the high moral principles Dr. Liberace has, but because after counting the money made by fifty abortions, they most likely found themselves richer.

Dr. Marshall should be aware that if there are dangers associated with saline abortions, they would be complications associated with full labor and childbirth. Then isn't abortion advisable for these women? Present birth control methods are neither 100 per cent effective nor 100 per cent safe. We have our choice of strokes, blood clots (the pill), a punctured uterus (IUD), or pregnancy (diaphragm, spermicidal cream, foam, jelly, condom — if you can trust the man to use it — same goes for withdrawal, rhythm). We have never said abortion is the form of birth control we choose, but safe, legal, inexpensive abortions must exist as a safeguard. Perhaps these groups could lecture on using birth control.

Incidentally, The Daily Collegian has had many articles on these anti-abortion groups but has had sparse coverage on pro-women groups. The Orientation Week issue listed State College's and Penn State's women's groups as AWS, Women's Liberation, WEAL, and the League of Women Voters. No mention was given to either the "Spurred Women" newsletter of the Centre County chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) which has been very active since its founding last May. Among its accomplishments were action on the rape crisis center, health care in Centre County, employment compliance but we would never know it by reading the Collegian. One would think that the student newspaper would care but it seems the Collegian seems to be following a quota system (and a sexist one, at that!) on town news.

Articles like "Group urges renewed look at abortion" only proves that men will stop at little to keep women down. We know our lives can be chained down any longer by fetuses, bishops, or doctors. Rather than having "one leg to stand on," we are standing up on both legs to demand our rights to our own bodies.

Eva C. Whitley
4th-journalism

Ignored game

TO THE EDITOR: The championships of the intramural football program were played last Thursday night. There were games in three separate leagues: dormitory, fraternity, and independent. The Daily Collegian carried accounts of two of the games, those of the dormitories and fraternities. The championship game in the independent league between Leethal and C'est La Vie was overlooked by the Collegian sports staff. There was not any coverage of the independent's game, there was not even mention of the outcome of the game. One cannot understand how the Collegian sport report could cover two of the championship games, and completely ignore the third. Only two possible excuses are apparent, either The Daily Collegian is guilty of gross incompetence or obvious prejudiced journalism. It is the feeling of the members of the Leethal team that the Collegian has insulted the entire independent league intramural program through its policy of sports coverage, and it is our hope that future independent games will be acknowledged.

Brian Rogaski
13th-architecture
Robert Arbone
10th-architecture



Gag solution

TO THE EDITOR: We non-smokers were happy to see that a letter to the editor regarding the rights of non-smokers was published on Oct. 21. We empathize with the fact that cigarette smoking can be offensive. Many of us have sat and quietly camouflaged our gags in a smoke-filled classroom. The problem is that smokers do not realize that they are offending others, and non-smokers are afraid to be assertive. We would like to propose that each classroom have a designated smoking area. This solution would resemble the rules on public transportation, where smokers sit in the rear. We feel that this is a reasonable request with the intent of making both smokers and non-smokers happy.

We would like to hear further comment and see some action.

Denise Avayou
9th-art
Mary Ellen Baney
4th-liberal arts