

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.

Nunchaku not toys

TO THE EDITOR: Having just become aware of some fears concerning the nunchaku ads I placed in Rec Hall and White Building I feel that I owe all persons who read those ads an explanation.

Nunchaku are not toys! They are a martial arts weapon which can be devastating when used skillfully. They are illegal to carry in some areas, a result of their gross misuse by violent persons. I am sorry if my ads were interpreted as offering a local supply of "gang weapons." It is my intention only to sell nunchaku to serious martial arts enthusiasts for practice in a gymnasium or recreation area.

I have no, do not, and never will advocate carrying nunchaku on one's person. Above all I do not wish to have them used for any purpose other than that for which I made them. When used properly they will result in greater agility and coordination.

By now I have already changed the ads to reflect this explanation. I apologize to those who understood my ads to mean something other than I intended, and I wish to thank those karateka who brought this matter to my attention.

Gerry Santoro
9th-economics

Does the budget contain items which are not necessary, desirable or which are in essence frivolous, such as the \$19,000 the University spent to improve the configuration of President Oswald's back yard?

Does the budget spell out the use of funds such as food service revenue, contingency funds, Series 600 budget revenues, etc.?

Is the administration willing to open up its financial books so that responsible student leaders can see the ebb and flow of tuition revenue and other funds gleaned from students such as drop-add fees, etc.?

Is the administration going to once again violate its promise of no tuition increase and try to continue with its program of constantly spiraling tuition, despite the fact that funds exist to prevent another tuition increase.

It is difficult for me to understand how a "student leader" could recommend that we "rally behind the budget" when the administration won't even let us see the budget and the University financial records. Mr. Ford apparently approves of the concept that the administration should lead the blind and make sure that we remain blind. I believe that we should be able to see the way before we chart a path. To do any less is to violate the student's trust and our integrity.

Marie Blosh
7th-liberal arts

yet, get off their smug, high horses and allow theatre to be what it should be—an evening of pleasure and entertainment instead of a night of unjustified aggravation.

Name Withheld

another state when there is a bar a couple of blocks down the street.

Edward Sexton

2nd-Division of Undergraduate Studies

Spoiled Americans

TO THE EDITOR: I sympathize with the girl who wrote a letter to the editor saying she is afraid of sliding on icy walkways. But let's be realistic, the maintenance people can only work so fast. What do you propose—steam heating under every sidewalk? I'd rather see snowy sidewalks than upturned turf from the snowplows ripping away mercilessly at everything—snow, ice, and grass.

I sympathize, too, with the fellow who wrote a letter saying, "he feels he can't play frisbee in Pollock because of the new fences [I've seen so many people cutting across them, making new muddy paths. Sure, it's okay to walk on your lawn at home, but not here, where thousands of feet do it daily. Yes, why not just blacktop the entire campus? Then we wouldn't have to bother with muddy pathways or walking around fences or dewey grass. We'd just have to worry about skinning our knees in the frisbee tournaments."

I sympathize, thirdly, with the girl who, wondering if she's a spoiled American, wants to use 325 sheets of toilet paper per weekend. All I say is tough luck, sweetie, you are a spoiled American! Towels aren't that heavy are they?

I've made my point, I hope. I'm tired of people whining about "inconveniences." What's ever happened to self-sufficiency and economy? Are we all becoming so specialized and push-button oriented, expecting others to wax the sliding board for us? Do we want them to blow our noses for us too?

Pamela L. Cummings
8th-social welfare

Open the budget

TO THE EDITOR: Last week the Collegian ran a forum by Doug Anderson entitled "Rally 'round the budget." We can all sympathize with Mr. Ford's position and his desire to see programs at the University receive adequate funding. There is no question that programs which maintain academics and are supportive of the students' living environment must be fully funded and maintained. However, the University budget is not sacrosanct, it is open to questioning and adversary criticisms. We as students who pay continually rising tuition, and as taxpayers have a right to look at the budget and analyze its strengths and weaknesses. We have the right to reach our own conclusions about whether vital programs are sufficiently funded, or whether those programs are suffering because of waste and fat in the budget or the excessive funding of other less necessary programs.

Students have an innate and inviolable right to demand that their tuition and their tax dollars are not being spent frivolously. That they are being spent on programs that do not enhance the academic life of the student or his living conditions. Questioning support of the University budget violates our basic rights as students. Student leaders who do not ask the compelling questions and demand funding for necessary programs are abrogating their responsibility and are acting as little more than self-serving "yes men" to administrative officials. At this stage in the economic crisis which the country and the University are facing, to blindly pay public homage to a document which may or may not have major problems, within which may cause considerable hardships for students, is to blatantly sell out the interests of the students we represent.

There are compelling questions which responsible student leaders who are truly trying to represent the best interests of students as a whole must ask:

Does the budget provide for adequate funding of minority affairs programs, academic programs, student services, student aid and other academic, economic and cultural programs?

Auditorium policy

TO THE EDITOR: I feel it is necessary to publicly make note of an incident which occurred at the Sunday night performance of "The River Niger" at the University Auditorium.

Apparently the Auditorium coordinators have just recently enforced a rule which restricts entrance for latecomers until the intermission of the play. This meant for at least 25 people a wait of more than one hour in the theater's lobby. Many of these people were series subscribers, paying \$16.50 for season's tickets. This enforcement meant missing the whole first act of the play.

I cannot see how such action can result in anything but bad public relations for the new Auditorium. The rationale behind this policy (which had not been publically announced beforehand) was completely illogical. The latecomers, myself included, realized it would be disconcerting for the performers and audience to have persons trying to get to their assigned seats. But to refuse them to stand in the rear of the theatre or even the balconies is utterly absurd!

I have attended many theatrical events on Broadway, in Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, and never have I seen such gross disrespect for paying customers. I am sure that if any professional theater or production lowered itself to carry out such ridiculous enforcement, it would quickly be ignored by the theater goers.

The epitome of this absurdity came about when a young lady who had exited from the theater to use the rest facilities was not allowed to re-enter because the opening of doors would let in light and "totally disrupt the performance." The justification for this was that patrons would complain of the disturbance. Well, any person who would lower himself to such infantile behavior should have to wait in a lobby while an hour of a play passes.

I must also question the reasoning behind not allowing admission during the entire first act, when according to the program it has a change of scenes, calling for a blackout.

In conclusion, I feel these Auditorium coordinators must either publically announce these new enforcements or better

How to save energy

TO THE EDITOR: With all the concern over the diminishing energy supplies our legislators have been racking their brains trying to figure out ways of procuring new supplies and conserving what we already have. They are coming up with some good ideas but I think that they have overlooked a very sensible one: lowering the drinking age to 18.

As it is now, in every state surrounding Pennsylvania, people 18 or over can drink beer. In some of them they can drink any alcoholic beverage. Because of this, every weekend many of the young adults of Pennsylvania flock to the border towns to have a drink.

There are at least 100 towns with a population of over 10,000 within 20 miles of the state border. At least 200 carloads of teenagers from these towns make a trip of about 15 miles each way. Each car probably uses about two gallons of gas going over and back. Multiply this by 200 cars and you get 400 gallons of gas per town every weekend. That does not seem like much but multiply it by 100 towns and you get 40,000 gallons. Then multiply it by 52 weekends and you see that over 2 million gallons of gas a year are being wasted.

Other things to consider are the revenue the state is losing on the beer and the lives which are lost each year in car wrecks while people are making this trip.

I hope the day will come soon when a taxpayer does not have to waste valuable energy and risk his life just to have a beer in

Put in your \$2

TO THE EDITOR: I'm pretty sick and tired of listening to complaints about PIRG, nearly all of which are based on the fact that it is going to cost Joe Student the exorbitant fee of \$2 a term to finance it. Most of the loudest critics have no idea what PennPIRG is and don't even care. All they seem to realize is that it is going to cost two bucks a term.

Well, read up. Joe Student, Nader's PIRG may be the best spent \$2 ever to leave your wallet. Do without a six-pack of beer one night, or smoke three less packs of cigarettes or play eight less games of electronic ping-pong this term. Will it kill you? Or how about that new Dylan album you just bought? About two bucks of the money you spent on that goes to CBS, one of the largest and most profitable corporations in the world. Hardly in the public interest.

In these days when college students are aching to get their two cents worth in the government, but haven't got the time, you can get yours a hundredfold. Just sign the PennPIRG petition and walk away smiling.

Louis Refice
11th-organizational behavior

Fair reporting?

TO THE EDITOR: I question the fair and accurate reporting of the Collegian on the issue of the Laurel Glen tenants union. How can you splatter OTIS' rejection of our cause on the front page of the Feb. 4 issue in 3 or 4 paragraphs and then in effect, hide the USG endorsement in one paragraph under the "very interesting" title of "USG Senate OKs new court justices." I'm sure that if you lived in Laurel Glen as I do, you certainly would have placed USG's endorsement in the same article as the OTIS rejection. Come on, Collegian, get your shit together and try to do some responsible reporting for a change.

Luther Shaak
Laurel Glen tenant

the daily Collegian

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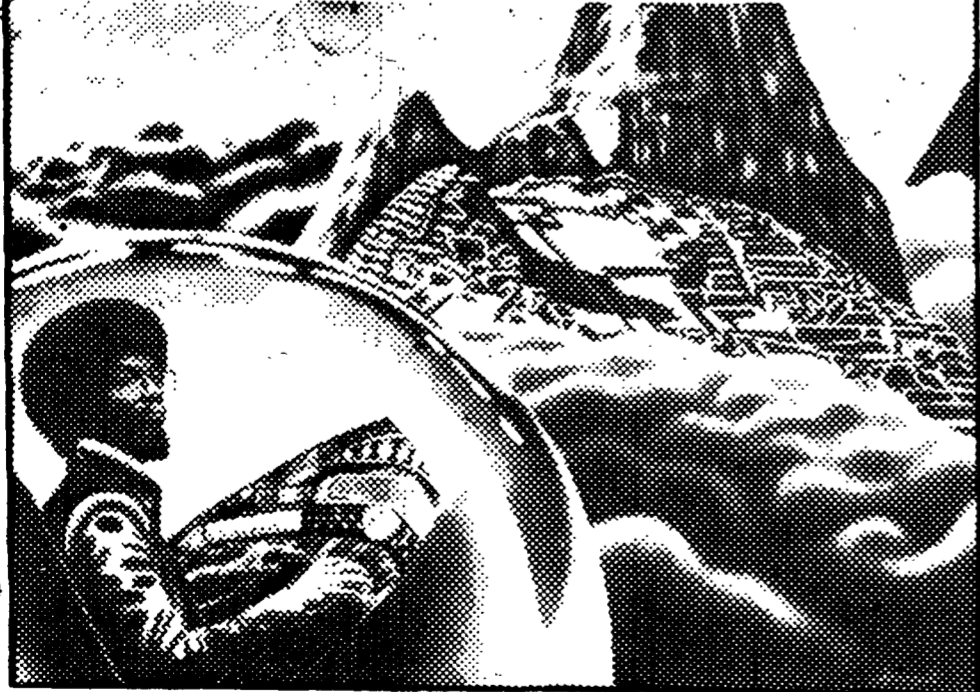
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HUB Desk

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Oh, I shall be undone!...
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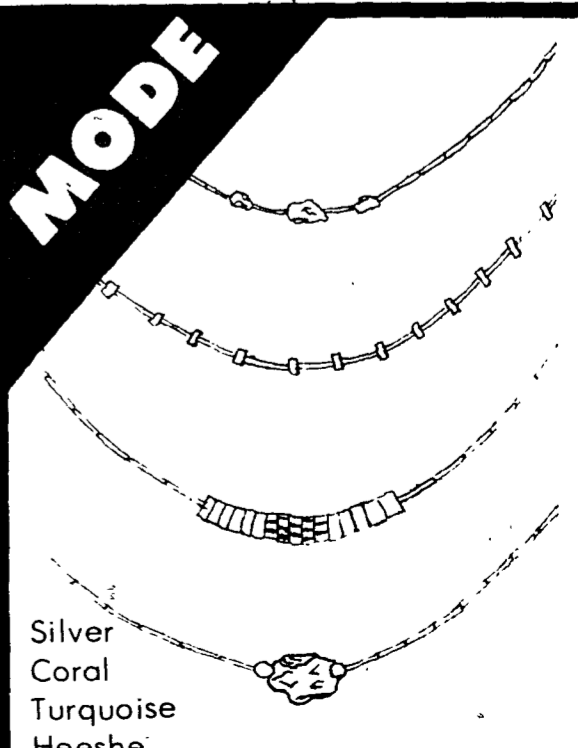
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