

In the lobby

Lobbies in Congress are for more than waiting.

Milk, oil and other multi-million dollar interests wheel and deal in these lobbies to get financial breaks from the government. It's legal. It's a fact of life. It's good business.

Students, who also compose a multi-million dollar interest, college education, have no lobby in Congress. Sure, we have the National Student Lobby which, five lackluster years after its establishment, is having to declare bankruptcy. And the National Student Association is another pseudo-lobbying venture on the part of students. Last month, one more as yet unnamed organization was formed to take on the problems of large state universities.

Penn State, a member of the National Student Lobby, declined to go to the annual NSL conference in Washington this week because of the organization's shaky financial base. Penn State never joined the National Student Association because NSA was considered too interested in non-student issues and not concerned enough with large state universities.

The new lobby is designed to deal primarily with tuition increases and other economic and academic problems of large universities. Its architects, however, are not sure that it will do the job of student lobbying, either.

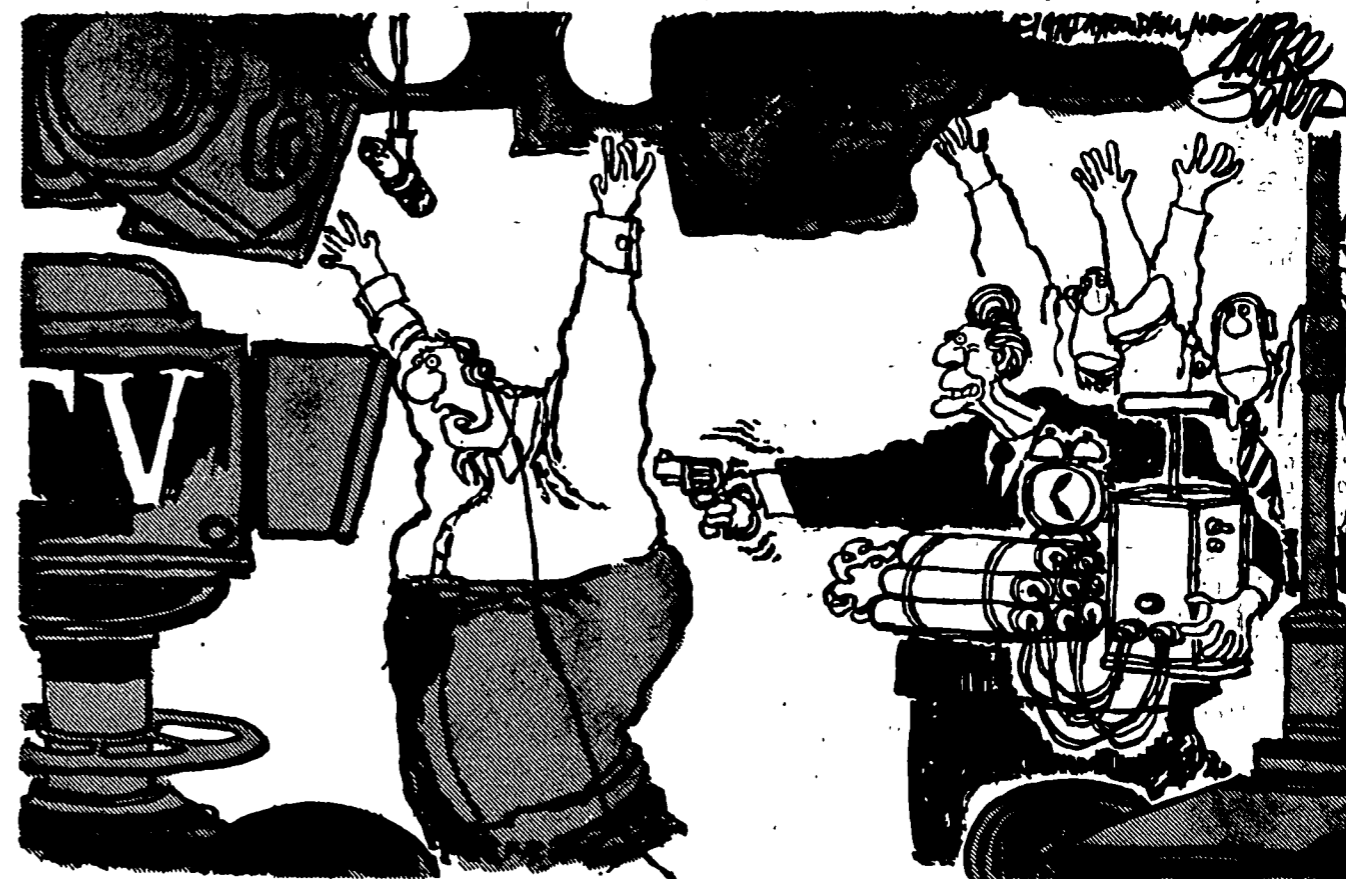
USG considers these lobbying efforts as more of an information source than an active and effective

body. There is now no unified national lobbying effort for students. The closest thing to an effective student lobby is the various state Public Interest Research Groups. Pennsylvania does not have a PIRG.

Legislators decide tuition levels and state grants to needy students. Legislators, not university presidents, ultimately decide the university's philosophy and activities, the type and number of students enrolled.

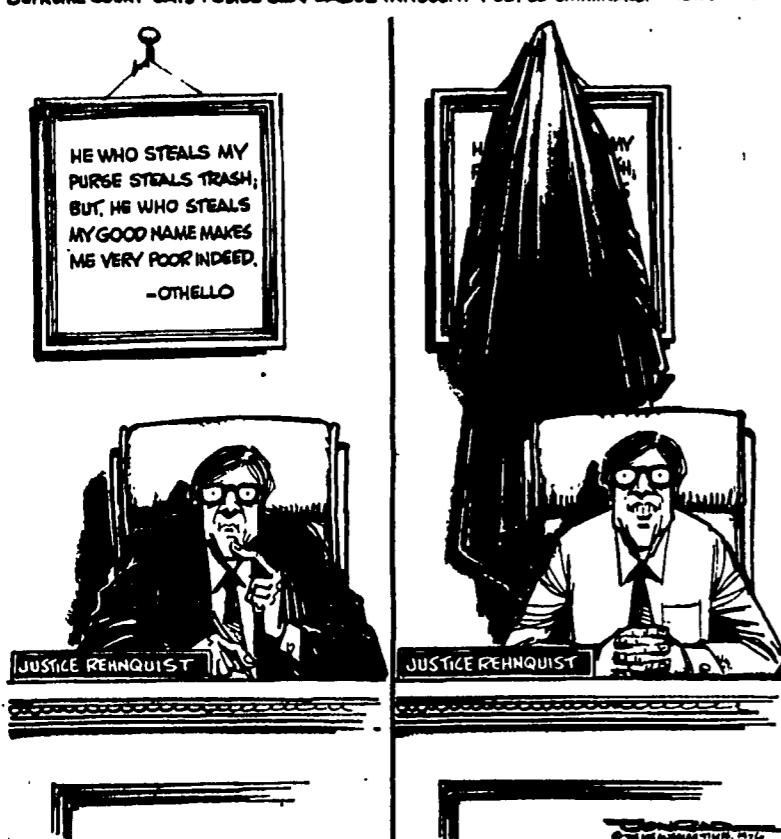
The time is long since passed when students should form an effective national lobby and claim the privileges any other group is due. College students are voters, taxpayers and full citizens. We are at least as important as dairy cows and oil derricks.

Students need a lobby.



"WE INTERRUPT OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAM TO BRING YOU THIS SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM RONALD REAGAN..."

SUPREME COURT SAYS POLICE CAN LABEL INNOCENT PEOPLE CRIMINALS - NEWS ITEM



Inside story on news coverage

Last week, about 6,400 people voted in Undergraduate Student Government elections. And confusion reigned in the Collegian office.

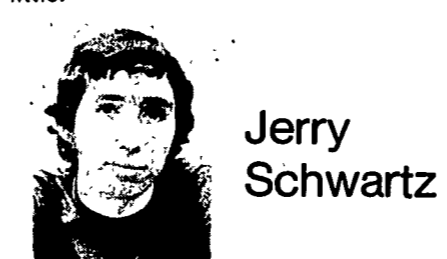
You see, 6,400 is not one half of the student population. It is not one third of those eligible to vote. It is a small group, made up, for the most part, of freshmen and firebrands.

There will be some who will accuse The Collegian for the small turnout, alleging that this newspaper's "negative approach" caused rampant apathy. But last year, The Collegian set aside considerably more space for elections coverage, and even endorsed candidates. The result? Another 200 voters stormed the polls.

At the same time, University Coalition scheduled and postponed a tuition rally several times, all the while protesting that Collegian coverage was lessening the impact of their efforts by placing stories on inside pages. Not to be outdone, USG officials bitched that University Coalition had received front page space, while a meeting between USG representatives and Harrisburg

legislators found a small space on page three.

I think you begin to see my point. USG and University Coalition have never been pleased with the coverage their organizations received; I doubt that they ever shall be pleased. So The Collegian and its editors are forever debating whether these organizations are receiving too much attention, or too little.



Jerry Schwartz

First, USG. Those 6,400 people who voted in the election seem to be symptomatic of USG's position at the University, that of fifth wheel on a baby carriage. Unlike most governments, USG

has no inherent powers — it serves at the pleasure of the administration. And the petty politicking and backbiting that has been part of USG in the past has not helped to breed any allegiance, either.

But on the other hand, USG is the official representative of students on this campus — no other organization can say that. While USG has won few major victories, minor battles, such as the Route R fight and others, have shown that USG can be effective. And given the prospect of faculty unionization, is it possible that USG could play a larger role?

And a larger question: do these pluses on USG's side of the ledger indicate that they deserve space on the front page more often than they get it now?

University Coalition stirs similar questions. They, too, are a small group, numbering somewhere around 80 people out of 30,000. Some leaders are not students, although all have at one time or another paid tuition.

The problem posed by U.C. is a difficult one, a problem that has confronted

journalists for years. Put bluntly, should the people who make the most noise get the most coverage? University Coalition leaders are adept at using the media — you'll remember many of them from the battle over non-union lettuce; and various and sundry battles over unfair labor conditions in State College. They have even frankly admitted that they hope to manipulate coverage to suit their own purposes.

Should we allow ourselves to be used? Regardless of what you feel about U.C.'s methods or the simplicity of their aims, they are still devoted to keeping tuition down. Should the righteousness of their goal, and their vocal belligerence preserve for them a place on page one?

We have been grappling with these problems for years, and I confess we have found no answers. We are a newspaper published by students — we are not part of U.C. or USG. We function in the same way every newspaper functions; any decision we make in news judgment is just an honest guess at what is important and interesting and what isn't.

Success a state of mind, knowing what you want

Gail Goring is a success. I know, because he told me he is. Gail owns five firearms manufacturing plants along the East Coast and a chain of Burger Kings in Reading, Pa. However, the firearms plants are doing much better than the Burger Kings. Gail barely breaks even with his restaurants. Mainly because most people would rather shoot bullets than eat hamburgers.

His firearms plants have made Gail a millionaire, just like his father was. His father made his first million when he was 45 years old. He made guns, too. Gail inherited four gun factories from his father. That's how Gail got started in guns. He got started in Burger Kings because his wife thought that it might be fun to own something other than gun factories. Gail listened to her, but it turned out to be a bad investment. "You don't get much return, you know — profit" is what Gail always says about his Burger Kings.

Gail considers himself a success because he became a millionaire. That was something he had wanted to do ever since he graduated from high school. He also wanted a big house and a Mercedes Benz. He now owns a large, imposing, 32-room house on Hilton Head Island. And every other weekday, he drives to

his office in Savannah in a 1974 champagne Mercedes. Success.

Gail is a success because he built up his father's business. He added an additional factory to the modest flock of four that his father handed down to him. Gail bought out the Buntline Flintlock Company and added it to his collection. Gail says it was a shrewd business deal.



Rich Ziemba

Actually, Buntline sold the business because he had killed his son in a hunting accident. Buntline swore he'd never produce another gun, so he sold his factory to Gail. It only cost Gail as much as he had paid for his 1974 champagne Mercedes. Gail made a killing, as they say. Anyway, again, it was success for Gail Goring.

Gail Goring does exult, and his story

is true. If you have the ability to understand the reality of a Creator of the universe, then accepting Gail Goring should not be difficult. Gail is a god. Many people envy Gail Goring. Many people wish they were him, especially when they see him in his 1974 champagne Mercedes. Many people wish success, like Gail's, would pick them up by their boot straps and carry them off to heaven. Except Herman Trout.

Herman Trout drives a 1965 Ford Galaxy. His boots have no straps. He is an idealist. He wants to succeed, but, like a fool, he doesn't place a pot of gold at the end of his rainbow. His desired goals are a naive assortment of fairy tale endings. He is as unrealistic as a trip to the nearest star. Trout doesn't know what he wants to do for the rest of his life. Most people would call him a crazy, mixed-up kid.

Trout thinks people like Gail Goring are not really successes. He believes that they equate money with success. Trout doesn't desire money. He says you can't buy happiness with it. That is about the only thing Trout is sure of. He wants to achieve his success, whatever it may be, not inherit it. He desires happiness. Trout is, undoubtedly, an ass. I'm almost sure of that.

Editor's note: The editorial in question did not urge students to refrain from voting. It did say that the Collegian could not find a candidate to endorse for the presidency of USG. Editorials are the opinion of the editor and not necessarily the same as those of the editorial staff.

Sticks and stones

TO THE EDITOR: We are writing you in hopes of placing the American press back in a responsible position to its audience. Our general impression of the free press has been that it should promote democracy and the fundamental rights associated therewith. Your paper, however, has failed to uphold one of our fundamental rights — voting.

Particularly, Ms. McCauley, we are referring to your editorial "Election" in the March 31 edition of The Daily Collegian. In the fourth paragraph of the editorial, you state, "...we believe that the official representative of 32,000 students is potentially very important." The significant word here, Ms. McCauley, is "potentially" — implying that candidates might have the ability to develop leadership qualities. We believe the best way to develop this potential is to vote, and elect a reasonably qualified candidate to the office. This, however, is in contrast to your morbid attempt to discourage voting and thus the development of any hopeful potential.

Later in the article you state, "Last year, about one fifth of the students elected a candidate who became a good president." Here, the principal word is "became," connoting that you felt Joe Seuffer was possibly an undesirable candidate, but that he did, in fact, do a good job as president. This alone, Ms. McCauley, should be evidence enough for you to get out and vote, hoping that the candidate you select will attempt to work for the students.

Near the end of your editorial opinion you claim that USG has "...only the opportunity to influence administrators..." We hope, Ms. McCauley, you realize that should we all not vote, we would not have to concern ourselves with influencing administrators, or for that matter anyone. When we don't give a damn enough to vote for some kind of representative, then who will respond to our needs?

Henceforth, Ms. McCauley, we believe it would be in your interest, as well as in the interest of 32,000 students here on campus to carefully prepare, i.e. think, write, rewrite, and most importantly rethink, statements of such a serious nature. At the same time, we do not expect to see any criticism about the '76-'77 Undergraduate Student Government in your Collegian, because you stayed home on election day, choosing not to exercise one of your fundamental rights — voting.

Duane R. Dunlap, President
East Residence Association
Gary R. Steffy, Editor-in-chief
LA VIE '78

TO THE EDITOR: You have failed as a responsible medium. An entire generation fought to wipe out apathy from college campuses, and you dealt a death-blow to all their efforts. Student apathy has run rampant on college campuses since the very early sixties, and just when it looks like the USG elections might whip up some level of activism in some portion of the normally uninterested student body, you tell the student body not to exercise their right to vote. Maybe you didn't mean it that way. But when The Collegian, the only semblance to a responsible newspaper that is read by nearly all University students, tells those students that it did not feel that any of the candidates were capable enough to hold office, and therefore chose not to vote, the effect is tremendous. You are feeding apathy its mightiest fuel, non-participation.

It is non-participation in marches and protests that shackles the sincere efforts of the University Coalition. It is non-participation by students that explains why Penna. still has archaic marijuana and drinking laws.

And it is non-participation in student government that makes it the farce it is.

If you are not a part of the solution you are a part of the problem. It is obvious where you stand. It is obvious where the University administration stands. It is to the great fortune of the student body that at least some fraction of it cares enough to hold on to the last dying ember of concern.

You have undone permanently any chance of waking up a disaffected electorate to realizing the magnitude of the power it holds.

As a fairly new editor you should seriously reconsider whether or not you are capable of handling the power that the press holds. If this is a sample of your editorial policy, you have lost all credibility as a responsible newspaper.

Paul D. Borish,
3rd-external letters, arts and sciences

TO THE EDITOR: Well, once again, The Collegian has proven its inability to cover anything effectively. The March 31 issue of the paper is one of the most pitiful examples of journalism that we have ever had the misfortune to read.

The staff is certainly entitled to express their opinion in an editorial, but an intelligent writer would support that opinion. Anyone can point out the problems, however, one would expect a responsible source of information and expression to present a solution. The Collegian did not, something which obviously says a great deal about the credibility of this publication as a paper. If the staff felt that there were no worthwhile candidates, they should have voiced that opinion two weeks ago, while there was still time for others to enter the race with different platforms. Encouraging students not to vote is anything but constructive. If you're "staying home" instead of voting, we don't expect to see any editorials criticizing USG next year.

The prime example of poor coverage, however, was the "USG Elections Analysis," which was anything but an analysis. Instead it was a play-ground for frustrated critics, which is nothing short of disgusting. It is entirely inexcusable that there were no references made to the good points of the platforms. By cutting each and every one of them to shreds, The Collegian has done a great disservice to all of us. We are both quite familiar with the issues (apparently more than you are), and there were valid points made by each candidate. Anyone who does not give credit to those who do care enough to participate can hardly be considered competent, or even semi-professional. Respect is due to all the candidates, whose main aim was student involvement.

No wonder there are suggestions concerning the possibility of developing an alternative student publication. You call this a newspaper?

Jamilee Wintz
8th-political science
USG Senator
Stephanie Kohan
8th-accounting
Campaign worker

the Collegian

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Editor

NADINE KINSEY
Business Manager

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