

# Obstacle course

More than 400 handicapped Penn State students confront an obstacle course each day in going to class. They face high curbs, steep staircases, unwieldy doors and detour after detour from regular routes to class.

Schwab Auditorium, Sparks, Wagner and Electrical Engineering East and West are some of the buildings totally inaccessible to many handicapped. These students are forced to schedule their classes around their environment, not around their academic needs.

As a necessity, most handicapped students decide to live on campus. But for the handicapped, dorm telephones, toilets and drinking fountains are at best awkward to use. The University will convert a dorm room to the handicapped student's specifications — and at his expense.

The University is slowly waking up to the problems encountered

daily by the handicapped. About 60 curb ramps have been placed along campus paths and a study of campus has resulted in a map of accessible routes and buildings.

But it still has a long way to go in compensating for the inconvenience on campus. A commission appointed by University President John W. Oswald has concluded that at least 27 steps need to be taken to help handicapped students.

The commission proposed that at least one dormitory be modified to fit the needs of handicapped students. And it asked that a study be made to discover housing for handicapped students who do not want to live on campus.

The commission also proposed that each college appoint a faculty member to champion handicapped rights and that the administration appoint a coordinator for handicapped services.

In addition, a special orientation session for the handicapped proposed by the commission would not only help students understand their obstacles but help the University remove them.

Even Ritenour Health Center, which should be the most accessible building on campus, is very difficult to enter for students in wheelchairs, braces or crutches. It should be the first target of any changes brought about through the commission.

The commission has done its job well. Now, it is up to the University Board of Trustees to decide which suggestions will be used.

The trustees should make anyone with a strong mind welcome at Penn State whether they have strong legs or are forced to travel in wheelchairs. It's past time to open the University to the handicapped.



## Brothers defend fraternity hazing 'Whipples Trip'—a safe tradition

By JOSEPH BORRELLI  
president, Alpha Kappa Lambda

Hazing: Alpha Kappa Lambda has been found guilty of this crime by the Inter-fraternity Council's Board of Control and, we feel, by The Daily Collegian. We now wish to get our side of the story into print, and let you be the judge.

"Whipples Trips" have been occurring at Alpha Kappa Lambda for at least seven years. We have never attempted to conceal our tradition in the past; it has often been discussed with rushees.

The "trip" is comprised of three parts: — The brother is bound and carried to the patio by the pledges. Care is taken to insure that all valuables have been removed and that circulation to hands and feet is not cut off. Once on the patio the brother is doused with buckets of water, grease, eggs and shaving cream. This lasts for about five minutes, after which the brother and pledges are permitted to clean up and get dry clothes.

— The brother is then driven to our house's cabin near Whipple's Dam. He is taken to a waist-deep creek where, after having removed his clothes, he is dunked three times by the pledges. Each dunking lasts no longer than one or two seconds. The brother is then allowed to

dry off, don dry clothes and allowed to return to a car which, depending on the weather, is well heated.

— The final stage consists of a two mile run down Tussey Mountain. During the course of the run the pinned brother is followed by a car providing light and safety from other vehicles. He is also escorted by anyone else who wishes to run along with him — quite often four or five other brothers. Upon completion of the run, the brother is taken back to the house for a party in his honor. If at some time there is any indication that the brother has been injured or is in danger of injury, the trip would halt immediately.



Collegian forum

The charges against us stem from the actions described above. Michael Seibert, the brother who brought these charges against us, went along on his "Whipples Trip" at his own free will. In

fact, before the "trip" began he was contacted by Kevin Bauman, the pledge educator, and specifically asked if he would come out to the house for a "Whipples Trip." Seibert said he would come to the house as soon as possible.

When he arrived, he was asked to remove his wallet, watch and other valuables for the start of his trip. Several times during the course of the trip Seibert was asked if he was hurt. He responded that he felt fine except that he was cold. In fact, he seemed to be in good spirits at all times. If Seibert did at some point hurt his ribs, he did not mention it to us until two days later. In any case he is being reimbursed for his medical costs.

We wish to emphasize that Seibert knew what was going to happen. He himself has participated in "Whipples Trips." We also wish to point out that many of the charges which appeared in the Collegian are exaggerations or were taken out of context.

Leah Rozen, who wrote the article, didn't mention facts about our case before the IFC Board of Control we consider important. For instance, Seibert says that he was in fear of his life. Because of the nature of the trip, a brother had a camera with him. Two photographs we have show a smiling

Seibert on his way out to the cabin and another of him giving the photographer a thumbs up sign. To us, these pictures in no way reflect the magnitude of fear described by him.

We feel it was grossly unfair for the Collegian and staff writer Leah Rozen to run an article which mentioned our fraternity's name but not Seibert's. Further, because of the negative reaction the article caused, we feel that IFC meted out punishment (complete social probation until October 7) that was much more severe than the situation warranted. We are now following IFC procedures in an attempt to register an appeal with the board.

Hopefully, the student body hasn't been overly biased by The Daily Collegian and will attempt to keep an open mind about this affair until it has been settled.

Editor's note: The Collegian reporter could not mention evidence heard before the IFC Board of Control in her article because she was not allowed to attend the board hearing. Seibert's name was not used in the initial story because he was promised anonymity in exchange for an interview. The promise was given before we were able to judge whether he should be protected.



# 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 can be withheld on request. If letters are received by mail, the Collegian will contact the signer for verification before publication. Letters cannot be returned.

## Good clean fun?

**TO THE EDITOR:** The latest incident of brutal fraternity hazing will undoubtedly elicit the sanctimonious blather about how this sort of thing is the exception, not the rule. The only exceptional thing about it was that the victim complained. Hazing is endemic to fraternities. It is the glue of brotherhood. It creates their touted cohesiveness.

Why would a sane, rational person allow himself to be humiliated and beaten? Well, next year he'll have the chance to beat up and humiliate the new recruits, and still have the community call it good clean fun. Also, he figures he's joining an organization whose members have a one-way ticket to the ruling class. The brother who is drowning you tonight may be able to get you a high paying job tomorrow. (Hence the snob appeal — anybody can get stomped by a future garage mechanic but there is true beauty in having your ribs crushed by a would-be Bic pen mogul.) Hazing establishes a person's status in the pecking order. If Bill thumps Joe, and Joe thumps Mike, then Bill is cock of the dung heap. That's the way it works in street gangs, among felons in prison and frat boys in State College. The beating and raping that is abhorred in street punks is ignored in frat boys because they are the future leaders of America, and they collect nickles and dimes for their Favorite Disease once a year. Fraternities get a lot of public relations mileage out of your generosity, folks. (Perhaps it is time to develop an alternative way to get money to the Heart Fund, etc.)

Oh, their P.R. machine is good, e.g. after the anti-fraternity gang-rape rally in the fall, the Collegian ran a huge front page picture and non-story about a fraternity boy repairing a candy cane for an orphan. (The article never explained how he accomplished this miracle — with glue, maybe, or scotch tape?). The frats grind out that kind of hokum all the time, but this year members have behaved so spectacularly badly that they've torn holes in their carefully constructed propaganda screen. Frat boys are fast becoming the frat-haters' best allies.

Claudia McClellan  
University employe

## Disappearing tent

**TO THE EDITOR:** Today's issue of the Collegian contains an article describing the projects of Architecture 361, a structures class. As members of the class, we were naturally disappointed that our project could not also be described or photographed. It was impossible for the reporter to do, since our project was stolen sometime Sunday night.

We were proud of our project. Many hours of hard work created something that many people seemed to enjoy. (You may have seen it — the blue and yellow tent near the Obelisk this weekend.) Appreciation culminated Sunday night when an individual flattered us in a very sick way by stealing our project.

To That Person: Although your actions can be thought of as a type of flattery, we do not appreciate them. We can't help but believe that you will enjoy the results of our hard labor. We will regret that, since we intended that our project would be available for many people to enjoy.

We would also hope you appreciate the fact that we cannot receive a grade for that project because the professor

never saw it completed. You stole it too soon. Knowing that actions of the type you indulge in are rare, we suspect that you may also be the thief involved in another group's loss (also a tent structure). They too are left without a project and without a grade. You have succeeded in making at least 20 students suffer through your actions.

John G. Burns  
6th-architecture

## We all lost

**TO THE EDITOR:** Last Thursday my wallet was stolen during Chem. 35 lab in Whitmore. I'm writing this letter as an appeal for its return. I don't care about the \$20; that can be replaced. What I do care about are the pictures and other personal items which have a great deal of value to me. These things cannot be duplicated. Since you needed money badly enough to steal it, keep it; but please, I'm begging you, return everything else to me. No questions will be asked. Oh, by the way, do you think you could send my mother a belated Mother's Day card? The \$20 was for her present but now I can't even afford a card. I guess we all lost, didn't we?

Kathy Hull  
7th-biology

## Finals games

**TO THE EDITOR:** Concerning the five-day final examination period: There is no need to drag two or three finals out over five days. Invariably there will be instances when a student has only two finals, but one is on Tuesday and the other on Saturday. And what have we to look forward to during these five days of fun and games? A term break that is scarcely more than a long week end.

Kelly R. McIntosh  
4th-environmental resource management

## Outrage

**TO THE EDITOR:** As one who was in Israel at the time of the Qiryat Shemona and Maalot incidents of April and May 1974, I was particularly distressed by the signs carried by the State College Arabs in their demonstration against the Israeli Independence Day celebration at the Hillel Foundation on Wednesday, May 5.

It seems to me that whatever outrage they may feel against Israel's bombing of Lebanese villages (frequently occasioned by the fact that the P.L.O. places its rocket launchers in the heart of these villages) must be weighed against the outrage that Israelis feel against the attacks of Arab terrorists against Jewish civilians. At Qiryat Shemona (April 11, 1974), for example, Arab terrorists, infiltrating Israel from Lebanon, attacked a housing development, going from door to door and machine-gunning down whole families in their apartments. Eighteen persons were killed, sixteen wounded. At Maalot (May 15, 1974) 90 Israeli school children were held hostage in a school by Arab terrorists, and when the demands of the terrorists were not met, they wired the school with explosives and sprayed an auditorium full of children with machine-gun fire. Twenty-five people, mostly children, were killed, and many more injured.

All of us who care about the Middle East know that there are serious grievances on both sides. I do not think, however, that the cause of truth (and ultimately, of peace) is served by attempts to prevent people from speaking, writing, or holding public meetings. Nor do I think that the Collegian helps matters by dramatizing the grievances of one side while ignoring those of the other.

My advice to both Arabs and Israelis in State College, and to their sympathizers is: go to each other's public meetings in a spirit of peace and open-mindedness, and listen. You might learn something!

I might add, as one who was an eye-witness, that the demonstration at Hillel on May 5 was "peaceful" only in the sense that nobody actually came to blows!

Louise Goldschmidt  
State College resident

## Student union

**TO THE EDITOR:** To the Students of Penn State: It is only for me to be bluntly honest to confess that like all of you, all I want out of my four years at this university is to come out a more confident and mentally secure person than when I went in. However, in my past three years already, I've found several sorry obstacles getting in my way: the lack of fulfilling educational resources for developing my talents (I'm an arts major); the yearly ever-increasing tuition; the University administration responsible for the lack of educational resources and higher tuition; and my own spoiled reluctance to get up and shout, "No! I cannot allow these obstacles any longer!"

I have never considered myself as simply a "student." I am a lone human being about to tumble into the world and for the first time without anybody to protect me. Therefore, I had best get as much as I can out of my present experiences if I ever hope to get anything out of my future ones. All of you out there can only be more or less in the same boat.

I, therefore, suggest that we, as students of Penn State, as U.S. citizens, as Human Beings, get ourselves together and unionize our powers of what we are to have a say in what goes on in our university. What we need is a student union.

Jeffrey Slott  
9th-general arts

## Nothing

**TO THE EDITOR:** Unfair! That's a good enough word to describe the Collegian's reporting. Thursday's coverage of the Israeli Independence Day celebration was nil. I think it was a gross injustice to overlook the major celebration of the State of Israel and of the Jewish Community on and off campus.

Many people put in a great deal of time to plan and carry out the Israeli celebration at Hillel; there was singing by a renown Israeli artist, Ruthi Navon, an American folk team (Jerry Zolten and Arthur Goldstein), dancing, singing and Israeli food and refreshments.

Now, after such a successful event, what does the Collegian report? Nothing. Just a picture of an Arab protester picketing what was going on inside. The Collegian even muffed that assignment. There weren't 30 protesters there; it was lucky if there were 10 unless the Collegian counts the curious fraternity brothers standing around.

So, Collegian, I think it only fitting that an apology should be given to the Jewish Community as a whole and the people who worked very hard to make the 28th Israeli Independence Day celebration a day to remember.

Next time you send a photographer-reporter to an event, tell him to cover it properly — that's a paper's job in the community.

Gary S. Stein  
State College resident

## Summer sublet blues

**TO THE EDITOR:** As an apartment dweller here in State College, I am one of the vast majority of hosts for the town parasites. Fall term my roommates and I were faced with the decision to either sign a nine month lease (\$392 per month), or a 12 month lease (\$320 per month). With the idea of summer sub-letting in our heads, we decided upon the 12 month lease. We were led to believe that we would have no problem sub-letting in the summer; but lo and behold, the apartment manager failed to mention one minor detail: the apartment building cuts their rates in half in the summer. So now there is no way we can get rid of it for the price of \$320, so we are forced to immensely cut down our rent, insanely losing money. Going the other route of taking a nine month lease they still nab you anyhow because we would be paying nearly \$400 per month for an apartment that anywhere else would be no more than \$200. My parents are renting our five bedroom house for a mere \$250 a month.

Is there nothing that the state or school can do about these leeches? What is ironic is that the state is being ripped-off almost as bad as the students. Most students have received money in some way or another from the state. Now in the case of students who live off campus, a lot of that state money they receive goes towards the payment of outrageous rent. Therefore the state is also putting out money for these apartment corporations. One feels rather helpless in this situation because the apartment owner's reply is that if you don't like it, live elsewhere. So what do you do? I was considering setting up a tent on the HUB lawn next year. I think that it is Penn State's responsibility to pressure Harrisburg to set up some system of rent control on these parasites. Someone is making millions while some 20,000 students are penny-pinching.

Cindy Fusco  
5th-biology

# the Collegian

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Editorial policy is determined by the Editor. Opinions expressed by the editors and staff of The Daily Collegian are not necessarily those of the University administration, faculty or students.

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