

The party's over

The dorm party. It's become as much a part of Penn State tradition as Joe Paterno or a mint chocolate chip ice cream cone from the Creamery.

It exists — many times to the dismay (or disgust) of residence hall coordinators or the few students who choose to spend their Saturday nights hitting books instead of bottles.

And now, like many great traditions before it, the dorm party must face a challenge.

As a result of the now well known chugging incident in Beaver Hall last week, the Association of Residence Hall Students (ARHS) coordinators said they will intensify enforcement of the University's drug and alcohol policies.

And, in the same spirit of righteousness, the coordinators saw fit to dismiss the Beaver Hall RA from his duties for the rest of the Summer Term.

While the coordinators' actions may be in tune with University regulations, they certainly strike a sour note when judged on a rational scale.

You can tighten rules regarding pot and booze. You can replace one RA with another. You can search students' rooms and ask for their identification.

But you can't regulate student behavior. Even the highest law of the land cannot make intelligence and common sense mandatory.

Asking Penn State students to stop throwing parties in their dorms is like asking Billy Graham to stop crusading — it's almost like asking a person to renounce his or her religion.

But the real fault in the coordinators' recent edict is that it is a panic reaction to a single unfortunate incident.

It has been an unwritten law that RA's would 'look the other way' as

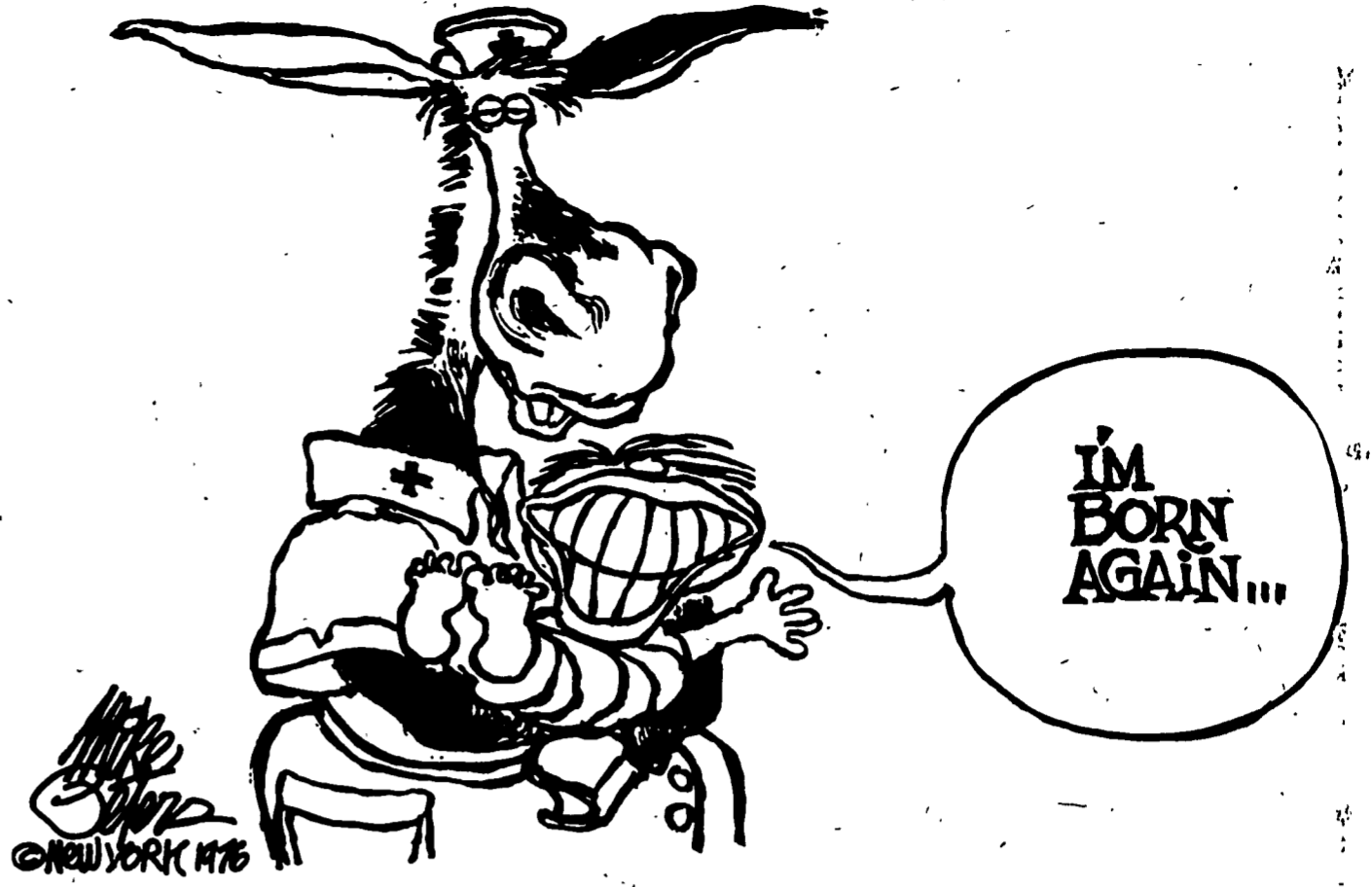
kegs or fifths are 'snuck' into dorms. And it has also been an unwritten law that students would do their best at keeping things in hand and under control.

It was a flexible system, a system of compromising. For the RA, caught in the nearly impossible position of pleasing and gaining the respect of both administrators AND students, it made things a little easier.

The job of keeping hundreds of students 'in line' is difficult enough. It is a job that requires a personal approach and individual sound judgment.

A blanket ruling will not stop students from smoking or drinking excessively. If they can't do it in the dorms, they'll simply do it elsewhere.

Drinking while at college will survive. It's the one tradition students will fight to save.



U.S. needs plans, not just visions

The Democrats have chosen a presidential candidate. In two weeks the Republican party will meet in Kansas City to pick their standard bearer.

It is almost certain that the next President of the United States will be chosen from among Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford or, God-help-us, Ronald Reagan.

What is not certain is the course any one of these three men will lead our nation on as we enter the last quarter of the twentieth century.

What is certainly needed is a plan, one that will look at America's current economic, social, and political problems in terms of the next 25-50 years.

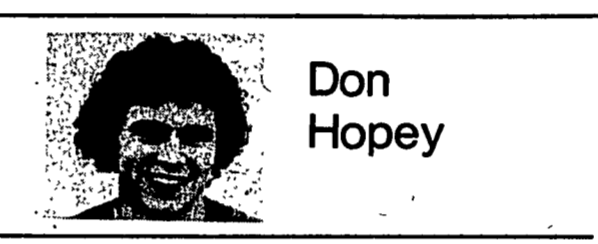
Alvin Toffler, author of "Future Shock," said recently, "The American future is being stolen, dribbled and bumbled away by a government that does not plan for the long range, does not know how to plan, is afraid to talk about the need for long-range planning, and is therefore being outplanned ... by major corporations and by foreign nations."

We have been cast adrift, as a nation, for the past decade by leaders with short-sighted policies designed to serve their immediate constituency and by caretaker government whose only goal is to offend as few people as possible.

While our government has remained virtually paralyzed through the late sixties and seventies, the world has gone through great change both at home and abroad. Science and technology, the growth of suburbs and the decay of cities, popular education and racial tensions have challenged our old institutions, schools, social conventions and traditional morality. It has been a period of shocking political and business corruption. It has been a period of confusion.

The American people have grown inward, become self-centered and self-concerned. We have at times demanded government responsive to our needs and desires, but not responsible government. It has been a period of misplaced priorities.

This attitude can have tragic consequences, leading us toward short term government and military policies necessitated by lost economic and social reform opportunities, that may threaten our peaceful existence.



Don Hokey

Now is the time to formulate answers that will work in the long run and apply them to problems of race relations, economics, and transportation. These problems along with those concerning conservation and the selective development of national and world resources, reassessment of education systems, and city renaissance, while pressingly grave are still plannable. The solutions or at least workable planning toward the eventual solutions can be at our fingertips now — with a little effort.

We have the resources to make this start. The opportunity is, however, a fleeting one. The problems will become more unmanageable as time passes.

The first step toward any solution must be a willingness by a majority of people to make a com-

mitment to participation in the decision making processes. A creative, participatory, anticipatory must be created if America is to survive its third century.

We must choose leaders with more care. We must choose leaders who possess the character, intellect and personality to deal with a rapidly changing world, to positively affect change; leaders who can cope with the trends and priorities of the coming years.

We must demand more of our political leaders. We must demand more of the candidates in this presidential election year. We must ask them some hard questions and we should expect hard answers from those who ask for the public trust.

Gerald Ford, while given only a limited opportunity it is true, has been content to tread water. We can expect no more from him than continued reactionary government if he is elected to a full term as president.

Ronald Reagan is an unprincipled politician, a demagogue content to appeal to the passions, prejudices and fears of America in his quest for political power. He cannot be taken seriously.

Jimmy Carter may be the visionary force this country needs as it enters its third century, but as yet his dreams of the future remain clouded by a reluctance to articulate them in specific terms. Campaign strategy of a man smart enough to be cautious about the easily offended American public, it is to be hoped.

But the voters should be cautious. They should demand to see a plan.

"Some people plan, others are planned upon." Toffler asserted.

Let's wake up and choose a president and other government leaders who will give us not just direction for today but also a map for the future.



Let terrorists have Uganda— Amin welcomes them warmly

The tragedy, at Kampala's Entebbe Airport earlier this month has focused attention on one of the world's worst tyrants — Uganda's President-for-life Idi Amin Dada, the man who took power in 1971 by way of a bloody coup.

Amin eventually helped the terrorists in many ways, according to Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Chaim Herzog and also according to various other European diplomats. Herzog claims that the hijackers knew where they were going before they left Greece, that the terrorists were relieved at the sight of the army at Entebbe, that Amin warmly embraced the hijackers when they arrived, and that the Ugandans supplied machine guns and men to guard the hostages.

Amin has always been anti-Israel and pro-Arab, because his country needs monetary aid from Arab oil countries. He was close to madness when he discovered the raid had taken place, and responded by killing off the airport tower

controllers, all the Kenyans he could find (Kenya had permitted the rescue plane to land when they ran low on fuel) and one little old lady who had been



Laura Shemick

taken off the hostage list for medical reasons. The Ugandans say she was not their problem, especially after the raid, and since then, no one has been able to find her. Reliable sources say she is dead.

Refugees fleeing Uganda say that Amin has been taking revenge also on those people who, in the past, have

spoken out against the government's policies. Such people have disappeared into the night, 1984-style, and never heard from again.

Amin is truly a homicidal maniac. He has to be the worst possible "leader" for a black African nation struggling to modernize and become self-sufficient.

In the words of an unidentified African diplomat, "I'm only sorry the Israelis couldn't have shot Amin along with the hijackers. Africans would have been the better for it."

Amin's Nazi-like country, where soldiers have the power of life and death over the civilians, where the military serves as a personal bodyguard for the dictator, where dissent is swiftly and viciously punished, is the perfect haven for terrorists. It's a fair bet that the latest hijacking diverted there will not be the last.

As a matter of fact, there's no reason why the terrorists can't have a country of their own. Let it be Uganda.



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.

Canned

TO THE EDITOR: Firing the resident assistant in Beaver Hall and enforcing anti-party regulations in the dorms are reactions typical of the authoritarian policies of Residential Life Programs staff. The high staffers of RL, in spite of their liberal platitudes and wire rim glasses, are paranoid of the dorm residents. They would rather slap hands and dictate wide-ranging flats than encourage common sense in dealing with alcohol and drugs.

If reactionary paranoia is not the cause, then the Residential Life staff is guilty once again of kow-towing to the pressures from above. I can picture the Director sweating with visions of being "called to the carpet" to account for the irresponsible actions of his students in his dorms.

In any case, it is typical for a resident assistant to get canned and for another pile of papal bull to get shoveled down the line. The RA is the most expendable thread in the web of Residential Life and he has little recourse for appeal. This makes the RA a perfect scapegoat when things go wrong in the dorms. And of course, there's nothing easier than to come up with more rules and regulations.

But rules cannot replace common sense, nor can common sense be enforced. Students will drink too much, smoke too much, abuse drugs and otherwise behave like asses. This is the universal right of the student. Lee Upcraft and all the rules in the world will not change this.

To you students who feel hassled by your RAs; feel some compassion. The RA is selected for his creativity and leadership abilities, but he is placed in a position where

regulations preclude original approaches to problems and where enforcement of rules replaces leadership.

This situation cannot last for long. The Residential Life Program will either be reformed or forgotten in some future year's budget. So here's looking at you, kid.

Wm. J. Holland
13th-Journ and former RA

Just the facts

TO THE EDITOR: Does the "chugging episode" truly stiffen the rules? It doesn't seem so in Wednesday's front page article. Who and what kind of authority is "an R.A. said," and "several sources?" If Kathy O'Toole and Mike Grice had bothered Tom Eakin and-or Lee Upcraft maybe you could have received solid facts, something worth publishing. This article appears to be a gossipy, exaggerated front page filler. Quit persecuting Phil Wilts. Get the facts from the reliable source, then put it to the press.

Chris Vincalotte
6th-Arts

Land of 'Oz'

TO THE EDITOR: A painful fact for us all in recent years (the past nine in a row to be exact) has been the annual tuition increase every year the leaves fall. Every year the snow flies. Every year Santa comes. And every year the students at Penn

State get a size twelve (or whatever Oswald wears) right in their collective anal orifice.

Why does this happen? Part of the reason is that certain parties know they can get away with it. For now.

In Wednesday's Collegian, right on the front page, we see a picture, accompanied by a story, of the university's newest acquisition, a quarter million dollar airplane. (A humble limo? Forget it!), to match the one they already have. And, as the story stated, when a Collegian reporter inquired about it to the appropriate worthless bureaucrat, she was met with what could only be described as utter arrogance and contempt!

Of course, folks, you know how it is. Whenever someone else has your money in their hands (paws?), it is not uncharacteristic for them to (A) not give a shit how much of it they spend, or (B) not give a shit how much of it the money poured down the tubes supporting facism in Vietnam. Same principle, same arrogance.

We're getting these tuition hikes shoved down our throats so people like J.O. (Doesn't necessarily stand for John Oswald) can pretend they're president of some banana republic, and buzz through the clouds in air-conditioned, pressurized, bourgeois opulence.

I'm a little unsure how other suckers (excuse me, Penn State students) might feel when they look up and see this plane but, if it ever flies over my house, I'll do two things:

- (1) I'll think of the winged monkeys of the "Wizard of Oz"
- (2) I'll shoot the thing down.

Kerry Hixenbaugh,
10th-anthropology

the Collegian

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