

# Crossed wires

Nobody knows. The canvassing referendum for dorms is nearing and no one knows how the referendum is going to be run. We know that if a majority of students in a dorm vote against open canvassing then the dorm will be closed; if a majority votes for it then various student organizations and individuals will be free to roam dorm halls in attempts to get support for a cause or buyers for a product.

But what about the many student who decline to vote? Both the University and the Undergraduate Student Government agree that these no-shows should be counted as voting for the status quo—open canvassing.

USG, however, has been under the impression that for the past few years the University actually counted absent students as voters against canvassing.

It is not entirely clear who is correct.

The 1975 student handbook states that the University policy shall be to count absent votes as pro canvassing. M. Lee Upcraft, director of Residential Life, says that his office has been carrying out this policy.

USG counters that the policy has always discouraged canvassers. They say the University has devised this plan to "keep students uninformed and apathetic" so they "can't make trouble or have a voice in decisions affecting them."

These words were on thousands of USG flyers distributed this week in preparation for the campus-wide referendum which has already begun. At least one Resident Assistant has instructed her floor that if a vote is not cast it will be the same as voting for canvassing.

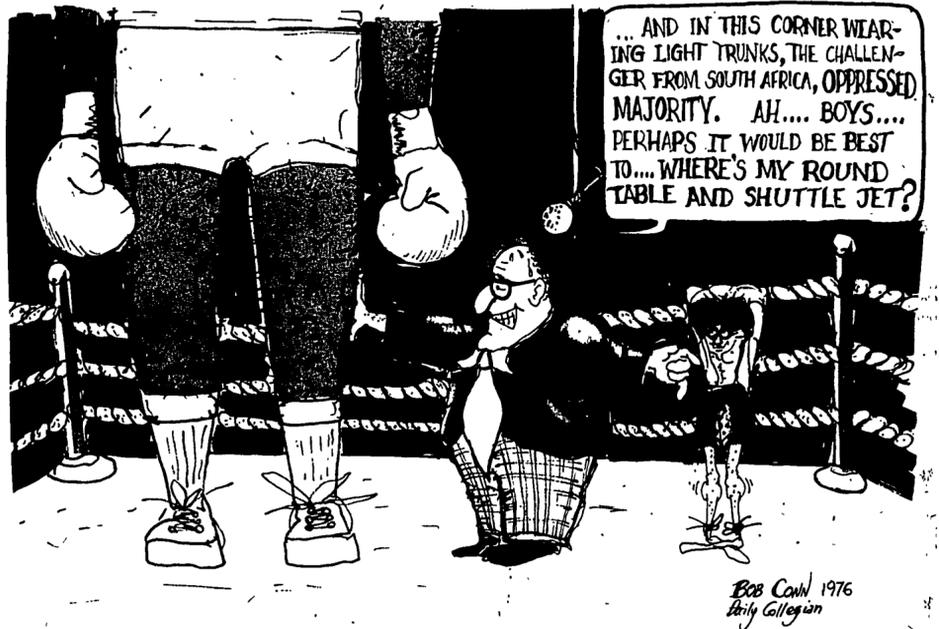
Despite the arguments, it appears that this year the policy may be what both sides agree it ideally

should be—with the advantage to the canvassing proponents.

USG, however, is containing its joy. They feel that if the University has made the policy change for good, it is merely an opportunistic move. USG has a suit in Superior Court which charges the University with obstructing the students' freedom of speech in its canvassing policy. They feel that an assumption that students who don't vote are satisfied with open access could undercut USG's case.

The plot is confused and so are the actors. The victims in the whole melodrama, though, are the students. They are probably being manipulated by both sides and neither side is telling the students exactly what their votes will mean.

We suggest that the referendum be postponed until USG and the University have come to an agreement on voting regulations. And then let everyone know.



Bob Cowh 1976  
Daily Collegian

# Placebo peddler takes a powder



A major pharmaceuticals corporation, once a well-respected dealer of potions and pills designed to cure humans of everything from colic to chronic hiccoughs, is in the federal doghouse.

And rightly so. The Food and Drug Administration is in the process of bringing charges against the corporation after investigations showed that the manufacturer had obscured the results of laboratory tests of some of their medicines, so that products of questionable effectiveness could be placed on the market.

What's worse, the FDA alleges that in other cases, the manufacturer in question has deliberately altered test results so that particular cure-alls would pass the rigid federal muster imposed on all medicines by the FDA.

Corporate avarice of this nature is at best malicious and at worst fatal to the consumer. Corporate ethics are at an alltime low and policies like planned obsolescence have become standard practice. Americans have just about gotten used to unscrupulous automobile manufacturers and a banking system whose interest rates force homeowners to take out mortgages on mortgages. But when the lust for money results in worthless and potentially dangerous

drugs that are often relied upon to save lives and cure grave illnesses, it is simply too much to take. Having your money ripped off is one thing. Having your health compromised is quite another. Greedy and unfeeling drug manufacturers appear to be doing both.



George Osgood

fact that one corporation was investigated in depth and dangerous practices were uncovered leads to the conclusion that these practices could very well be widespread.

About the only thing that anyone thinks about when sick is getting well; about the only thing worse than being seriously ill is being dead. Taking drugs that may be no better than placebos, and in fact may be much worse, can speed the transition between the two.

Dealers of illegal drugs often cut "pure" heroin with strichnine in order to increase their volume and hence their profits. LSD is quite often laced with methamphetamine to give a little more kick to a batch that wasn't brewed right and didn't meet the dealer's requirements. Marijuana is mixed with horse manure and sawdust to stretch a dealer's supply and give him a greater quantity to sell.

Some callous businessmen who deal in legal drugs are worse. Their products are trusted every day by millions to restore health and save lives.

The dealers of illegal drugs have at least two points in their favor: their wares are not generally relied upon to save lives or cure serious ailments, and most of their clients are intelligent

enough to realize from the outset that they may not be getting exactly what they think they're getting. Also, these drugs are usually used by people who are not seriously ill at the time of consumption (although they may not stay healthy for long).

Some big-business manufacturers of unwonderful wonder drugs have committed a grave transgression against the American people. Their deliberate negligence amounts to fraud of the most despicable sort and may already have prolonged and complicated easily curable diseases and even caused unnecessary deaths. Well at least the profits of the corporation in question will dwindle, even if its board of directors only gets a slap on the wrist from the big-business bureaucrats in Washington government.

In the meantime, the rest of the pharmaceuticals industry has been tainted, their sincerity and credibility ruptured.

For us, it looks as though when we get sick we have two choices: rely on old home remedies or play Russian roulette and partake of the corporate pharmacopoeia. Thanks to the FDA, we are at least forewarned, even if we have nowhere to turn.

We all get ill. We all have to depend on the integrity and competence of our physicians and drug manufacturers. The integrity of the latter has just been shot to hell; the deliberate folly of one company that has been unearthed by the FDA's investigations casts an ominous shadow over the breadth of the pharmaceuticals industry. All of the pharmaceuticals companies may not, and probably are not guilty of shoddy and dangerous production practices. But the

# Unions—some belabored facts

Thomas Jefferson would have been proud of today's press. But, while the media continue their puritanical clean-up of governmental harlotry, other tyrants continue to rape the system. Luckily, in our democratic government, there are built-in ways to correct injustices. But unluckily, in our capitalistic economy, there are few ways to correct similar injustices. And many of the governing powers behind our economy are labor leaders.

In reality, labor unions are distinctly undemocratic (although, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, they directly affect nearly half the American labor force). One hundred and seventy-seven labor unions represent 38 million workers, most of whom don't care what is done in Washington. Their governments are lodged in the great union halls; their representatives are union leaders.

## John Harvey

As Pennsylvanians, we're in the heart of labor country. Unionization has reached over one-third of our non-agricultural work force and our state ranks third nationally in union membership.

It is a fact that labor officials are elected, but the checks and balances which typify our political government are either absent or abused. Feeble labor newsletters are propaganda instruments of existing powers, credible candidates are scared off by threats, and freedom of expression is muzzled by labor goons. Incumbent officials possess an arsenal of power techniques to maintain control of what can only jokingly be called elections. Sad as it may seem, sadder is the public's apathy towards it.

NBC TV News aired a week-long documentary entitled "Teamster Power," in which numerous instances of union corruption were exposed. The Teamsters Union, largest in America representing two million workers, has been under federal wraps since the arrests of Dave Beck and Jimmy Hoffa in 1957. The abuses reported by NBC are so many that only a few can be cited here:

— The Teamsters use pension funds for loans to organized crime.

— The Teamsters arrange easy hijacking, by organized crime, of Teamster-transported goods.

— The Teamsters send their personnel to certain doctors, who in turn supply the Mafia with kickbacks.

— The Teamsters have been under close scrutiny since the probable death of ex-leader Hoffa. Frank Fitzsimmons, president of the IBT, has close connections with underworld figures and all are suspected in this case.

— The Teamsters, since 1957, have been suspected in mysterious disappearances of key witnesses ready to testify against that union. When Sen. John McClellan's Senate Investigations Committee summoned a witness to testify against Beck in 1958, he failed to show up. Thugs entered his home the night before and poured acid in his eyes. (This example of Teamster corruption was learned from a member of that investigating committee.)

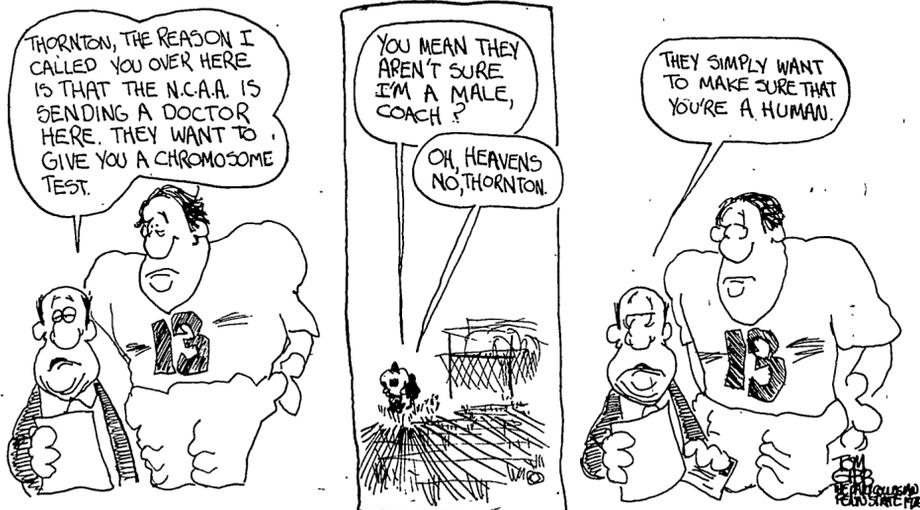
The corruption goes on and on. Your local library will have documented instances of Teamster-related bribes; felonies and frauds. But understanding the raw, gut, unbalanced, and unchecked power held by so few men is even more frightening.

This is not to say the Teamster officials are alone. Tony Boyle's ordered assassination of labor opponent Joseph Yablonski and his family at Clarksville, Pennsylvania was another example of the gestapo techniques employed by labor molls. That case involved labor officials, from the United Mine Workers of America, who wanted to be re-elected more than they wanted Yablonski, his wife and daughter, to live.

What all this means to the labor force and the rest of America is not easy to ascertain. Certainly, the media should be encouraged to continue investigating. But, an even better approach would be democratizing our economic structure, like our government, making unions conduct free elections with established checks.

Meanwhile, public opinion continues to assail the FBI, the media, and especially the prostituted government. But the job of cleansing this stench will surely have to be done by the FBI, the media, and especially the prostituted government.

Won't it be ironic? After we strip the prostitutes and dismember them in disgrace, they'll be the ones who destroy the pimps.



# Letters to the Editor

## No pet rock

**TO THE EDITOR:** As one of Beaver Hall's "pet rocks," I would like to respond to Sheila McCauley's "RA's can speak no evil." It is apparent that Ms. McCauley's all-encompassing generalization that RA's "turn into a pet rock" when asked "any question," comes from the same source as the one that allows the Collegian to maintain its posture as an outstanding example of journalistic excellence. How many RA's of the pet rock variety, were encountered to allow you to reach the conclusion that ALL RAs turn mute on any question?

No Collegian reporter has approached this RA or any of my colleagues in South Halls for an opinion on any issue. If one were to take that initiative, the reporter would be amazed at the life that would be exhibited by the "pet rocks" in South. For example:

1. I hate mock drumsticks.
2. The alcohol policy is merely one more example of the ignorance instituted by the "puzzle palace" — otherwise known as Residential Life.
3. If the inane alcohol policy is to be enforced, then it should be enforced consistently for ALL university areas and organizations (i.e. fraternities and tail-gate parties).
4. This University desperately needs an "alternative newspaper" so that its students do not have to endure the one-sided, biased, slanted garbage the Collegian manages to print daily.

A Collegian reporter could also find some interesting opinions from this pet rock about some of the many positive aspects of the RA job — specifically as illustrated on Beaver's Phyrst (1st floor Beaver). Beaver's Phyrst has made its own compensation for the lack of study area (due to temporary housing) by converting a workroom into a comfortable, pleasing environment for study and social interaction. The floor has adopted a constitution, awaiting USG approval, that illustrates a dormitory floor can enjoy a sense of community rather than merely serving as a source of shelter for 72 males for nine months.

Finally, the Collegian should realize that RAs are not chosen to receive the salary and benefits they do to be pet rocks. After making it through a relatively rigorous screening in interviews, RAs generally possess an above-average ability to communicate. However, these RAs realize that any comment or opinion they may make to a Collegian reporter probably will not be reported accurately and in its proper perspective.

Rob Clayton  
10th-accounting  
1st floor Beaver RA

## Challenge

**TO THE EDITOR:** Although most students on this campus are opposed to the University's present policy of strictly enforcing drinking regulations, several strategies recently proposed by USG to alleviate this problem are nothing short of ridiculous.

First, USG proposes a challenge to campus police by throwing a large booze blast in an East Halls quad. This would be a blatant violation of University regulation and I would not pity anyone who was arrested during this event.

Secondly, USG calls for a coalition to seek out tailgate parties at Beaver Stadium where booze is being consumed, and arrest those involved. Their theory is that outraging the Penn State alumni will force the University to change its policy concerning student drinking. Personally, I see no connection between the two.

The real problem facing us is that the state law prohibits the

consumption of alcoholic beverages by "minors," those of us under the age of 21. With 36,000 students on this campus and another 14,000 on the branch campuses, we carry a large potential voice in state politics. If we can properly influence the state legislators, maybe we will see a lowering of the drinking age sometime in the near future.

Until then, keep parties low key and don't try to attract attention. If we all act as responsible adults the University might slacken its present policy of enforcement.

Instead of challenging campus police and angering the alumni, I think W.T. Williams and his masterminds in USG should type up a form letter which every student could address to their representative and/or congressman. We should have learned in the late 60's that a peaceful revolution achieves much more than a violent one.

Roger Zanes  
7th-earth sciences

## Realistic way

**TO THE EDITOR:** I was surprised to hear that the student government, supported by the Collegian, has begun attacking the University's alcohol policy. The University will not change its policy because doing so would be breaking the law by permitting underage drinking. Why should someone be exempt from the state drinking laws while they are on University property? The realistic way to change things would be to get the drinking age in Pennsylvania changed. Then it would be easy to change University policy (if it did not change on its own). Why don't we get busy and make some real progress. Let's concentrate on the state laws instead of the insignificant policies of the University. Write the state legislature.

Robert D. Brust  
4th-electrical engineering

# the Collegian

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