

Gag order

During World War II Americans operated under constant vigilance because "loose lips sink ships."

Residential Life has instituted another kind of vigilance this term for Resident Assistants in the dorms — "criticism will get you fired."

This injunction is specifically directed at a case now under appeal within the University.

As RAs students may protest the firing of Tony Carozza, a former RA who has filed a discrimination complaint, but only during his appeal. The RAs, though disquieted by Carozza's rather mysterious and sudden firing, may be out of jobs if they repeatedly criticize the administration, Residential Life, the area coordinator involved in the case or perhaps even general University policy after the case is settled.

Residential Life has graciously allowed RAs to retain their rights of free speech as individuals. They may protest as students only, without the weight of their title, after the case is decided.

RAs, the University's grass roots representatives to all students living on campus, have been told that they may not speak out individually or in groups in their official capacities on RA issues once they've been decided.

Now, employers do have the right to request loyalty from their employees. Along with that loyalty comes pressure not to make the boss look bad or to divulge secrets to the enemy. But Penn State dormitories are a far cry from Foggy Bottom. We don't have to worry about slipping the opposition vital information because, in the ideal,

we are all working for the benefit of students.

And the idea that once a decision has been made, there can be no turning back and no dissent allowed is too regimented for any University. People who are dissatisfied with a decision do not close ranks and follow the leader — they speak out and try to force change.

By anticipating a protest, perhaps the University is anticipating the outcome of Carozza's appeal. Perhaps it is already in accord with the original decision to fire Carozza and will not give the case an adequate and fair hearing.

RAs can speak out as RAs now, but once the case is decided, the lid is on and the lock step march begins.



Don't let Ford's image fool you

Jerry Ford's image, one can safely say, is his premier asset. He is honest, fair, good and somewhat naive. Any president who would allow his wife to speak of sex or his son of pot must be honest, fair, good and naive.

Unless that president has been around Washington as long as Ford has. As every presidential moon passes, Jerry Ford acts more like Richard Nixon.

That's what Jimmy Carter justly claims. Like Nixon, Ford is using his incumbency aptly. He even seems demonic at times.

References to Nixon remind us of his "non-campaign" victory over George McGovern in '72. Nixon remained secluded in the Oval Office, insulated by scores of public relation experts, kept body and mind from media coverage and scrutiny. When Nixon did venture from Washington it was to great pre-ordained crowds. The whole mess was so staid and uneventful the entire press flocked to the only real campaign in town (for that McGovern paid dearly with the Eagleton affair and guaranteed national income issue).

What Nixon succeeded in doing to McGovern in '72 — coercing the media to cover George's campaign rather than his — Ford is doing to Carter in '76. While Ford "non-campaigns," Carter runs about the land, restating ill-stated comments like the ones to be published in next month's "Playboy."



John Harvey

Meanwhile, Ford rarely leaves the White House; his "Oval Office" is the rosy Rose Garden. The comfortable surroundings awe reporters, shield the President from inquisition and allows him the opportunity to command media attention at any given moment.

Like Nixon, Ford's campaign strategy is to make the President seem

"presidential". He need not actually be presidential, he must simply seem that way.

Like Nixon, Ford refuses to give interviews, unless in controlled situations. Carter, on the other hand, gives interviews liberally (he might do better to cut off such communication with the public, as Ford has done).

Like Nixon, Ford misses no opportunities to "nail" his opponent, though those nails may be rusty and bent. In last Thursday's debate surfaced two examples of Nixonian statements nailed by Ford.

To begin with, Ford misquoted Georgia Governor Busby saying Busby found Carter's Medicaid program in Georgia "in shambles." Ironically, Busby was referring to the federal Medicaid program, not the Georgian one.

Then Ford shrewdly mentioned an Associated Press story in which Carter was misquoted on the issue of taxes. "In that interview," Ford said, "Governor Carter indicated he would raise the taxes on those in the medium or middle income brackets or higher."

What Ford failed to mention was that the interview was a misquoted one. Insiders in Ford's camp say the President knew in advance it was a misquote.

Nevertheless, Ford used these quotes to hurt Carter politically. They were cheap shots in line with George Atkinson's cheap shot at Lynn Swann three weeks ago.

But they were legal, within the "rules of politics." Experience told Jerry Ford long ago he had better use all his tools to beat Carter.

The point is that Jerry Ford is not nearly as honest, fair, good and naive as his image makers make him out to be. When it comes to politics, he can be ruthless, devious, callous, deceptive and devilish.

Indeed, that's how he got to be House Minority Leader and, eventually, President. The voters didn't put him there, his left hooks and underhand jaw-breakers did. Anyone hanging around Washington long enough will learn to throw a few punches, even if he is honest, fair, good and naive.

Your money and the University

By KERRY HIXENBAUGH
10th-anthropology and history
and
JOHN HARRIS
State College resident

The new school year is already well upon us, and for the benefit of all students, new as returning, we of the University Coalition would like to take this opportunity to utilize this limited space to make known the purposes and perspectives of our organization.

The University Coalition is a fully democratic, fully participatory assemblage, comprised of all segments of the University community. We are committed to full democracy in practice as well as theory. The structure of the University Coalition is as open and free as possible. Anyone attending has full recourse to discuss and vote upon any matter that concerns them. There is no formal membership, nor are there obligations of any kind, and all work is the result of voluntary, cooperative action.

One of Penn State's most inviolable traditions, which has been around longer than anyone who has ever been here, has been — you guessed it — football. But there's another one, equally inviolable. It's the one that's even nearer and dearer to the hearts of Micheal Baker, Jr., the Board of Trustees, and their "boy," John Oswald. And that is the annual, just-like-clockwork tuition increase.

In the last seven years, the tuition at Penn State has more than doubled. This lathesome fact seems compounded further when we see a new, expensive airplane, valued at more than a quarter million dollars each, (that makes two of them now) sitting in the University Park airport, awaiting the bidding of any of the University's prefects, with which to take jaunts that make the notorious Congressional junkets look halfway legitimate. Whose money pays for this?

Think of that the next time you send your check to Shields (or maybe walk there with it in the nasty weather.) However, there will be ample opportunity later on for us to bring you all kinds of sordid details of how our money is squandered by those anointed who have given us one of the most expensive state schools in the entire nation. Stayed tuned. The fight is just beginning.

Much has been said of late about the University's new alcohol policy. Not only are students over the age of 21 not allowed to have or consume alcoholic beverages anywhere on campus but in their dorm room, but we think no one's room is safe from arbitrary searches and seizures and cardings, based on pure speculation. This is a full frontal attack on the civil rights of every student on campus, and we of the University Coalition have no alternative but to find any way to bring this matter to the fullest possible attention of as wide a spectrum as we can, and to take whatever direct steps are necessary to rectify this situation. This can only be done with your valuable help and co-operation.

But the corporate honchos who comprise most of the Board of Trustees don't stop there in their assault on students' rights. Take into consideration the case of a South Halls RA whom we feel was fired on the basis of sexual preference. Most recently when a group of South Halls Resident Assistants tried to exercise their rights to free speech and collective action to protest this blatant discrimination, they were contemptuously informed by director of Residential Life M. Lee Upcraft's underlings that they had no right to do so.

But they don't want to push things too far with the students. The reason is simple: they have plans for us.

As many already know, the University's employees, Teamsters Union Local

8, is currently negotiating with the administration for a new contract, and, not surprisingly, is having an exceedingly difficult time getting a fair living wage offer. Unless the situation changes between this writing and press time, the most the administration has offered the workers is a 7.5 per cent increase over one year. Taking into account inflation, this is no improvement whatever over their current measly wages. (It must be pointed out here that the payroll of these workers is not derived from tuition.) If a strike should develop, the Administration is making plans to us students as strike-breakers — plans which are doomed to failure.

The University Coalition gives its full support to the workers in their struggle, and we, the student, will not allow ourselves to be used as scab labor in the administration's niggardly designs.

There are many more far-reaching issues to be dealt with here, more than the special limitations may at this time allow us.

For a long time we have seen one after another ostentatious scheme designed to keep the student body off balance and made to look like mild children. Not only are personal rights of every category coming under fire from the administration, but our right to an education in being threatened by massive tuition increases.

We, as students, should not and cannot continue to let these infringements envelop us like a tub of so much dirty water. The time to do something has finally arrived.

Come to our meetings every Thursday night at 8:30 in 75 Willard. We're seeing more new faces all the time, and we sincerely hope yours will be among them.

Join us: The University Coalition; we are you.

Letters to the Editor

Prophetic fan

TO THE EDITOR: Then a football fan said to Almustapha, the Beloved, "Speak to us of winning and losing." And The Prophet said, "Until you can stand losing, don't go to the playing field!" (with apologies to Kahilil Gibran)

Robert Boyer
Campus Minister

Perspectives

TO THE EDITOR: Ms. Pavelko is to be congratulated on her trenchant criticism of the Board of Trustees' decision to spend \$4.5 million to enlarge Beaver Stadium seating, and on her more general comments concerning the place of football on our campus. There is no cow more sacred than the football lion, and we are in need of intelligent, forthright criticism such as Ms. Pavelko treated us to.

One point in her argument deserves particular emphasis. She has clearly shown the fallacy behind the reasoning heard all too often, that the institution of football at Penn State is justified because the receipts from the games pay for the operation of the University's athletic program. As Ms. Pavelko noted most pertinently, if that program is worth supporting, and it surely is, it should be paid for in its own right — just as is the case for programs in the areas of the arts and music; we do not expect these to be financed from admission charges to the many fine plays, concerts and exhibitions organized by these departments.

Obviously, if admission is charged for football games — itself a questionable policy for an educational institution — the money collected has to be spent on something, and it is reasonable to apply it to some part of the athletic budget. But to apply that money to the enlargement of the Stadium, so that eventually, if the crowds keep coming in the future as they are now, even more money can be collected, is clearly a case of the tail wagging the dog.

What we need at all levels, from students to trustees, is the kind of sense of perspective concerning the place of football, or any sport, on a University campus, that coach Paterno has consistently exhibited, and that Ms. Pavelko showed in her article.

Joachim F. Wohlwill
Professor of man-environment relations

Horse play

TO THE EDITOR: It was very good to see the Theater-Dance season begin so resoundingly with yesterday's production of "Equus" by Peter Shaffer. I have no complaints about the play, but I have a very irritating complaint against yesterday evening's audience which snorted, coughed, sniffed, and spluttered its way through the entire play. The volume of these dramatic hacks and wheezes was so great that many members of the audience were seriously distracted from the play. As far as I can see, the problem can only get worse as we approach winter, unless some measures are taken. The following suggestion can only be partially successful, but it will be better than nothing: I suggest that the management affix a message to the program asking patrons to please muffle their coughs by placing a handkerchief over their mouth, instead of ostentatiously coughing for all to hear.

Kathryn Derounian
State College resident

the Collegian

SHEILA McCaULEY
Editor

NADINE KINSEY
Business Manager

Inside the Carozza case

By FRANK SALVATINI
Penn State Graduate

As a concerned former Residential Life professional staff member and resident of the dormitory house in which Tony Carozza was the Resident Assistant, I feel ethically compelled to support his cause by making public my first-hand knowledge of his job performance.

I worked as an Assistant Coordinator in South Halls during Fall and Winter Term of the past academic year and was responsible for the supervising of all the RAs in Beaver Hall.

Soon after Chris Horn (the new Coordinator of South Halls as of Spring Term) told Tony that his employment would be terminated at the end of Spring Term, a South Halls RA informed me of the unexpected dismissal. He said the RA staff felt Mr. Horn's decision was grossly unjust with no real support. Tony also contacted me at the time for my opinion on the matter because he felt I could be objective, not fearing reprisal, since I no longer worked for Residential Life.

After Tony's appeal to Director of Residential Life, M. Lee Upcraft, that he had been discriminated against on the

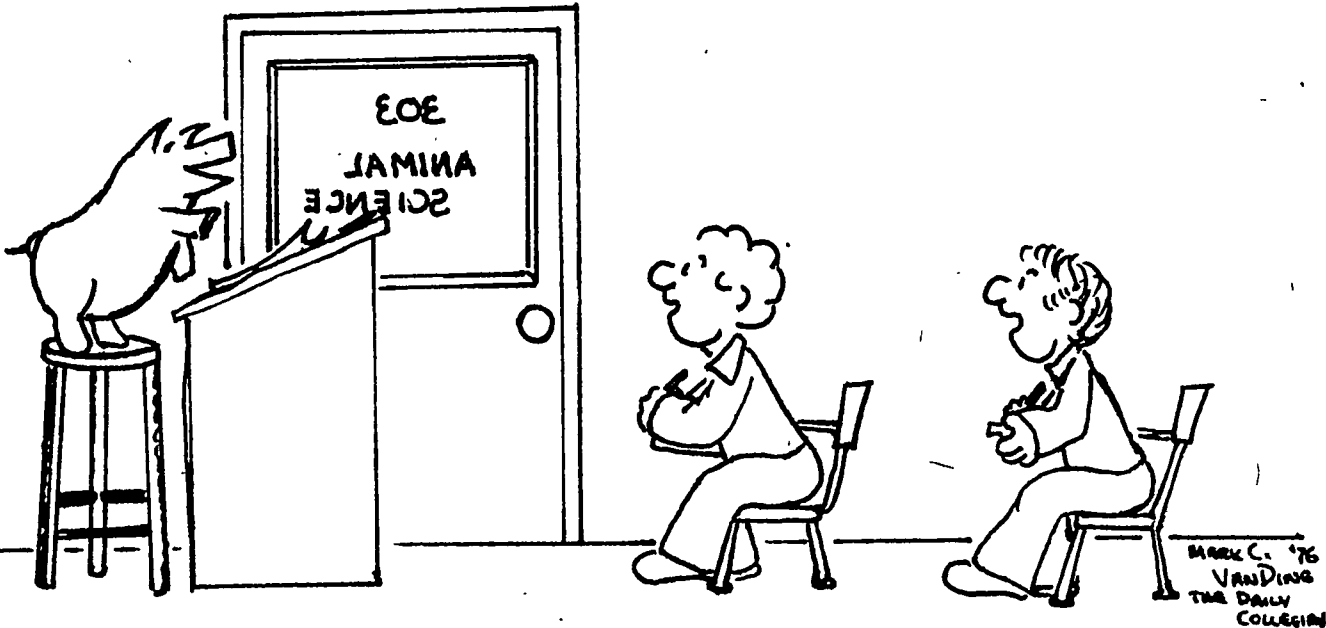
basis of his sexual orientation, another South Halls RA asked me to read Mr. Horn's written reasons for terminating Tony's employment. Upon reviewing that statement, I strongly question its validity; specifically, his allegations that Tony's job performance was "minimal" at the beginning of the past academic year. Mr. Horn's manipulation of student evaluation statistics is questionable at best; while much of his and Carol Butler's (Tony's immediate supervisor) commentary borders on character assassination and slander. I am morally outraged when I consider the adverse inferences the reader who does not know Tony personally could possibly draw from such an account.

As a professional colleague who worked very closely with me, Miss Butler never indicated to me in any way that Tony was anything but a competent RA who was effectively dealing with a difficult house. I was under the impression that such was the consensus of both she and Tom Broitman, Coordinator of South Halls at the time. As I recall, the only thing which Miss Butler ever said to me regarding Tony's job performance that even approached some semblance of professional criticism was that he was perhaps too strict in his

disciplinary role. Based on my first-hand observations in Tony's house, there was absolutely no doubt in my mind that he was indeed highly effective in all respects. Actual feedback which I received about Tony from his students supported my evaluation and was consistently positive.

In all the job-related interactions I had with Tony, he exhibited highly professional behavior. We interviewed RA applicants together and he often discussed specific concerns in his own house as well as broader, system-wide issues. I must add that I always found Tony to be highly knowledgeable and interpersonally skilled. I was particularly impressed with his deep sense of personal commitment to understand and help others. What more could possibly be asked of a Resident Assistant?

Actually, that question has already been answered by the residents of Tony's house — the people to whom any RA is ultimately responsible. When those men learned of his dismissal, they immediately circulated a petition stating that Tony had lived up to all their expectations in his role as RA and demanded his reinstatement.



"JUST ONCE I'D LIKE TO GET A PROFESSOR WITH AN ACCENT I COULD UNDERSTAND!"