

Now's the time

The Penn State Faculty Senate will soon be passing judgment on the old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

In the upcoming meeting, the Senate will vote on a \$2.5 million proposal to provide remedial education courses at the University for students deficient in the basic skills. The results of that vote will probably have an effect on other University programs, since the money will have to come from somewhere.

One of the factors that prompted the proposal for remedial education has been the decline in Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

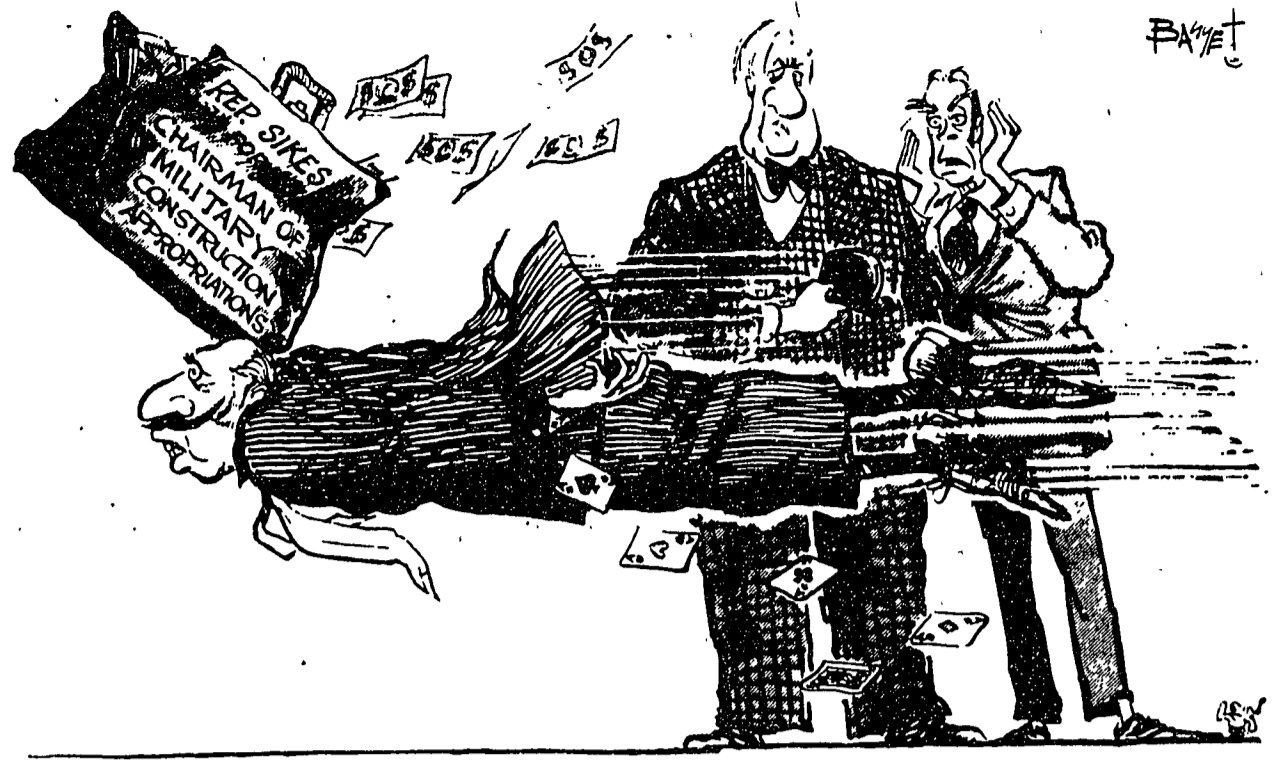
scores in recent years. Scores have fallen steadily and educators have begun a policy of remediation. This course of action is an inefficient way of approaching the problem. The answer to the problem lies in the prevention.

In evaluating its priorities, the Senate should keep in mind that this is an institution of higher education. The state supports elementary and secondary public schools for the purpose of teaching students the basic skills. Money spent twice due to the failure of these institutions indicates a weakness in the system.

State legislators and University

administrators should have the foresight to attack the problem at its root. Funds should be given to insure the quality of elementary and secondary education programs so that money for higher education can be spent on programs for higher education. The logic is as simple as A, B, C.

The Associated Student Activities money is due to start flowing Spring Term. As with tuition, most students put off taking action until it is too late. Don't face the bottom of the ASA barrel again this year. The time to think about next year is now.



"GOOD GRIEF, SPEAKER O'NEILL ... THE MEMBERS ARE ACTUALLY PRACTICING ETHICS"

VATICAN PROHIBITS ORDNATION OF WOMEN AS PRIESTS BECAUSE CHRIST'S REPRESENTATIVES MUST HAVE A NATURAL RESEMBLANCE TO HIM. —NEWS ITEM



Cupid's arrow misses the target

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways."

I don't know the exact day on which Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote this poem (Sonnets from the Portuguese). But there's one thing I'm sure of. — It wasn't composed on Valentine's Day.

The reason is that 364 days out of the year are set aside for experiencing love. Only one, St. Valentine's Day, is reserved for celebrating love. There is a profound difference between the two.

According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, experience is defined as "the actual living through an event or events; actual enjoyment or suffering." As far as love is concerned, this refers to what one does with his or her friends or, more likely, with that special person he or she loves more than any other. "Experiencing" includes everything from dating to laughing, from kissing to caring — and it goes on almost all year long.

But when Feb. 14 rolls around, things are drastically different — on Valentine's Day, love is celebrated. Webster defines celebrate as "to perform publicly and with appropriate rites; solemnize," and the definition describes perfectly the strange things which occur on that one strange day.

The difference between these two words on Valentine's Day is not too far

removed from the difference noticed on any other holiday. On Christmas, we celebrate by trying to outdo each other in buying gifts and by feasting, singing, and chattering. However, we experience Christmas when the presents are unwrapped, and our bellies are filled to capacity by sitting around at the end of the day, quietly sharing time and the true spirit of the season with our families.

Mary Ellen Wright

On Easter, we run around as kids to see who got the most jellybeans — and now we run around to see who bought the nicest looking new outfit. That's the celebrating part, of course. But the experiencing of the meaning of the holiday occurs in church or, again, with family and friends.

Valentine's Day is no different from all the rest. You can love someone as much as one person can possibly love another from Feb. 15 through Feb. 13 of the following year, but on that other day, something weird happens — this celebration of love.

When you think about it, the "ap-

propriate rites" of this celebration are some of the most involved in the year. First of all, one must send the perfect Valentine card, whether the "Valentine" it's being sent to is perfect or not. If it says more, the recipient might be scared off. If the girl is an incurable romantic and the guy sends her a "Snoopy" card containing some hilarious sentiment, the unfortunate young man is doomed, and he'd better face up to it.

And what if a girl should decide to send a guy, whose male ego is easily insulted, a box of 12 long-stemmed roses? She, too, had better prepare for sparks to fly. For Valentine's Day gifts are another area of great concern. The lady might be counting on a bottle of Chanel, a huge box of chocolates, an armful of roses, or even a diamond ring. When the 69-cent grocery store houseplant or the sleazy dime-store novel arrives, she may smile weakly on the outside but she's sulking and pouting on the inside. I'm all for sending flowers or candy to guys, but I've done it in the past, and boy, have I gotten the strange looks!

And where should the two of you go on Valentine's Day? One party may favor the dorm semi-formal or a candlelight dinner in an elegant restaurant, while the other wants to sit on the couch and

"mess around" all evening.

Unless both parties have exactly the same wishes, tastes and degree of romanticism, someone's going to be hurt. On the day after a disappointing Valentine's Day, the girls may sit around reading "Glamour" magazine's article entitled, "Whatever Happened to Romantic Men?" while the guys sit around grumbling, "What got her so ticked off?" Well, sometimes you win, frequently, you lose.

But once again this year, people will most likely be celebrating love on Valentine's Day instead of experiencing it. I suppose it can't do too much harm since it's only one day a year; and yet, I still hold secret grudges from disappointing past Valentine's Days (at times, "inappropriate rites" of celebration linger on long after the day in question.) I suppose that when we begin to overlook each social faux pas that will inevitably occur on Valentine's Day, the transition from celebration to experience will have begun.

As it stands, however, I would make one change in the last line of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem, to indicate the feelings that return after the horror of Feb. 14 is past. Instead of "I shall but love thee better after death," perhaps it should read "I shall but love thee better after Valentine's Day."

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.

Live long and prosper

TO THE EDITOR: On behalf of the United Federation of Star Trek Fans, I would like to express our appreciation to Colloquy for sponsoring Leonard Nimoy's program Wednesday evening. We hope Colloquy will endeavor to keep the quality of speakers to Mr. Nimoy's caliber and wish them continued success in all of their future activities. We would also like to suggest that they consider Gene Roddenberry for a future speaking engagement. Live long and prosper!

Anne Marie E. Stranch
president, United Federation of Star Trek Fans, PSU

Modified behavior

TO THE EDITOR: I am outraged by your story on behavior modification. I am particularly disappointed in two quotes you use:

a) Muzafer Sherif, professor emeritus of psychology, is quoted, "These experiments only tell us what you can do with rats and pigeons. They tell us nothing about human beings."

Thousands of experiments with behavior modification tell us about the behavior of human beings. I fail to understand a professor of psychology who maintains a position that all the data is irrelevant because it doesn't agree with the way he views the world.

b) Joseph C. Flay, Associate Professor of Philosophy and member of the Committee to Review Research on Human Subjects is quoted: "You know, I wouldn't give this theory two thoughts except this stuff really does work. If I had my way, I'd stop what they're doing on campus. To me this stuff is dangerous."

At least Professor Flay is aware of the evidence but he still

maintains a prejudiced position that no matter what the data, he wants to stop research with behavior modification. How does someone with judicial responsibility maintain an antagonistic position against the people the University is asking him to evaluate? I think Professor Flay should be disqualified from the Committee to Review Research on Human Subjects because of his prejudices.

The behavior of humans has always been affected by the world around them. Some of them learn ways to have a satisfactory life and some don't. Science believes that knowledge of how things work is more valuable than ignorance or mystical explanations.

Muzafer Sherif and Joseph Flay can keep their mystical explanations if they want. What I resent is their attempt to affect my learning about the world around us.

Lynn Carpenter
assistant professor of electrical engineering

Colorless justice

TO THE EDITOR: In response to Lynda Joyce's letter, Feb. 7 — You seem to have neglected a few points. In your attempt to discuss South Africa in the fastest possible deluging of rhetoric. Now mind you I don't mean to condone the South African government — I know what it stands for and what it's trying to do.

But you state the problem as "white males (cannot) stand up for our rights." Frankly I take that as something of an affront. Now I don't mean to say I know everything that goes with being black or female. But the real question is whether or not one has the sense of justice which transcends ethnic boundaries. King recognized this — he always saw his fights as not white vs. black but justice vs. injustice.

But you instead go along the line, amidst clouds of

ideological bombast, that "they don't understand us." Such a view encourages an "us vs. them" mentality with which it is impossible to build a new South Africa, or any place else. Such a view had one South African student leader state that he wanted superiority, not equality, with whites, "to oppress them as they oppress us."

Finally, if I, as a white male, cannot stand up for women's rights, how can you really say, as a white female, that you can stand up for black's rights?

Thomas Niksa
11th-political science

No insult for injury

TO THE EDITOR: To Gerald L. Palau: I think you should be more careful about the conclusions you reach about the "sadistic" attitudes of sports spectators. Your statement, "to applaud the scene of a body being carried off on a stretcher is sadistic," is misleading. It is a long-established tradition to applaud an injured athlete as she is leaving to show her your respect, your respect for the fact that she is willing to suffer an injury in pursuit of something she considers worthwhile. You applaud her, not her injury, and she is probably grateful for it.

As for feeling "sympathy for Miss Donaldson and empathy for the other gymnasts on both teams," respectful applause in no way precludes feeling sympathy and empathy for those involved. In fact, it goes along with it. I sincerely doubt that Rec Hall was jammed on Saturday night with drooling sadists.

I do think we should have real concern for "how much enjoyment Americans seem to get out of violence." However, I think most of us are still sufficiently human that we wince at the sight of violence and injury in the flesh. The real problem occurs when we fit stark violence into a little glass tube and make it a comfortable experience for no justifiable aesthetic reason. Why Americans enjoy this experience, and what this experience does to their view of reality and their human sensitivity are the real questions. Finding sadism under every overturned stone and making petty reprimands for it may simply cloud over a more serious issue concerning the American psyche.

Barry Boyce
8th-bachelor of philosophy program

Downbeat

TO THE EDITOR: I think it is high time that the University Concert Committee gets the recognition it deserves, that being the "Lightweight Organization of the Year." Thanks to Paul Riddle's alleged illness and Marshall Tucker's subsequent last-minute cancellation, the UCC was able to keep intact its fine record for providing disciples of progressive, folk and country music with good concerts here at Penn State (with the possible exception of Billy Joel). Why, with the wonderful advertising job they did for Tuck they took one more step toward insuring that a concert of this nature never takes place.

Maybe they're right, there's no sense rescheduling the concert, Penn State people don't go for bands like Marshall Tucker, after all only 2,600 tickets were sold. Well, I find 2,600 to be an amazing number when all the circumstances are considered. I saw two newspaper ads, one poster, heard no radio ads and found very few people who actually knew about the concert. We had six whole days not only to find out that there was indeed a concert, but to find five spare dollars as well. I was not surprised at hearing a member of the dance marathon committee say that she didn't even know there was a concert on Sunday!

I think it is far past time for the UCC to quit hiding behind its patented excuses and do whatever it takes to bring Penn State the bands it wants to see. There are 33,000 students, not to mention faculty members and residents of State College. To say that concerts other than the excuses we've had won't draw

here is ludicrous, especially in view of the fact that much smaller places like Edinboro, Lock Haven and Bloomsburg can sell out to people such as Kansas, The Outlaws, Dave Mason and The Dirt Band, every time.

I plead with the UCC to do one of two things: a) whatever is necessary to bring in good musicians, not just "names" or b) relinquish the monopoly they hold on concerts.

Tim Bowser
2nd-liberal arts

Common courtesies

TO THE EDITOR: We would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to Leonard Nimoy for the talk he gave at Colloquy on Wednesday night. His speech was an interesting and informative one in which he gave much of himself. We feel, however, that some of the questions and reactions of the audience were inappropriate and discourteous. Mr. Nimoy was here as a guest speaker, and we think that the questions should have focused more on the topics of his speech rather than trying to put him on the spot.

It should be recognized that he was not producer, writer and director of Star Trek and should not be expected to know all the answers pertaining to the series. We hope that in the future more courtesy will be accorded to guest speakers.

Beverly Wolfe
2nd-engineering
Carla Morgan
2nd-speech pathology

the daily Collegian

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