

# Grand slam

It's about time doors stopped slamming in students' faces.

University committees labeled as "advisory" repeatedly use their titles as shields against students and the press, holding closed meetings.

The University Council, an advisory board for University President John W. Oswald and provost James B. Bartoo, holds its meetings behind closed doors. And students continue to be kept in the dark as to what really takes place at the meetings.

The council holds a closed meeting and afterwards sends out a representative to explain to the press discussions that took place at the meeting. Thus, students are denied a first-hand report of the council's activities.

The University Council members say that because their com-

mittee takes no action, but only makes recommendations, they have the right to seal out reporters.

Who gives them the right to keep students from hearing the advice given to the University president and the provost which will affect the students directly or indirectly?

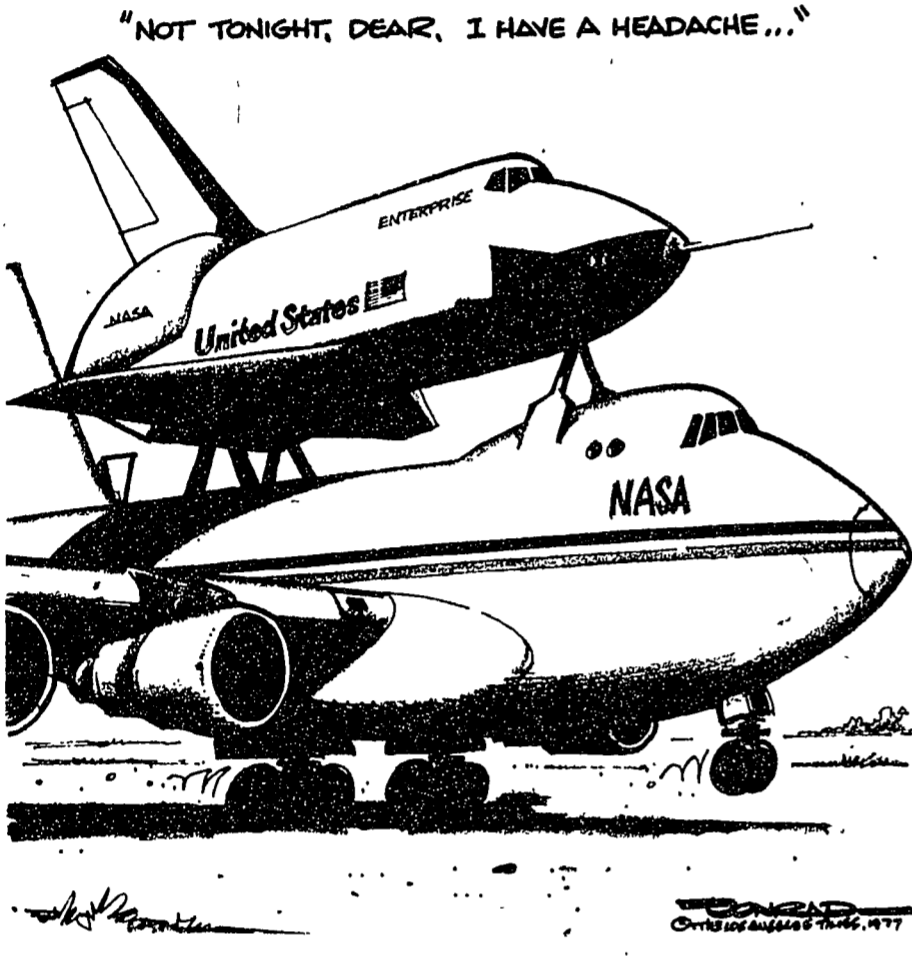
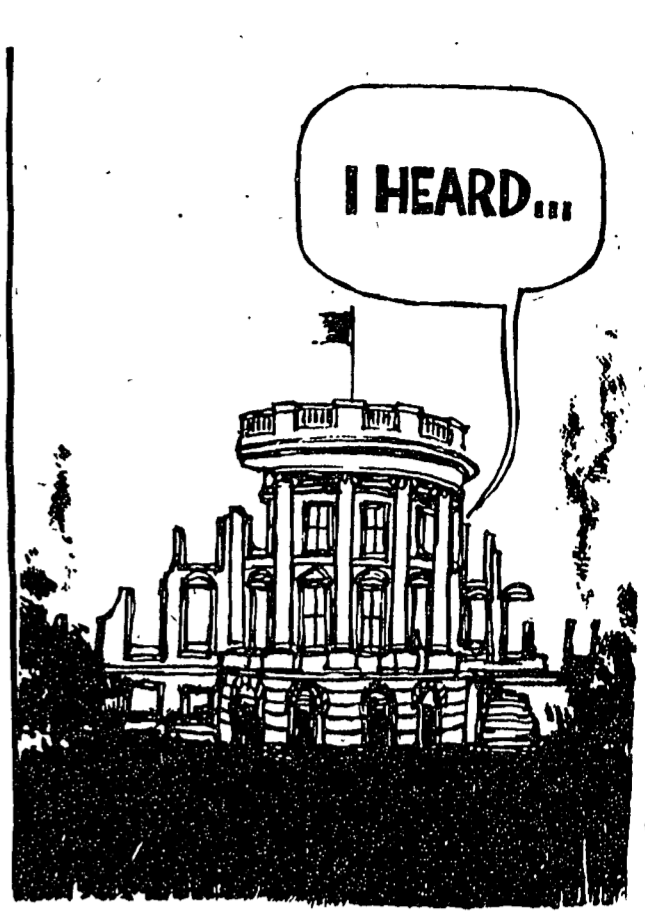
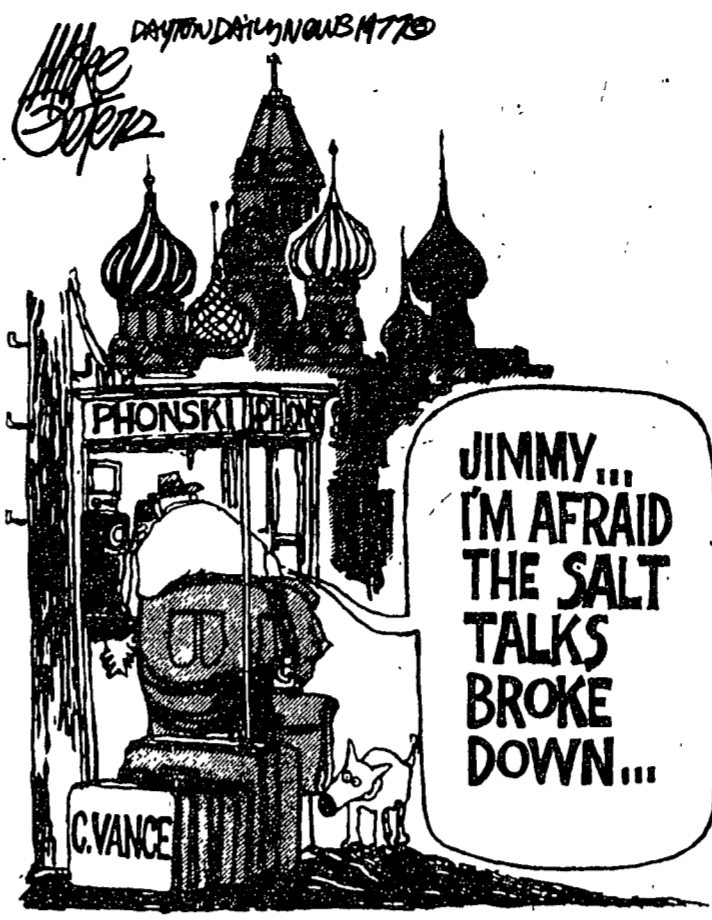
Bartoo, the interim provost, said yesterday that the decision to open future meetings rests with his as yet unknown successor. He said most of the matters under discussion at recent council meetings do not warrant secrecy.

So why does the secrecy remain? Students have every right to know the matters in which Oswald and the council are involved. Slammed doors can only lead to suspicions on the part of the press and the student body.

Students should not be satisfied to chalk up another slap in the face of bureaucracy. Every two years the University Council has the chance to change its closed-door policy. Because no one speaks up, every two years the members make the same decision. Reporters remain locked out, unable to give the students an objective view of the proceedings.

Council policy is a far cry from the First Amendment which guarantees press freedom. How can students obtain a true view of the policy discussions involving themselves when the only report they receive comes through a council representative, giving council the chance to pick and choose what the students will know?

A change in policy is long overdue. Students and the press are sick and tired of getting the grand slam.



# British union superior to USG

By Dave Hickton former vice president Undergraduate Student Government

During the time that I have been here at Exeter I have been studying the Student Guild Association, which is the relative equivalent organization on this Campus to the Undergraduate Student Government at the University.

Based on the information I have obtained through personal interviews with Student Guild officials, administrators and English students and my own experiences and judgments after two years in USG, I have come to the inevitable conclusion that our system is virtually ineffectual as a provider of student services and representation, compared to the Student Guild.

The Guild, specifically, is the local governing organization for the students at Exeter and is part of the larger National Union of Students (NUS) which was initiated in 1921.

The stated objectives of the Guild, as outlined in the student handbook are: a) to represent the students of the university in relations with the university authorities, the NUS and other bodies; b) to develop the cultural,

social and athletic life of the students; and c) to foster the corporate spirit of the student body.

All Exeter students are obliged to join the Guild for a yearly fee of about \$40.80. As a result the Guild is the official representative of the student body. It is responsible for all the various clubs and social organizations on campus and it runs all of the university athletic teams thru the Athletic Union. The Guild also runs several coffee and alcohol bars in the dining halls and union buildings and they provide a travel agency, a print shop, a book co-op plus a welfare service which entails legal, financial and living advice.

In addition, the Guild is responsible for all of the concerts here at Exeter. It provides a big name band almost once a week. Last term, for example, the Electric Light Orchestra, T Rex, Wishbone Ash, David Essex and the Kinks — among others — played to capacity crowds, paying ticket prices comparable to what we pay at Penn State.

Still further, the Guild runs and occupies three buildings on Campus loaned to them by the university and operates on a \$170,000 grant from the local education authority. The annual

cash flow through the Guild is said to be in the neighborhood of \$875,000.

There are four full-time executives (president, deputy president, vice president and treasurer) who are elected for one-year terms during which they take a sabbatical from the university and are paid for their work.

Clearly then, the Guild has on paper, far more power and resources to represent the interests of the Exeter students than USG does to work on behalf of the Penn State students. Beyond that, however, the Guild provides the students with a single organization which is legitimately recognized as an integral element in the running of this university.

The Guild has representatives on the university senate (the policy-making body) and on all of its committees dealing with specific issues. The Guild is never simply informed of a particular change in university policy or practice, it is consulted all along the way. Every possible change must be scrutinized by a student-staff committee before it can be adopted by the senate.

Both the Guild and the administration seem to agree that in 90 per cent of the cases, there is cooperation and fair

dealing on both sides and, that in the one out of 10 instances when a controversy arises, it is not needlessly the result of poor or lack of communication but simply an impasse as far as respective viewpoints. Neither side regards the situation as being a protagonist-antagonist one.

This may be due in large part to the nature of the British people but I see ample evidence that this system lends itself to greater cooperation — a cooperation that is fundamentally based on the fact that the Guild is the only legitimately recognized student governing organization by both sides. I find much merit in such specific ideas as a student government run concert committee and provisions for full time USG executives, but I see a far greater need to resolve the debate as to which organization does legitimately represent the Penn State students.

Be it USG or a new organization, drawn up by students and administrators, the need seems very clear, given this comparison. In my judgment it would be the foundation for more cooperative and productive relations between the HUB and Old Main.

# 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. The editors reserve the right not to print letters if they do not conform to standards of good taste, or if they present an opinion which may be irresponsible or libelous. Letters should be brought to the Collegian office, 126 Carnegie, in person or 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.

## Nature's logic

**TO THE EDITOR:** Wayne Chandler's letter of Apr. 4 may have been a valid complaint about his nutrition instructor, but his sophomoric view of the world hunger crisis irked me enough to attempt to correct him. Worldwide redistribution of all forms of energy, including food energy, is a necessary next step if man is to avoid "the inevitable," as Mr. Chandler put it. A system based on consumption, such as the American system you defended, can ultimately only destroy itself by "overstepping the limits of the environment's ability to carry and maintain such a biomass of energy consumers." Rather man should follow the logic of nature and recognize the world as a single regenerative system, which requires the use of the "technological systems that exist in the world" to work. Locally this might translate into an immediate end of the consumption-based economy, but whatever system would take its place would have to be superior, saving as it would so much of the energy you invest in perpetuation of the old, system (planned obsolescence, unfair union demands). D.W. Wassels, Jr. 13th-general arts and sciences

## Liberated mind

**TO THE EDITOR:** Our society has become so complex that it cannot function effectively without a supply of educated talent. The fields of knowledge which are the treasury of man's experience and the methods of teaching which liberate and liberate persons must be available to all students in American higher education. As a parent and educator I must examine the opportunities available at this institution. As a tax payer I am not willing to compromise my commitment to quality instruction. Therefore, I question with many others the fact that Jo Ann H. Farr will not be returning to the Psychology Department in the fall. Jo Ann Farr is an innovative person with a respect for individuality. Her own vital growth and development is only exceeded by her affirmation of the value of other people. Only a few educators recognize the potentialities of the "liberated mind." Jo Ann Farr is one of these rare educators. Why must the students next year be denied the right to choose this professor? Am I to believe that administrative decisions are made with undue haste and without personal knowledge or is this institution subject to the disintegrative forces of many other universities? Lois H. Thayer Lewistown resident

## Clean up the act

**TO THE EDITOR:** In response to the letters concerning the Farr case. Jo Ann Farr is not the issue, only an example of our present educational system. As a student I am paying for an education. I am paying every teacher's salary and I want quality! It is evident to everyone that Farr is quality. So then, I ask the Psychology Dept. why they are letting such a person go? I could understand your actions if the majority of educators in your department held such student respect, but the fact is they do not. So either your present tenure educators clean up their teaching act or rehire Jo Ann Farr. Carol Child 12th-art education

## Life, love, joy

**TO THE EDITOR:** I often thought that during the past 2,000 years some black-robed promoters have made a pretty good business of distorting the beauty of one man's struggle, while making it into one of the biggest financial enterprises. Nevertheless, after observing the black-robed, white-faced freaks on campus during the past few days I realize that the misrepresentation, the distortion, even the outright destruction of the original beautiful man still goes on. Those sick Christian Frankensteins are really putting the icing on the cake, while some promoter in California is laughing his way to the bank and not to heaven. One may tend to dismiss the freak show with a smile. But after a little contemplation one realizes that they may do as much damage as the drug peddler. Both of these extremist groups damage real life. There is a beautiful life going on all around us. Those who are misled from it are simple naive children, but those who are misleading are thinking adults. Is anyone interested in promoting life, love and joy, without any of the extremes? Margaret Rosini 9th-social welfare and psychology

## Creamed

**TO THE EDITOR:** I recently had a bad experience with Ritenour Health Center that I think other people should know about. Following a cut on my foot, I went to Ritenour for medication and they gave me a steroid cream. Inside the package was a notice about possible ineffectiveness of these types of creams. Further research turned up more suspicions about this cream. Concerned by this, I confronted the doctor, Dr. Hricko. In response, he said I had no right to investigate this medication, that he was a doctor and that I had to have complete trust in him. Upset by all this, I consulted the Ritenour Advisory Board who advised me to talk to Dr. Hargleroad. He said I should worry about whether or not I had the right kind of medication instead of complaining about this doctor's attitude. He also said that I would not be informed of the outcome of his investigations, because it's an "administrative" matter. Why are doctors like this hired to practice at our Health

## True facts

**TO THE EDITOR:** After a time of listening and reading, it becomes clear that one is not likely to get the true facts surrounding the termination of Jo Ann Farr's employment at this University. A number of reasons are given to justify the loss of Dr. Farr. Most recently, a graduate student in psychology cited money as the determining factor (Collegian, Apr. 6). I've seen much money wasted at PSU, and, frankly, I'd rather have Jo Ann Farr remain here for a bit longer than to have those six concrete dishes (planters?) recently installed in front of the main gate on College Avenue. I was sadly amused to be reminded of the University's own rule... "namely, that individuals who are directly affected by decisions should have the opportunity to participate appropriately in making these decisions." (Student Handbook, 1976-77, p. 28). Perhaps the University can justify their ignoring our concerns by pointing out that the rules do say "should" as opposed to "will." Perhaps they think that anxious letters, petitions and articles are appropriate enough participation for us to have in their decision-making process. The lack of money is not an excuse for letting someone of proven worth (as Dr. Farr is) go. One of the many reasons I've heard, referring to this whole mess, was also monetary in nature, i.e. graduate students could be hired in Dr. Farr's place and so assure continued and increased research funding from outside sources. The truth? Your guess is as good as mine. But, it must be obvious that there are people in power who do not want Dr. Farr to teach here. I am a full-time graduate student, and I feel that the quality of the graduate education available to me, and the options open to anyone, will be affected by the University decision not to rehire Dr. Farr. I am annoyed that what I think and what others in similar situations may think just does not seem to matter. Jean C. Guertler graduate-solid state science

## Gee whiz

**TO THE EDITOR:** Gee whiz, fellow Penn State boys and girls, everyone is in such a hub-bub over losing Dr. Jo Ann Farr. Well, you know, people should not make so much of a fuss. Golly gee, after all, Merrill Noble and all those other important decision makers in their big oval offices, are just trying to do what's best for us! Gee whilkers, I mean, Dr. Farr doesn't have that much of a credible reputation behind her! (She has said a very nasty four-letter word which I dare not repeat here!) She also teaches the psychology of human sexuality and, well — like Ma and Dad back home always say — that kind of stuff should be taught in the home, preferably behind CLOSED doors. I found everything I needed to know from my parents and we have three kids in our family! Everyone talks about how intelligent a teacher and how dynamic a person Dr. Farr is, well, there would seem to be more important things to be considered, if our wise administrators think that Dr. Farr should be dismissed! My God, isn't there enough of this sex "stuff" in the movies? Don't any of you read the Bible? Gosh!! Thank you! Jeffrey Slott 12th-pre-medicine

## One word

**TO THE EDITOR:** Just one word concerning the performance of "If I Should Die," EXCELLENT! Randy Spring 10th-industrial arts

# the Collegian

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