

Commendation

The Daily Collegian commends University President John W. Oswald for agreeing to regularly meet with the press.

Last Wednesday was the first of what probably will be regularly scheduled press conferences to be held three times a year — during months when the University Board of Trustees is not scheduled to meet.

Oswald entertained all questions Wednesday. Nothing was off-the-record.

Oswald's new policy is a great improvement over the way newspapers had to get information from him in the past. To get a statement from Oswald, reporters have first had to ask his executive secretary.

The secretary then would ask the president the questions and relay his answers back to the reporter. In effect, Oswald is using the executive secretary as his personal press secretary.

This procedure to obtain information is understandable. Oswald is a busy man and should not have to waste time personally answering every question a reporter wants answered.

By setting up periodic press conferences, however, reporters now have an opportunity to ask Oswald any question they want and to get a reply straight from the horse's mouth — so to speak.

The editor of the Centre Daily Times, Jerome

Weinstein, deserves credit for suggesting the idea of periodic press conferences. He, too, realized the reporters' frustration in not being able to directly query the president.

Let's hope that the press conferences are an indication that Oswald will attempt to be more accessible, not only to the press, but also to students, faculty, alumni and taxpayers.

Accessibility is a virtue for a public figure.

Now, if the president would just learn to answer questions concisely, more questions could be asked within the hour time limit of the press conference.

DAVID W. ALLEN
PRESIDENT, BLACK CAUCUS



The Idi Amin story of Creation

The story of Creation according to a Kenyan news release:

In the beginning, Idi Amin created the heavens and the earth; and the earth was a formless mass in central Africa. And darkness covered the abyss, for Idi Amin stood in front of the sun.

Idi Amin said, "Let there be light," and press photographers came unto him and flashed flashbulbs in his face and there was light. Idi Amin saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the dark, calling the light Day and the darkness Night, and he stepped on an archbishop and called it an Accident. And there was evening and morning the first day.

Then Idi Amin said, "Let there be a firmament to separate the waters above and below" and he created Heaven. And Heaven was a formless mass in central Africa. And there was evening and morning the second day.

Then Idi Amin grew weary from his labors. He munched upon some finger sandwiches, read two chapters of "How

to Win Friends and Influence People," and went to sleep.

On the fourth day, Idi Amin awoke with indigestion, for the finger sandwiches had been made with real fingers. And Idi Amin created the sun, moon, and stars and called them "Idi Amin." And he saw that it was good, and there was evening and morning the fourth day.

Mary Ellen Wright

Then Idi Amin said, "Let the earth and the waters abound with life," and he created the creatures of the earth and large creatures of the water called crocodiles which were given no food but were told to wait until man was created. There was no evening or morning the fifth day, for Idi Amin ate them.

On the sixth day, Idi Amin traced his roots. He found his grandfather to have been Vlad the Impaler and his grandmother to have been a syphilitic iguana. And Idi Amin was displeased so he consumed Alex Haley (with three or four crocodiles as a chaser). And there was evening and morning the sixth day.

On the seventh day, Idi Amin saw that he had not carried out Creation as fast as God had, and he became enraged. He fell to the floor in a tantrum which caused an earthquake felt in Kenya, Tanzania, the Congo, and parts of Poughkeepsie. And so, Idi Amin created mankind in his image — male and female he made them. And he said to man, "Be fruitful and multiply, and teach all the people to worship only me. You will bear me on your shoulders whenever the whim strikes me. In return, I will give you the use of every vehicle on the earth. But there is one Limousine you must not touch."

But when mankind saw they had been created in Idi Amin's image, they all had

plastic surgery and riddled the Limosene with tiny projectiles.

And then to man Idi Amin said, "Because you have disobeyed me, you will be banished from this formless mass in central Africa. This was the thousandth being so banished, and so pleased was Idi Amin that he created a medal for himself.

And Idi Amin went on a honeymoon and hid (just barely) behind a billboard for seven days. Idi Amin called 12 different persons and told them 12 different stories as to his divine whereabouts. And those people told the world. And there was evening and morning the seventh day.

On the eighth day the press rested. It decided to ignore Idi Amin. Mankind no longer knew what strange activities the creator was indulging in. After a few violent tantrums Idi Amin was heard from no more. And suddenly, no one seemed to care. And mankind carried on without incident, and it was good.

Letters to the Editor

Corrections

I want to make a couple of corrections regarding the article in the Wednesday issue of The Daily Collegian about the selections for the student trustee. In the article it mentioned that I "said the committee decided that it was not necessary for a candidate to be a student and could have graduated from the University." The Committee actually followed the suggested criteria of the Governor in a letter to USG and GSA earlier this year.

I supplied the Collegian with a copy of that letter with the criteria, and I said in my statement at that time that the Committee had followed the Governor's recommendations.

The Student Trustee Selection Committee did not unilaterally swerve away from the original criteria. A majority of the Committee agreed with the names submitted to the Secretary of Education, and I am confident that Secretary Kline will choose the student best able to actively and aggressively represent day-to-day and long-term concerns of students.

Letters policy

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.

One other comment which was left out of the article regarded the attitude of the Committee during the selection process. The members of the Committee were very fair and objective in their interview techniques, and I do not feel that any subjectivity entered into the post-interview analysis of the applicants.

Because of the limited amount of time in which the Committee could accomplish its work, we did not have the number of applicants that we would have liked. The Committee will, therefore, be submitting a final report suggesting recommendations for the future selection process to the Student Advisory Board emphasizing the time factor as a major concern which may have hindered the number of possible undergraduate, graduate, and Commonwealth Campus applicants.

I trust that the Secretary of Education will make a selection from the current three candidates. If the Secretary requests more names I shall seek a consensus of the Committee members. I believe, though, that the Committee deserves praise from the University community for its hours of hard work during the finals period in Spring Term. The applicants, too, deserve praise for their understanding about the interview schedule and their willingness to travel many miles for the interview or to otherwise re-arrange schedules at the last minute. It was a difficult task, and, in view of the time period, very well done.

Alexander W. Holt,
Chairman PSU Student Trustee Selection Committee

Slap in the face

The most recent tuition increase passed by the Penn State University Board of Trustees is another slap in the face to students. The trustees believe that a tuition increase is necessary. They also believe the easiest way of acquiring funds is to take it out of the students' pocket. The 9.9 per cent increase is higher than the annual rate of inflation. A state education is surely becoming financially unreachable.

Students who have to take time off away from school in order to pay for their tuition are not able to catch up. Families that are already in economic peril, and can't qualify for financial aid cannot send their children to a state school.

It is apparent that the only concern of the University is to get its money by the most convenient means. When the Board of Trustees can appropriate \$4.5 million for improvement of Beaver Stadium, while not providing equal financial support to educational services, and students trying to achieve that education, then something is grossly wrong.

The confrontation between the University and the students will become inevitable. When the University trustees come to realize that they are in the business of education, first, and all others second then it will set its priorities straight. If they cannot come to realization, then the students will show them the way.

David W. Allen
President, Black Caucus

Fair treatment

This is not meant as a rebuttal of Mr. Hann's letter printed on June 22 concerning his near collision with a bicyclist, but an appeal to motorists for fair treatment on the roads. Every day I pedal my bicycle to and from PSU about two miles each way, and not a day has gone by when I have not had at least one "near hit."

In particular, Sunday evening, well before dark, I was riding my bike south on Atherton approaching Westerly Parkway. I had been signaling for a right turn onto Westerly for at least 500 feet. As I began to execute my turn, an automobile travelling north on Atherton also turned onto Westerly (I saw no signal). This would have been fine under normal circumstances, however my bicycle and myself were totally ignored and forced into a somewhat controlled slide as I squeezed my brakes for a quick stop.

The point I am trying to make is that many motorists choose

to think of bicyclists as intruders upon their roads. (Fortunately, most choose peaceful coexistence with self-propelled vehicles). Bicyclists have as much right to the roads in State College as do motorists, providing, of course, they obey the rules concerning their mode of transportation.

I am making this plea to those motorists who through negligence or just plain malice fail to acknowledge the presence of bicyclists. Please consider the limitations, vulnerability, and mostly the rights of persons riding bicycles.

Michael J. Firko
4th-biology

the Collegian

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Three and one-half years and counting til the '80 Olympics

Since the early smells of spring were in the air, millions of fans have resigned themselves to watching NBC's "Game of the Week" on Saturday afternoons. The familiar commercials of beer, getting a good woman to stroke you in the morning and the gyrations of Farrah Fawcett-Majors entice the irenic baseball fans deeper and deeper into their easy chairs where the only voice that can be heard is that of NBC.

"You know, Tony," Joe Garagiola said during one such afternoon, "it's only three and one-half years away from the 1980 Olympic games in Moscow."

"And NBC will be there with complete coverage," Kubek said, without miffing a single line from the cue card.

Regardless of whatever network claims your allegiance, it seems a bit premature to begin trumpeting for the 1980 games. One can only calculate by slide-rule the amount of ranting and raving that NBC will be doing when the time ticks down to T-minus three years and counting.

If we learned anything from last year's Bicentennial, besides a lot of obscure tidbits of history, it was how

nauseating overkill techniques can be. But as soon as the ghosts of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln have been packed with mothballs and carted away, another extravaganza is creeping into the American scene.

What the NBC network hopes to accomplish is to create wide audience appeal for the games. That is why with three and one-half years before the start of the Olympics or six months after the '76 games we are already being gently guided along.

Bill DePaolo

From now until the Olympic flame is lit, the viewing public will be bombarded with bits and pieces of promotion about the games, Moscow, Leonid Brezhnev, Zeus and anything else remotely related to the sporting event.

The necessity for building the games to Herculean proportions stems from the deal the network made with the Russians. In cash terms, the National Broadcasting Corp. paid for the 1976 Olympics. To realize any kind of profit, NBC will have to guarantee advertisers huge numbers to inflate commercial minutes.

To add more Olympic commercials, NBC plans to double the amount of viewing hours to 150. This will insure the inveterate sports fanatic not only the major events but also the lesser events like bike riding, pogo-sticking and coin flipping.

So now with three and one-half years to go we are sprinting toward a 16-day event that NBC dubs "The biggest international sports event in history." The only thing that lies between here and that monumental spectacular are three world series, three superbows, 1000 golf and tennis tournaments and at least two more fights of the century.

An NBC executive for programming was heard to have said: "I just hope that will tide them over."

