

Post no bills

Closed meetings are one way of letting society's elite hoard their decision-making power from the people.

Halting canvassing is another way of placing blinders on the minds of citizens.

Canvassing is a solicitation of opinions. It is a means for disseminating information by persons who cannot afford paying for access to the mass media.

Canvassing is a way of stimulating public thought, of creating innovative ideas, of letting the truth be found.

But the state superior court has upheld the University's policy that indirectly restricts canvassing in the dormitories.

University policy has each dorm vote for whether or not that it shall permit canvassing within it. Too often, dorm dwellers sacrifice their Constitutional responsibility of hearing all viewpoints on issues by simply refusing to permit canvassers entrance into their dorms, thus closing their minds to ideas.

It is convenient to not want one's privacy interrupted. Few persons relish having someone at their door calling for world revolution or pleading to save souls. Most students are too busy studying, sleeping or partying to desire the temporary interruptions that could occur if canvassing is permitted.

Therefore, too many dorms decide to reject canvassing.

For the sake of convenience, the dorm dwellers are shutting out persons who have important ideas to disseminate such as getting students to register to vote or circulating petitions to emphasize student grievances.

In a self-governing society, every opinion must be heard in order that the wisest decisions are made. Freedom of speech should not be denied anyone.

Denying canvassing inhibits the free flow of information vital to a properly functioning democracy.

Those former students, who initiated the suit against the

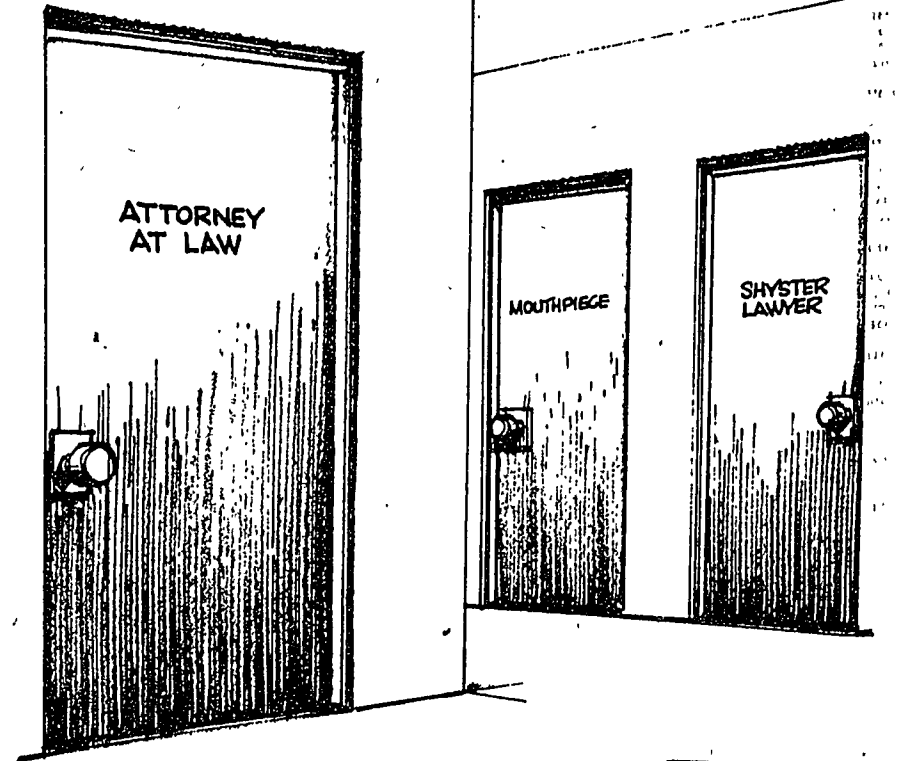
University's policy that indirectly inhibits canvassing, are not giving up now that the state superior court has decided against them. An appeal is being made to the state Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, students should vote to permit canvassing within the dorms.

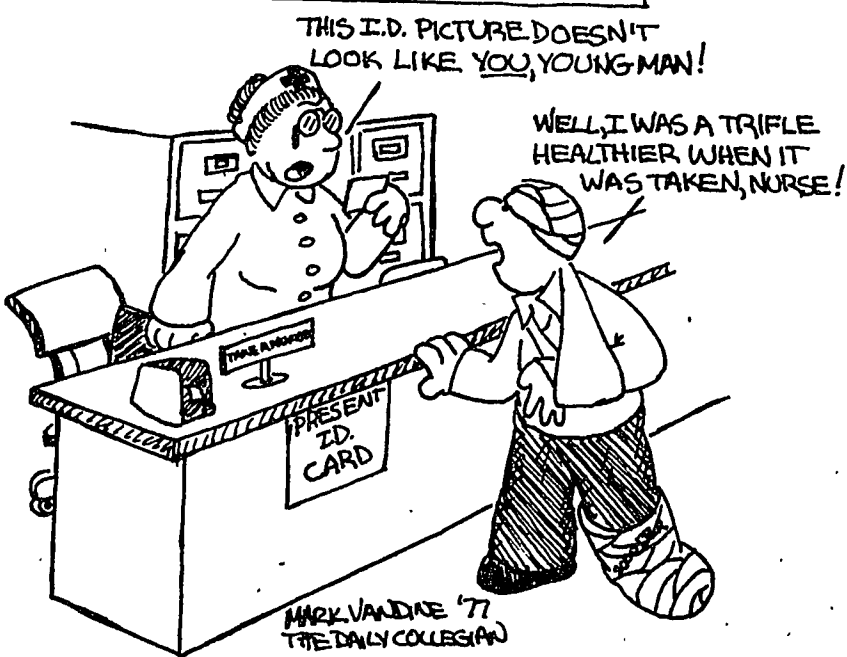
All canvassers must receive permits from the area coordinator before they begin. Plus, they are required to canvass only between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m. and to honor individual requests that they do not want to be disturbed.

Protect our guarantee to free speech. Vote for canvassing.

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING



BUREAUCRACY BATTLES OF 1977:
#1: RITENOUR RED TAPE



Battle of globes and flats rages

But you didn't know it, but there has been a tremendous battle going on for many years now between crafty Globularists and crazy Flat Earth Society members.

Keep in mind that both "crafty" and "crazy" are subjective terms, colored by personal prejudice.

The Society, presided over by Dr. Leo Ferrari of St. Thomas University in Canada, sent me some literature expounding against "crafty Globularists" who try to convince all rational people that the earth is round.

They quote George Bernard Shaw:

The modern man who believes that the earth is round is grossly credulous. Flat earth men drive him to fury by confuting him with the greatest ease when he tries to argue about it.

They say Common Sense (their capital letters) shows that the "patent absurdities" of the round-earthers are obvious.

For instance, if the earth really were round, then half the world would be living upside down. Obviously, they would fall off.

And, if the earth were really a sphere, then what keeps the oceans from draining off, leaving the world one hell of a muddy mess, they ask?

Jana Jenick

Gee, I don't know. The flat earth hypothesis is only part of a greater philosophy, it must be understood. The aims of the Flat Earth Society are 1) to restore man's faith in common sense; 2) to combat the ob-

viously fallacious idea that the earth is round; 3) to assert that all science is, like all religion, essentially metaphorical and that reality is mystical and poetic.

Given the vein in which this tract is written, I was not quite sure whether or not to believe in the sincerity of the author(s). After all, only five dollars will bring me an Associate Membership, for which I will get a certificate, tracts and a newsletter. After three years, after paying out six more dollars, after having been screened and tested, I will become a full-fledged member of the Flat Earth Society.

The screening is to exclude any crafty Globularists and any obvious lunatics. Now, what kind of lunatic would want to join the Flat Earth Society?

Actually, I gave the matter some thought. It is all too easy to fall into self-righteousness. Perhaps a touch of perpetual skepticism would do me good.

I speculated a bit about what kind of people, if sincere, would join this group. Would it be people who have never been more than 10 miles from their home? Would it be people who just like to be different? Or would it be people who are just plain stubborn... Having never seen the round-earth, having never held it in their hand, would they refuse to believe in it?

"Imagine it if you dare — half the world living upside-down, millions of people being whirled around at 1,000 miles per hour, flashing through space at 67,000 miles per hour and through intergalactic space at some 600,000 miles per hour, not to mention all the spinning supposedly going on. It is enough to make one dizzy to the point of sickness. No wonder therefore that modern man is so disoriented and confused..." the Society said in its folder.

I imagine it. Maybe I'm the one who's crazy. I wonder.

India: Once again a democracy after 20 years

By B. K. Chandrasekhar
graduate-solid state science

In March, India once again became a true democracy after 20 months of autocratic rule. The government of Mrs. Indira Gandhi was overwhelmingly rejected by the electorate, thus ending the rule of the congress party which was in power since 1947.

Mrs. Gandhi herself was defeated in the parliament election by a socialist leader. In its semi-annual "Global Political Assessment" report, the prestigious Columbia University's Research Institute on International Change has recognized the election in India as "the most important event of the period."

The credit for this dramatic change undoubtedly goes to the veteran freedom fighter Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, popularly known as J. P. It was under the leadership of J. P. (who does not belong to any political party) that the other leading political parties joined hands forming the Janata party (People's party), to oppose the government of Mrs. Gandhi. The people sympathized with the new party because of the unfortunate events that took place during emergency.

The opposition leaders were arrested along with thousands of their supporters without trial in a court of law. The thumping victory of the Janata party resulted in the formation of a new government under the leadership of Mararji Desai, a former deputy prime minister under Mrs. Gandhi.

Desai is more than eighty-years-old, a disciplinarian and a

staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi. He was chosen as he was the only leader widely acceptable throughout the country. Any other choice might have resulted in the disintegration of the new Janata party.

The change in government has brought several changes in the political life of the country, perhaps the most important of them being a new sense of political awareness throughout the country, including in rural areas. The middle class and the intellectuals who were never in the mainstream of political life before took active part during and after the emergency. The new government immediately took steps to put back the country on a democratic path in a systematic way. Fundamental rights and civil liberties have been restored. The press has been made free and there is a move to change the control of radio and TV from the government. These were misused by the previous government for political gains. The judiciary has again become independent of the executive.

The prime minister and his cabinet colleagues are known for their simple living and austerity. A dialogue was initiated with the opposition parties on various issues. Recently a consensus was reached on the choice of the next president of India. This indicates that the ruling party is not arrogant with its powers.

The new government could not have come at a better time. There was peaceful transfer of power, with Mrs. Gandhi gracefully accepting the verdict of the people. There is no tension along the borders, with both Pakistan and China

having their own internal problems. In fact, trade and communication was established with these countries during Mrs. Gandhi's rule. This has been further strengthened. The country is self sufficient in food with an all-time record reserve of eighteen million tons of food grains. The foreign exchange reserves are in a comfortable position, thanks to the expanded exports and a drop in imports.

There is no change in India's foreign policy of non-alignment. However, there is a slight shift away from Moscow, with which the previous government had special relations. Russia's concern was obvious as it sent Alexis Gromyko to New Delhi for talks with Desai and the new foreign minister Vajpayee to gauge the mood of the new government. Even though the peace treaty with Moscow continues to exist, it has no significance as the new government wants to have "genuine" non-alignment. The change in government at New Delhi and Washington was welcomed in both the countries.

However, there was some concern in India regarding President Carter's views on nuclear fuel supply to other countries. So far India has not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. India insists that it will sign the treaty provided there are no more nuclear explosions by any country. Prime minister Desai has declared that India has no intention of making atomic weapons. Recently the nuclear regulatory commission in this country has approved export to India of more than two tons of special nuclear fuel, saying it

was satisfied with safeguards to ensure the material would not be used to make atomic weapons. The U. S. ambassador in New Delhi, Dr. Goheen, stated that his government understood India's position not to sign the non-proliferation treaty. However some of the cabinet ministers strongly feel that India has to go nuclear to protect itself from China.

However, the government faces many challenges. The Janata party is still not a coherent organization, with infighting among different groups. Unless this trend is checked, it may result in the instability of the government. The massive unemployment problem has to be tackled. Land reforms have to be implemented to improve the lives of the farmers.

Ultimately what matters is whether the government has succeeded in providing for the basic needs of the people. The magnitude of the problems are such that no one expects a change for the better soon. What is important is whether there is an honest approach on the part of the administration in implementing the programs.

Considering the background of the developments, the significance of what has happened in India is not just a victory for J.P. and his supporters or a defeat for Mrs. Gandhi. It represents the unquestionable faith of the Indian people in democratic values and freedom. India has once again re-established its faith in the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.

Let it be a source of inspiration for all freedom-loving people of the world.

Letters to the Editor

Watch your budget

A budget for the state is just like a budget for a family; when the expenditures exceed the income it is necessary to either provide more money or cut expenses. It is easy to vote to make the dollars match and it is easy to cut a budget on paper.

It is equally easy to vote for no taxes. But such a vote forgets that the figures represent people and services and priorities.

Over the past few weeks the House has overwhelmingly approved many amendments to the budget which would increase services and programs. I believe that when a legislator votes for increased services and publicly supports these programs, it is irresponsible to vote against the taxes to support those programs.

important that there has been no state tax increase since 1971, and there will be none in the 1978 since it is an election year, which makes it all the more necessary to seriously consider the ramifications of a no-tax vote this year.

Is there waste in our state government? Of course there is! No one will pretend that in a \$5 billion a year budget with more than 100,000 employees that there is no waste and no possibility of increased efficiency. It is for this reason that I have so constantly supported sunset legislation which would give the legislature a method by which it can regularly and carefully evaluate all programs of agencies and departments. I am a co-sponsor of several pieces of sunset legislation and I believe we will have such laws before this session is over.

During the last 2 years we have cut hundreds of millions of dollars out of the administrative overhead of state government. The proposed budget cuts the Governor's request for state government operation by \$88 million and leaves unfunded more than 4,000 vacancies in state government. I believe that a moderate tax increase is necessary and I will support one which funds the essential state government services and distributes money on an equal basis to both public schools and higher education institutions. To do less this year, is, I believe, fiscally irresponsible!

Helen D. Wise
State Representative
77th District

Right to sex

In a recent letter a false and misleading statement was made. I am getting quite disgusted at the twisting of the meaning of words, a practice that is far too common in today's world.

The writer used the words, "the rights of the homosexual."

No one has a right to sex. Sex is a gift and a privilege conveyed on, or to, one person by another with mutual consent. To claim a right to sex is to claim that one person has a claim to another person's body, without the other person's permission, consent, or approval. This concept would be, to me, obnoxious.

I claim the privilege to say yes or no when I want to without having someone else deny me that right, when it pertains to sex on a personal basis.

T. W. Haffley

Flush fund

When I consider needed long-range improvements in Old Main, a new Provost "necessary" does not come to mind. What a way for the new man to begin his image management strategy. And in these times too!

Roy C. Buck
professor of sociology

the Collegian

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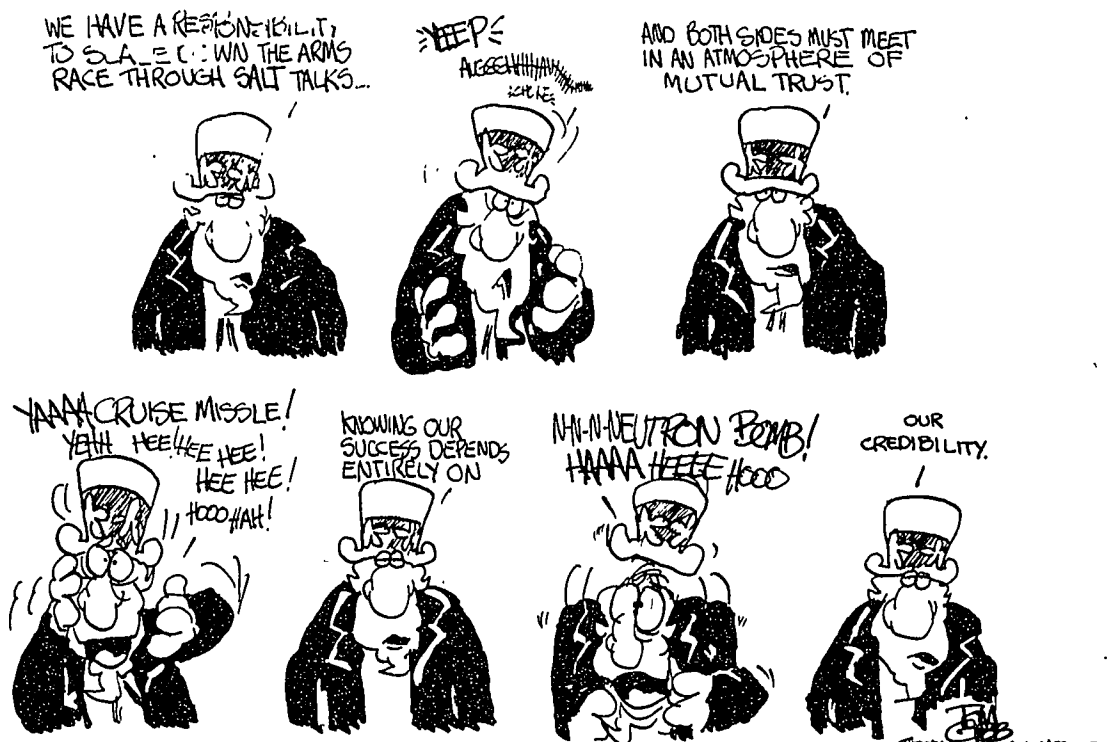
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Editorial policy is determined by the Editor. Opinions expressed by the editors and staff of The Daily Collegian are not necessarily those of the University administration, faculty or students.

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.



Strange things coined at capital

By WILLIAM WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG (AP) — Strange things happen to the English language in the heat of legislative battle.

Sometimes phrases are coined. There was an excellent example during the unsuccessful rush to get a budget passed before the July 1 deadline.

One day, Philadelphia representatives blocked an attempt to pass a budget.

Rep. Ron Gamble, a first-term legislator from Allegheny County, jumped up and angrily said of the Philadelphia delegation:

"They say either play ball with us or we'll shove the bat up your armpit."

The Education Department felt that its staff writers, who handle news releases and reports, should be better writers. So it sent them to school.

For three days, Penn State journalism professor Bill Dulaney pushed for improvement. Before that he reviewed a batch of department reports.

He said he found them "wordy, filled with bureaucratic jargon, stuffily phrased, loaded with complex, compound sentences."

An office wag said perhaps the writers were just reflecting what their bosses were saying.

Delightful comments from that same body flow from the man who's in charge, Speaker K. Leroy Irvis.

During a recent debate, Irvis was having a particular problem in stopping the chatter on the floor.

One member who was trying to make a speech said in exasperation:

"I'd like to have the attention of the House before I make this motion." To which Irvis replied: "The chair

would like to have the attention of the House also."

He's not silver-tongued like Irvis. He's blunt. But he's still widely quoted. The man is John Durbin, the rotund, smiling Harrisburg bar owner who is now a state official.

Durbin is an assistant to the man he talked into running for office — Treasurer Robert E. Casey.

Durbin was asked recently why Casey rents a Cadillac as his official car instead of accepting a Dodge or Chevrolet from the state fleet.

"We want to be like the governor," shouted Durbin in defense. Gov. Shapp's state car is a Lincoln. Durbin said Casey needed a big car because he travels a lot.

"Why shouldn't he get a big car. He's in for four years... Nobody else had the guts to get a big car."