



"I AM THE GREAT AND POWERFUL OZ-WALD !!!"

Curtain

For Daily Collegian reporters Colleen Gallagher and Denise Ryan, getting to see University President John W. Oswald proved even more difficult than it was for Dorothy to see the Wizard of Oz.

But the end of the reporters' story was not as happy as the end of Dorothy's. The reporters never got to see the wizard.

Gallagher and Ryan's trip down the yellow brick road started in late March with a call to Oswald's executive secretary Mary Lou McCorkle. They requested an interview with Oswald for a story they were doing for Journalism 423 and possible publication. Their story was to, in part, examine the fringe benefits given to the president such as his use of University planes, cars and the president's house.

McCorkle told the reporters it was not Oswald's policy to grant interviews for class projects and that Oswald was too busy with appropriation

hearings in Harrisburg to grant an interview. After that, Oswald turned down four more requests, one in writing, for an interview.

Last week the reporters asked to see the record of Oswald's trips in University planes, fleet operations records of the president's car and a list of University administrators entitled to long term use of University vehicles. From five different University sources, the reporters were told the records of how University money is spent on these perquisites "were not public information."

We do not necessarily quarrel with Oswald's right to the fringe benefits. Much like the president of a large corporation, he leads a complex institution with 50,000 students, 22 campuses and a \$300 million budget. Any president of a corporation that large would certainly have as many if not more benefits.

But we do question Oswald's right to secrecy. Certainly any corporation head is responsible to the stockholders for any compensation he receives. Oswald is as responsible to Penn State's stockholders — the tuition and tax payers — as the president of IBM is responsible to IBM stockholders.

The sad fact is that Oswald has only hurt himself by his refusal to be interviewed. In this many-sided story perhaps the most important side is Oswald's: We will probably never know it.

Because Oswald refuses to publicly deal with the issue of his fringe benefits, he has cast suspicion on practices where there need be none.

A university president or any public official must be open and accountable to the public if he expects the public and the state legislature to consider him anything more than "the little man behind the curtain" in the "Wizard of Oz."

Letters to the Editor

Caged

An open letter to Mr. Metzger, the "owner" of Metz, the mountain lion: It is a shame that such beauty is kept in a cage, and not in the wild where it belongs. There are very few people in this world that can appreciate this beauty, and I can see by the cage, collar and chain that you are not one of them.

Karl Lutz
15th-forest science
May 4

Thanks

The Area 2 Special Olympics Meet was held April 29 at Westley Park Jr. High School and the University Natatorium. On behalf of everyone connected with the meet, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the University students and faculty members who gave their considerable time and energies to make this event a success.

In particular, I wish to thank the committee chairpersons who spent many long hours planning and organizing the event. Special thanks is also extended to Debbie Tummins, John Doolittle, the Blue Band, Herb Schmidt and the 350 students and faculty who spent the entire afternoon with Special Olympians.

Special Olympics personnel, coaches and competitors thank all of these volunteers for their outstanding assistance.

Kay Smith
Area 2 Meet Director
Special Olympics
May 3

Discredit

Regarding the article entitled "PSU sororities struggling to silence stereotypes," in Thursday's issue of The Daily Collegian, I would first like to give Joyce Gannon credit. Anyone who would publish their name in association with such a gross misrepresentation of an organization at this university must be a very daring individual. Also, I would like to discredit the Collegian. I always thought that the leading college newspapers saved only their best, most factual articles for the front page.

Ms. Gannon's article is an example of an instrument used to promote negative stereotypes of sororities. There are many advantages of being Greek, and I am proud to be one. An outstanding feature of a sorority is being able to be an individual within a group of individuals. Sorority members are encouraged to keep up outer-sorority interests, activities, and especially friends. Also, there is a special bond shared between sisters in a sorority and brothers in a fraternity, and it is not considered to be "just another ceremony to attend." This unity can not be understood by anyone who has not had the opportunity to share it, and Ms. Gannon obviously never has.

Another point, what other organization besides the Greek organization has done more to aid charitable causes in the college and outer-college community? By the way, the picture associated with the article was from the ultra-successful dance marathon! Philanthropic projects are a big part of Greek activities, and sororities and fraternities often interact to make them the successes that they are.

It is really a shame that individuals must be so close-minded that they must condemn an organization on hearsay and stereotypes. Hopefully, independents who would still consider joining a sorority would still come with an open mind and willingness to meet a lot of people and share many good experiences with them.

There is much more to a sorority than borrowing clothes, formals, Friday night socials, and waiting to be asked to fraternity parties. If Joyce Gannon would have taken an honest look at sororities, she would have found girls (many in blue jeans, Chuck Cole!) portraying quite a different picture than the one Gannon's article painted.

Melinda Rice
12th-elementary education
May 4

Right or wrong

As a former University student, I wish to make use of the freedom of expression The Daily Collegian is famous for. I am desperately praying that this letter is printed, to right a grievous wrong.

The wrong I speak of is NBC-TV's disgraceful Holocaust. This film is filled with racist lies and half-truths. Any student of the real facts who saw this knows I speak truth.

"The Holocaust," as presented is totally untrue. Of course persecution of Jews existed, but the TV version carries it to the extent of the old shower room-Zyklon B myths of mass murder.

Except for the "razing" of the village of Lidice for the murder of Reinhardt Henrich, the Nazis did not carry on any mass murders. The "gassing" tales of Auschwitz and others are fables.

In such works as "Did Six Million Really Die?" and "The Hoax of The 20th Century" many writers — not Nazis — have stated how it would be literally impossible to kill six million Jews in so short a time, even by gassing. It would take up to 50 years, not the three years the Jews claimed it happened in.

Of course, adverse conditions appeared in the labor camps, and many died of disease and starvation. Crematoriums existed for the destruction of disease-victims, not gassed millions!

When Roosevelt and Churchill drafted a statement naming the "persecuted" peoples under Nazi rule, Jews were not listed at all. The conditions existing in Germany at the time (from World War I to the end of World War II) are really no worse than those suffered by the Negroes in our own country after the Civil War.

It's your turn

Okay, so you're graduating soon. You've had almost 12 terms of chicken steak, Shields Building and Forum lectures — 12 terms of "For the Glory" Penn State.

If you're a graduating senior, or even if you're not, The Daily Collegian wants to know what you think. What aspects of the University cry for change? What part of Penn State is so good you don't want to leave it?

The Collegian will publish a special letters page May 18. Letters must be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 40 lines. Submit letters before 5 p.m. May 15 in 126 Carnegie.

Lack of energy is a problem nearly everyone can relate to — especially Spring Term. The Daily Collegian will run an Op-Ed page next Thursday on energy and we're looking for your viewpoints — but not just on personal energy crises.

The feasibility of solar energy, the prospects for coal in the future and the pros and cons of nuclear energy will all be presented.

If you've got an opinion on anything energy-related, from Carter's energy policy to the University's energy future, type it out, double-spaced in fewer than 30 lines and include your name, term and major. Turn it in by 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 9 in 126 Carnegie Building.

the Collegian

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Willow a reminder, not tradition

Near the water fountain on the mall, there is now a patch of dirt where a University tradition used to stand — the "Old Willow" has gone the way of the dinosaur and the hula-hoop.

Planted the year students were first admitted to the University, 1859, the Old Willow became a symbol at the University in the early 1900s, when Penn State was losing its reputation as a farmer's college and was adding new colleges to its curriculum and thousands of students to its enrollment.

As the University grew, so grew Old Willow.

Old Willow was the first symbol of Penn State. Before the Lion ever assumed its perch at Rec Hall, and even before Joe Paterno's boys put us on the map, there was that tree.

During a storm April 26, 1921, a large section of the tree was blown down, but a shoot was taken from the still-living section and re-planted between Old Main and the Human Development Building.

The tree grew, unmoored. In August 1976 it toppled, ridden with disease and weakened by age. A cutting was taken from the tree, replanted on the Mall and

surrounded with posts and chains. There the sprout flourished, already showing its spring leaves, until it was plucked from the ground and carried off by vandals early last month.



Bob Frick

I'll bet a lot of old alums upon hearing the news of the proud tree's final demise, muttered something like, "Goddamn kids and their senseless vandalism — no respect for tradition." With part of this I'd have to disagree; there was nothing senseless about it, it was to be expected and should be taken in stride.

The Old Willow was a relic, a symbol of days gone by when freshmen wore beanies and removed them and bowed to

the tree upon passing, and when school spirit was more than just something you drank.

It made perfect sense for someone to stick a pipe in the hole left by the uprooted sapling and to stick a mock paper tree in that. It was to be expected that a sign saying "The New Old Willow" would be hung on the chains surrounding the effigy and that some guy would stand guard over it with a club, defending the new symbol of Penn State's long, proud heritage.

Maybe it is hokey to recall those days when you had to memorize the alma mater, when a student had to undergo degradation just for being a freshman, and when they actually said schmaltz like, "As the University grew, so grew Old Willow."

Still, it would have been nice to have kept the twig around, not as a symbol for the University — I don't think we'd know what to do with one of those these days — but as a reminder of how Penn State used to be.

Bob Frick is a 9th term journalism major and is editorial editor of The Daily Collegian.

Prejudice, bad as it is, is one of mankind's oldest and most natural emotions. As Robert E. Howard stated, "Barbarism is the natural state of man. Civilization . . . is a fluke. And Barbarism will eventually triumph."

Why are we in America eager to swallow the Big Lie of The Six Million?

Two reasons exist. First, is because of the extent to which our own culture has become Jew-controlled. The film itself was made, written and acted by primarily Jewish actors and actresses. A more prejudiced film does not exist, with the possible exception of last season's ROOTS. The Nazis — and all Germans — are made to look like monsters, while the poor, harried Jews are made victims and eventual victors. Stereotyping and typecasting, all done by Jews.

Second is our own acts during World War II. We, great America, the land of the free, did a lot worse to the Japanese-Americans in the so-called "internment centers" from 1941-45 than was ever done in German camps to Jews. Starvation, sterilization, brutality, genocide — yes, America is responsible for this and more.

Many who read this will be hostile toward what I have written, preferring to believe the Jew Lie to the Aryan Truth. You are only thus cutting your own throats, turning your back on facts. Some hope exists for the re-education of our generation, after all. Peace now and forever . . . Heil Hitler!

Carl Nicastro
Pottsville
May 3

Upper cut

This letter is in response to all those editorials last week concerning the fighting in the NHL. Fighting has evolved into another aspect of the game and to remove it entirely would eliminate much of the excitement.

The major complaint that has been raised about fighting is the injuries that result. Well, in all the time I've watched hockey I have yet to see a career ending injury result from a fight. It seems to me that players get hurt more often from the natural equipment used in the sport. A puck in the eye (Barry Ashbee), a skate in the neck resulting in 80 stitches (Rick MacLeish) or a stick in the face (Borje Salming) has the potential to end a career sooner. I have never yet seen a player leave the rink from being KO'd by his opponent.

I don't consider it violence when the players drop their gloves and go at it for a few minutes. Fighting is a part of hockey strategy as is good play making. It certainly was effective for the Flyers in '74 and '75. In fact, they would still be winning Stanley Cups if the other teams had not adopted their style. Why were the Flyers the only team to dominate the Soviets a few years ago? Why were the Maple Leafs able to even their series with the Islanders? In both cases, this physical side of hockey was used to its full advantage.

The critics proposed ejection and suspension for fighting which is totally absurd. As long as the third-man-in rule is enforced, fighting is under enough control. If the critics feel that way about hockey "violence," they would probably strip Ken Norton of his title for connecting with a good left hook.

David Gottschall
grad-chemistry
May 4

Enriched

As a sorority member I realize that our Greek system is in trouble at the University, but I feel that part of the problem is articles such as the one written by Joyce Gannon Thursday. If I were an independent and read that article, I would certainly think twice before rushing.

Joyce portrayed sorority members as snobby, obnoxious and phony. The opposing sides which were given did not counteract the effect which the account of the "line-up" must have made on independents. I joined a sorority my first term and I can honestly say it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I did not join for security because I am not an insecure person. I joined because I wanted some close, lasting friendships which I did not find on my dorm floor. I am not best friends with all 60 members of my sorority, but I know that they are all there if I ever need them.

I did not lose my independence by joining a sorority. I am involved in other campus activities and have friends other than my sorority sisters. I put as much time as I can into my sorority and when I can't, my sisters understand. I feel no pressure to act, dress a certain way, or go to fraternities on a Friday night any more than the rest of the campus does. I do like to dress up on weekends, but so do a lot of independents and it is not just sorority girls who go to fraternity parties.

I wish this campus would realize that a girl joins a sorority for a variety of reasons including just wishing to be involved in an activity. The majority of the sororities do not abuse their pledges, nor are all sorority girls snobby and obnoxious.

Everyone has a right to do what they wish to with their college life and for some that means a sorority. We should not be condemned. Being a sorority member has enriched my college years and I wish everyone could experience Greek life; it's the best.

Cheryl L. Robillard
Vice President
Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority
May 4

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 not longer than 30 lines. Students' letters should include the name, term and major of the writer. The editorial editor reserves the right to edit letters, and to reject them if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste.

