

# Worthy

Must the University do away with its industrial arts education program?

In order to help the College of Education's financial woes, Dean Henry Hermanowicz recently proposed to abolish the program. "I've tried my darndest to save the program," he said, "but we just can't get the money."

As usual, the problem, or solution, rests in Harrisburg. The state six years ago ordered the program to include equipment for a power mechanics laboratory. Consequently, the College of Education bought about \$15,000 worth of equipment, and hired a new faculty member to instruct on how to use it. "We spent about a year looking for him because power technology teachers are hard to come by," one faculty member said.

The program still has the professor, but it no longer has the equipment. All the equipment had to be returned because last year's budget crunch prevented the University Arranging Committee from being able to arrange for a facility in which to use the equipment.

So in order to keep the program alive, the College of Education would have to come up with about \$15,000 for equipment again, while the University Arranging Committee would need about \$10,000 to clear out a space for its use.

It would be worth the expense.

Industrial arts education is a very practical field, and the University offers one of the more avant-garde programs in the northeast. There is a nationwide demand for high school shop teachers, so graduates have little trouble getting jobs in their field. Also, the University is only one of three in the northeast, and the only one in the state, that offers a doctoral degree in this field.

Although the overall program enrolls less than 175 students, they are nevertheless valuable in today's job market, especially in the spirit of land grant colleges, such as Penn State, originally designed to serve the needs of agriculture and the working class.

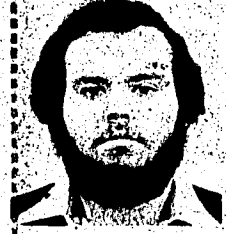
# That sinking feeling

Some people are almost too low for words. Those who repay kindness and generosity with dishonesty are about the lowest.

I had an experience this past weekend which has soured my attitudes toward people in general and Penn State students in particular.

My roommates and I invited some friends over late Saturday night to share the leftovers from a picnic. We had a half-keg of beer (tapped on the balcony of our townhouse at Briarwood).

There was a lot more beer there than we could ever finish, and considering that it was past midnight, we decided to bring as many people in as possible so it wouldn't go to waste.



John Martellaro

There were a lot of people at Briarwood that night. Even though the "Briarwood Bash" had been postponed for a week because of the weather, a lot of the people out there decided to make an all-day party out of it anyway.

We ended up inviting strangers from the parking lot, people we had never seen before, into our home to share what we had, rather than throw it away.

I guess, with 20-20 hindsight, that I shouldn't have been surprised at the way our act of generosity was repaid, but I was.

The next morning, we had a couch with a broken leg in our living room and a lampshade which had been torn and mangled. Beer had been poured into our houseplants, and to top it all off, the keg itself and the tap (worth about \$40 on deposit), were stolen.

It must have been someone who had been in the apartment. It was too dark for anyone outside to see the keg sitting on the unit balcony.

It couldn't have been someone too falling-down drunk to be responsible, because the thief had to climb to a second floor balcony to steal it.

No, it was a person who knew full well what he was doing, that he was stealing beer from people perfectly willing to give him all he wanted, and costing them their deposit in the process.

I'm sure the tap was the big attraction for our friend. I realize that it will make things a lot easier for him whenever he wants to buy a keg. He'll never have to worry about getting the money for the deposit together.

I hope he gets a lot of pleasure and convenience out of it, I really do. Because I feel sorry for him. Anyone with so little self respect that he would lower himself enough to do that is a pitiable thing indeed.

A lot of people right now are probably thinking: "What's this guy complaining for? If he was stupid enough to invite strangers into his apartment, then he got what he deserved. It serves him right."

Sadly, I must agree, even though that type of sentiment is one I would have violently argued against a short time ago.

I used to faithfully believe in the innate goodness of people. I was a trusting soul, always ready to give people the benefit of the doubt in just about anything.

Especially here. I always thought that "Happy Valley" was more than just a cute term, that this was a place where people were especially decent.

But I was wrong, I guess. This incident has caused my faith in people to take a real nose-dive.

After we got over our initial shock, my roommates and I decided that we wouldn't dwell on the incident, but rather chalk it up as a learning experience and forget about it.

It may indeed have been a learning experience, but it was a rather sad lesson. A little knowledge can be a dangerous thing, they say.

It can also be depressing. John Martellaro is a 12th term journalism major.



# Alternative

As a member of a Penn State sorority, I found Joyce Gannon's article on sororities inaccurate and misleading. The article served only to reinforce rather than silence stereotypes. Unfortunately, there probably have been hazing incidents similar to those described by Bonnie from time to time. Hazing, however, is now strictly forbidden by all national sororities and is not representative of sorority life on this campus.

Sororities are much more than socials, ceremonies and formals. Most sororities strive to help their members make the most of themselves through personal and group development. Sororities offer leadership training, scholarship motivation, career opportunities, social opportunities and the chance to make a group of close, life-long friends.

Sororities, along with fraternities, raise thousands of dollars each year for community and national charities. Great diversity exists within each sorority, and sorority women encourage individuality, rather than conformity to the group. Finally, it is absurd to believe that sorority members are recognizable by their manner of dress. Most sorority women are no more concerned with their appearance than other Penn State coeds. In fact, some of us even own several pairs of jeans.

Although sororities are not for everyone, they are one of many valuable, alternative life-styles at Penn State.

Lynn Dalley  
Gamma Phi Beta sorority  
May 5

# Vocabulary

Dear Mr. Cashdollar: Congratulations on such a well-rounded vocabulary. Do you follow Italian with dago, athlete with stupid, black with nigger, blond with dumb as you follow sorority with bitch?

But I can forgive your narrow-minded vindictive remarks against sororities as ignorance seems to be your forte in college.

Just a question though — How many of them turned you down for a date?

Sarah Makin  
9th-political science  
May 5

# Advantages

I am compelled to respond publicly to Joyce Gannon's article (May 4) about sororities at Penn State. As a member of one of the sororities on campus, I realize that I cannot speak objectively about all of them, but my experiences are definitely not in accord with those described.

When I rushed as a first-term freshman, I knew nothing about the sororities here — in fact, the idea of stereotypes among them had not even occurred to me. It was not until I had been in the sorority for several months that I fully realized what was thought about individual sororities and about "sorority girls" as a whole. My motives for rushing were those voiced by most rushees: I wanted to make new friends and I was looking for a group that would be active. Personally, I felt that I would tend to do little outside of classes if I did not make a commitment to an organized group, and sororities appealed to me more than any others. I was not disappointed with what I found.

Contrary to Gannon's Bonnie, I did not find that the sisters treated me differently as a pledge. I was not subjected to any degrading treatment. One thing that all the sisters feel is important is that a pledge should never be requested to do anything that a sister would be unwilling to do herself. Pledge activities all serve a purpose, the main one being that the sisters and pledges get to know each other.

The purpose of a sorority is to expand a girl's experience, not to limit it. We are encouraged to become involved in activities outside the sorority as well as within it. I know that I have become much more com-

# Abuse

The Arab Club refers to an article published May 3rd, under cultural plagiarism. Many of the Palestinian Arab articles are now shown at the HUB under an Israeli Exhibit. The Zionists, after uprooting the Palestinian Arab people from their homeland — Palestine — in 1948, are now turning to forge the Palestinian Arab culture. Mr. Feuchtwang mentioned that Arab culture is a synthesis of Persian, Christian, Jewish and Moslem culture.

The Arab Club would like to remind the Zionists that the Arab culture is the one that protected the Jews from persecution; and they found safety and prosperity in Arab Spain.

Arabic culture speaks for itself. Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, etc.) are what the west still uses; and other contributions we will not mention. There are 22 Arab countries with a population of 150 million from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf whose heritage the article distorts. The person or persons in charge of the HUB exhibits should not allow such abuses of cultures.

Ahmed Kamal Gabbani  
president, The Arab Club  
May 4

# Happily hairy

I want to compliment John Martellaro for his insightful article about how he lost face. Like him, I have also had a recent "close encounter" with a razor. At 5:43 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, I shaved my armpits.

I guess the main reason I did it was for curiosity. I haven't been clean-shaven since the day when I read "The Feminine Mystique" and decided that it was senseless to groom any part of my body so that it would conform to the centerfold image. But during the years following my act of liberation, I've fantasized about what I looked like underneath that thick underbrush.

It was not done, as many people thought for "shock value." So I was surprised at the controversy it created. My next-door neighbor in the dorm walked into the bathroom as I was fitting a cartridge into my new Trac II razor and started screaming hysterically, thinking that I was about to commit suicide. The following afternoon, at Gentle Thursday, my boyfriend looked at me funny for half an hour as I basked in the sun in my halter top. Finally I whispered in his ear: "Don't you have anything to say to me?" He peered closely at me for a few moments: "Wait a minute. Something's different. You have a suntan. No, you... Santa Maria! You shaved your armpits!"

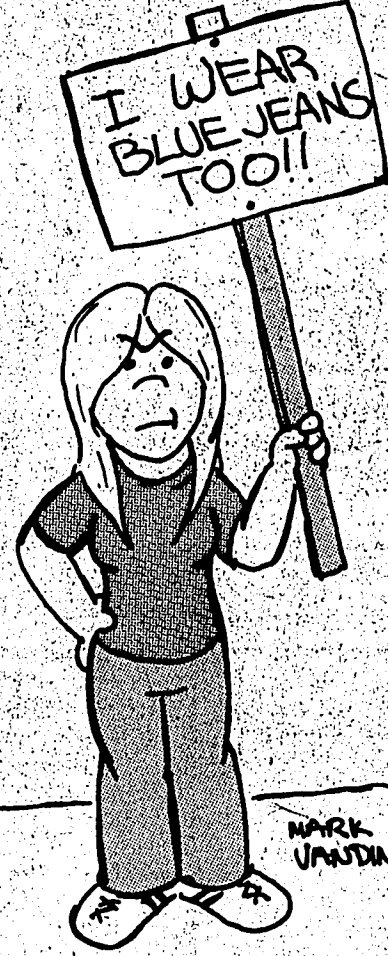
But the people with the strongest reaction were the women in my swimming class. All Spring Term, I had been a staunch advocate of the "natural look." "Don't worry about shaving the hair under your armpits," I'd say. "You're not speed swimmers. Guys don't shave under their arms, why should you?" All during class on Friday, I did the Dead Man's Float, hoping to keep my

portable in situations requiring interaction with others because of my experiences in the sorority.

Joining a sorority does not mean abandoning old friendships, and it does not mean changing to fit a "sorority image." It makes me furious that people assume all the women in sororities to be the same, basing this assumption on their acquaintances with just a few. Just as independents with similar interests make friends with each other, so do sororities consist of women who have things in common. But to assume that every girl in a sorority is just like the next is ridiculous. Within any group there is always great diversity.

If Miss Gannon was trying to do sororities a favor by helping to combat the sorority stereotype, she missed her mark. Organized groups are subject to much inspection by outside parties merely by the fact that they have names and are recognized by them. But the problems of sororities are no worse than those of any other groups, and in my opinion and experience, the advantages of sorority membership far outweigh any disadvantages.

Barbara J. Wise  
Gamma Phi Beta sorority  
May 5



# Jeans

The article "PSU Sororities Struggling to Silence Stereotypes" was a cheap and unjustified piece of literature. Joyce Gannon presented her intention as an effort to describe the sorority system's battle against stereotypes; however, she twisted it around, only to reinforce those stereotypes. Granted, it included opinions of sorority members; but they were certainly not given the fair opportunity to present their arguments. The sorority members interviewed for this article were misled to believe that it was to be informative rather than opinionated. Being a highly opinionated article, the article should not have been printed on the front page.

However, my purpose is not to provide a rebuttal, but to relate some of the rewards to be gained as an active sorority member. Attending a school of Penn State's size can make some people feel overwhelmed. Joining a sorority, or any organization, allows an individual to

sin undercover. But one of my classmates was practicing underwater swimming with her eyes open and she discovered my secret. We changed in silence in the locker room that day. I began to consider growing my hair back.

I'm no longer considering it. My mind is made up. This past Wednesday, I shaved again. After de-hairing myself, I sprayed some anti-perspirant underneath my arms. AND BOY DID IT STING! "To Hades with this!" I decided on the spot. "Let the hair grow."

As I write this, I'm sporting a one-day growth. By the time you read this, I should be properly grubby. And in two weeks, like Mr. Martellaro, I should be happily hairy again.

Elma Sabo  
12th-English  
May 4

# Fantasy

In regards to Carl Nicastro's letter of the 5th on the subject of genocide in Nazi Germany ("The Hoax of the 20th Century"), I can only say, "Carl, you're a jerk!"

If you are willing to dismiss the post-war investigations of literally hundreds of responsible journalists, as well as photographic evidence and eyewitness accounts concerning the heinous atrocities in the Nazi extermination camps, in favor of such debatable sources as the book "Did Six Million Really Die?" and the words of the famous fantasy writer Robert E. Howard, then one can only conclude that you are not "the student of the real facts," which you say you are.

What you are is a very sadly misled Nazi sympathizer, who would ignore the truth in favor of slogans and sweeping generalities ("our culture has become Jew controlled" and "the Jew lie and the Aryan truth" and so on and so on until most thinking individuals grow ill).

I would also like to thank The Daily Collegian for printing your letter, for it will stand as a monument to ignorance and prejudice, which you speak against, yet, inherently support.

Bob Carville  
9th-journalism  
May 5

# To right a wrong

Many times I have read letters to the editor published in The Daily Collegian and I have questioned the mental stability of the authors of these letters. Up until now, I have always taken bigoted opinions with a grain of salt and attributed them to ignorance. However, this is one time when I refuse to let someone get away with his ignorance. This is in response to Carl Nicastro's comment on "The Holocaust." Like Nicastro, I too am "desperately praying that this letter is printed, to right a grievous wrong" — his wrong.

establish roots and grow. As a sorority member, I have done this, and developed in ways that are immeasurable and not easily expressed in words.

As a member of an organization that relies on its membership to make it operate, I have gained experience in leadership, responsibility, and cooperation. A person has to work closely with others for shared goals to acquire such skills and abilities. A sorority offers this to its members in a supportive environment.

Although it requires working with others, it does not mean conformity. Through the encouragement and support of my sorority sisters, I have grown to be more of an individual. I have learned to appreciate and adapt to the differences between people; but, it never has, and never will mean changing myself to be accepted. It just does not happen that way!

Finally, I have developed friendships that I would never sacrifice. Sisterhood may sound like a trite term, but it is a bond that truly exists among sorority sisters. It makes me feel so good to know that I have the respect and concern of my sorority sisters.

A sorority may not be the organization for every girl on campus. However, I think that people who refuse to look beyond the stereotypes and the opinion of one girl whose experience was unfortunate, should express their opinions with caution. For it is only the actual sorority members who know what it means to be a part of such an organization. And their opinions should be held as legitimate, rather than the casual perceptions of arbitrary onlookers.

For the record, I own and publicly wear blue jeans.  
Mardy Scott  
10th-individual and family studies  
May 4

# Proud

Once again, The Daily Collegian has managed in its coverage of an issue to be about as clear and as deep as a mud puddle. The latest new and deeply relevant, front-page issue — sorority stereotypes. Too bad some of that newsprint and prime space could not have been used to cover last week's Spring Week. Anyway, despite your inept journalism, allow me to add my opinion.

Interacting with people as an independent male for six terms and a Greek for six more has given me an insight into the women of Penn State. Fortunately, after having met a broad cross section of these women I have not been able to lump any of them into a stereotype. I have learned a number of things, though.

Greek women share a bond of sisterhood that cannot be debated in newsprint. That bond is very similar to the one I have found in the fraternity. I find interacting with them to be more meaningful because of the understanding of those bonds.

The role of a sister entails responsibility. To be an active part of the sorority, learn to lead with sensitivity and confidence and to follow with trust and appreciation are valuable lessons which carry over into all aspects of life. We need more women who have learned these lessons. It is much too easy to formulate and believe a stereotype than it is to accept the challenge of learning these things through sorority life.

And who could dare to argue with, let alone completely overlook, their great achievements in community relations and philanthropic fund raising. Did you not attend the IFC Dance-Marathon or the Sy Barash Regatta? Phenomenal amounts of money were raised by women who know the skills of organization, the art of public relations; the value of hard work and who now know the satisfaction of a job very well done. On neither occasion did they appear to be the clannish mob of over-dressed bitches that your stereotype would imply.

Sorority women, enough of us do realize and appreciate your efforts and enough others at least respect those efforts. Unfortunately, we do not write or edit this newspaper. You've got our support though. Wear your letters proudly — you deserve to.

Thomas E. Piernik  
President, ACACIA Fraternity  
May 5

If the Nazis "did not carry on mass murders," can he please explain to me why I never saw my grandparents? I suppose that people voluntarily tattooed numbers on their arms just in case anyone questioned the authenticity of their experiences.

I'm sure that Mr. Nicastro would also like to know that from those who experienced the camps, "Holocaust" was not even one half as bad as what was actually experienced in them.

Nicastro legitimizes the horror by saying that prejudice is "one of mankind's oldest and most natural emotions." If we use him as an example, this point is illustrated quite obviously. But what kind of justification is that? He compares the Jews' experience to that of the Negroes in the United States during the civil war. If Mr. Nicastro had any knowledge of history at all, he would have known that this analogy was not to his advantage to have included. We should learn from our mistakes; not repeat them.

I am glad that Nicastro expected hostility towards his "Aryan truth." I for one did not want to disappoint the sadly ignorant man.

To Mr. Nicastro: I tend to forget that people like you exist, thank you for the unpleasant reminder.

Lynne Fox  
9th-foreign service  
May 5

# Twisted

I hasten to write a response to such an irresponsible, ignorant person with such twisted beliefs. I will not expand on my personal beliefs but wish to leave you with two thoughts:

- 1) Hell Hitler! I agree, your Aryan race was great. They accomplished something virtually impossible.
- 2) I stand here as an American Jew, inviting you to come home to the Bronx with me. I would like to expose you to the old people with numbers on their arms and scars in their hearts.

But honestly, Herr Nicastro, I think you should stay in Pottsville where the multitudes of Americans won't inevitably crush your sick fantasy.

Marcy LeVine  
7th-social welfare  
May 5

# the Collegian

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