

Letters to the Editor

Pressure

First the tuition hike, then the housing squeeze and now Penn State students are being assaulted from a new angle: Academics.

Aside from the "brain drain" of University professors due to a lack of funding for the University, it will soon become more difficult for a student to drop a course due to a recent vote of the Faculty Senate to limit the number of credits a student may late drop to 12 for the entire time a student is at the University.

That's only one class per year. In addition, University Provost Edward D. Eddy is working on the Senate's proposal to raise the \$2 drop fee — possibly to as much as \$10. Getting a handle on the difficulty of a course, the professor's grading policy and test policy and deciding whether to keep the course before the three week drop deadline, often before the first midterm, is already difficult enough.

But a 12 credit drop limit and a possible \$10 penalty would add unnecessarily to a

student's paranoia about graduating in 13 terms, especially in a difficult major.

If limits are to be set to discourage "the overuse and abuse of the late drop" they should be set loosely enough to allow the regular student to operate freely in choosing and dropping courses, yet strict enough to discourage over-registering.

This year's collective restrictions on dropping a course imposed by the Faculty Senate rap students too hard for having bad terms, enrolling in tough majors and are unfair especially considering the price of a Penn State education. If a student pays \$500 a term, he should have some leeway with what courses he chooses to take and keep.

We hope Provost Eddy will take the students needs into consideration and relieve some pressure by some combination of not raising the drop fee, and not lowering a 12-credit drop ceiling.

The careful rebuttal of a 'sorority bitch'

So they're attacking sororities again. "Pledge," I screamed, "Go get my typewriter. I've had it. No G.D.I. is going to call me a sorority bitch." The pledge hurried back and plugged in the typewriter and stood back expectantly.

"Well, turn it on." She rushed to flip the switch, then smiled gratefully as I kicked her into the corner.

Now, where should I start. "Hey, pledge, when was the last time we Vaselined your hair? Two days ago? We must be getting lax. Why don't you go do the carpet in the suite? That's right, pick it up with your teeth."

Pledges, I sighed. You can't do anything with them these days.

I stared at the typewriter and waited for inspiration.

Nothing happened.

Karen Egoff

I looked around the room, glancing at my paddle, which was still blood-stained from the last pledge party. I picked up my Math 35 book that was sitting in a pile of dust beside my desk. I never did understand that complicated, technical stuff.

Oh well, back to the typewriter. Hey, I could start with the myth that sorority girls don't wear jeans. I rummaged through my closet, finding only wool slacks and several pairs of cords I keep for messing around. I searched through my dresser drawers.

"Could have sworn I had some jeans in here somewhere," I muttered. "Hey Lauren, what did I do with those jeans I had?"

"What?" My roommate looked up, blotching the fingernail she had so carefully painted. "You had a pair of jeans? Karen, we told you..."

"I know, I know, but I brought them along anyway. You know, in case I ever met any non-Greeks or something."

"Honestly," she replied laughing, "you're hilarious. Imagine hanging around with non-Greeks." She went back to her fingernails, still chuckling.

Oh well, maybe I'd better start somewhere else. Hmm, how about attacking that silly rumour about sororities creating pressure to conform.

I started typing: "Sorority girls today are not..." My typing stopped as the pounding on my door grew louder. "For heaven's sake, come in."

"Hey Lauren," Liz said as she shoved her head in the door. "What color fingernail polish are you wearing today? Red? But everyone else is wearing plum."

"But Liz, plum won't go with my red dress, and..."

"You can't wear a red dress today. Everyone else is wearing blue slacks, cream blouses and light blue scarves."

Lauren started to cry. "But Liz, I just spent 45 minutes putting on the red polish. Can't I wear it today?"

"Sorry, Lauren. You'll have to change." Liz left, slamming the door behind her.

My roommate looked up as I started out the door.

"Where are you going?" she asked, frowning.

"Just out for a walk. Maybe it'll help me get my thoughts together."

"You're not going out like that," she exclaimed, leaping up to block the door. "You didn't put on any make-up yet."

"What if I put a bag on my head?" I started looking around for one.

"Forget it," she yelled, "you're an embarrassment to the Greek system."

"But I'm trying to write this article, and I'm not getting anywhere."

"Here, let me look at it," Lauren said, as she picked up the paper.

"What else can I say, Lauren? Is there anything I can add?"

"I don't know." She dumped the paper back on my desk and sat down to finish her economics reading. "How about ending it with, 'If you believe this, you'll believe anything.'"

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Powers that be

Once again the students are getting the royal shaft by the powers that be, i.e. the administration. The quality of education does not seem as important to them as politics, big money and whatever else it is they are striving for.

It has come to my attention that the teaching contract for Forrest Malakoff will quietly not be renewed. Why not? How can they do this without consulting the students first? Mr. Malakoff is one of the best teachers I have had the pleasure of learning from! I registered for his section because of friends who had had him before. They never said he was easy (four essay tests) or concerned with his students (he is); just that he was a very good teacher, and that all his classes seemed worthwhile.

They were right, the University is wrong! Why is this University so intent on perpetuating mediocrity by retaining professors who not only can't teach, but don't seem to want to, while dismissing interested as well as interesting profs like Mr. Malakoff (and Jo-Ann Farr and probably a good many others)? I'm sure that if the powers that be would check the past student evaluations for Mr. Malakoff's classes, they would find few, if any, responsible complaints. Isn't that why we fill them out? I feel sorry for future sociology students who will never have the pleasure of attending one of Forrest Malakoff's classes — the educational reputation of the University is dropping fast!

Anthony W. Putortt
8th-social welfare
May 5

Filling shoes

As a USG senator for three terms and treasurer for five, I had the opportunity to serve under three USG presidents: Joe Seuffer, W.T. Williams and Grant Ackerman. All had excellent leadership qualities. Joe and W.T. were great guys and did creditable jobs. Grant Ackerman, however, has been by far the most effective president in a long time. He was saddled with a very difficult situation in Harrisburg and handled it extremely well. In so doing, he has also recaptured the respect of the University administration. Grant is a true leader.

In my personal dealing with him and in the recent campaign, Dave Haberle did not exhibit this leadership quality. In my opinion, he presently lacks the expertise to do the necessary task: assemble an effective cabinet, push the USG Senate to act, deal effectively with the administration and the legislature in Harrisburg. (Perhaps in this final aspect Tony Cortese will be of some aid.)

On the other hand, I think Mr. Haberle has the energy and ambition to learn how to do these things well. For the sake of USG I sincerely hope this is the case. At any rate, I wish the new administration good luck; they have big shoes to fill.

J. David Rogers
12th-accounting
May 5

Burned up

We, as members of Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority, feel the article by Joyce Gannon in the May 4th Daily Collegian reinforces the stereotyping of sororities instead of refuting them. The attitudes, policies and behaviors of our members strongly conflict with those mentioned in the article. It is not only a case of slanted journalism but also one of misinformation and inaccurate reporting.

The goals of a sorority are not only social but that of fostering intellectual development. It is obvious that "Bonnie," if in fact she does exist, did not try to study or utilize her sorority's scholarship chairman. Our chapter has an average grade point average that is statistically higher than that of the average independent woman at Penn State. Our members are active in honor societies as well as various campus organizations and they cultivate friendships which take them outside the scope of Greek life.

We are, therefore, living proof that a sorority does not restrict one's college life, as Patrick Kiger claims. The pledging program of our sorority is such that it encourages friendships within the group. Yes, we do have "line-ups" but we have never told embarrassing stories about pledges or smeared their heads with vaseline and shampoo. We simply ask them questions to see if they know the history of the sorority.

It was also mentioned that one can pick out a sorority girl by her "manner of dress and emphasis on appearance." If you can pick out a sorority sister, think about why she attracted your attention in the first place. Why should taking pride in one's appearance be offensive to others?

We feel that these misconceptions are examples of the lack of investigation that went into the article. So, to add a little accuracy to The Collegian's reporting, excuse us, we have to go burn our jeans.

Nancy Forgues
12th-medical technology
Connie Solimeo
6th-advertising
May 5



Editor's note: Due to space considerations, The Daily Collegian will not be able to print all of the letters written about Carl Nicastro's letter of May 5. We received 16 letters about Nicastro's letter as of Monday — all of them denouncing the content of his letter. Of the 16, three condemned The Collegian for ever printing it and four praised The Collegian for printing it. A representative sampling of the letters will be printed this week.

Not ignorance

I'm tired of being subjected to anti-Semitic attitudes. However when a person uses lies to further his anti-Semitic cause, it makes me literally sick.

Carl Nicastro claims the killing of six million Jews never took place. He attributes the creation of the so-called "Nazi massacre myth" to the "Jew-controlling" Americans.

It is Mr. Nicastro's attitude which allowed the Nazis to accomplish their grotesque massacre of one-third of the Jewish population. The Nazis were able to turn the German people against the Jewish people by claiming all the money in Germany was controlled by Jews and that consequently they were responsible for the economic depression. It is this type of attitude which still continues, especially among those who readily except any notion which points a deadly finger to a discriminated race.

As a Jew, it scares me to hear men like Nicastro. Attributing his opinion to his ignorance does not help either — for there are many people with such opinions.

Fortunately, through the show "Holocaust" (which contained factual information about the events that took place in Europe), the American people can learn what took place only 40 years ago, while the rest of the world turned away.

It seems to me that any person who has even a touch of decency would feel revolted by the massacre of one-third of an entire race of people — no matter of what race.

Melissa Dietz
6th-speech communication
May 5

He said 'yes'

As a current University student, I also wish to make use of the freedom of expression The Daily Collegian is famous for. As a paper that values truth and justice, the Collegian will surely print this.

Rudolf Franz Hoess was the Camp Commandant of Auschwitz. His examination at the Nuremberg Trial by prosecutor John Harlan Amen was limited to securing from Hoess confirmation of his written statement.

Amen read the statement which included the

following excerpt: "The camp commander at Treblinka told me that he had liquidated 80,000 in the course of six months. His task was chiefly the liquidation of all Jews from the Warsaw ghetto. He had used carbon monoxide, and I regarded his methods as not very effective. So when I put up the execution buildings in Auschwitz, I began to use Zyklon B, a crystallized hydrocyanic acid, which we threw into the death chamber through a small opening. It required, according to climatic conditions, 3 to 15 minutes to kill the people in the death chamber. We knew when the people were dead because their screaming stopped. We usually waited half an hour before we opened the doors and took out the corpses. After the bodies had been dragged out, our special detachments took off their rings and drew the gold from the teeth of the corpses. A further improvement as compared with Treblinka was that we built gas chambers which could hold 2,000 people at a time, while the ten gas chambers at Treblinka could only take 900 each."

"The manner in which we chose our victims was as follows: Two SS doctors were employed in Auschwitz to inspect all the incoming convoys of prisoners. The prisoners had to march past them while they made their decision on the spot: those capable of work were sent into the camp, the others at once to the extermination block. Very young children, being incapable of working, were killed as a matter of principle. Often women tried to hide their children under their clothes, but when they were found they were at once sent to their death."

The prosecutor John Harlan Amen then asked, "Is all this true and accurate?" Rudolf Franz Hoess responded, "Yes."

Yes: The truth must be known. Only by knowing the truth will such an affront to humanity be prevented in the future. Yes.

Wayne Amchin
6th-business
May 7

the Collegian

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Judi Rodrick Judy Stimson Business Managers

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Holocaust real, never to be forgotten or forgiven

By ABBY EDELMAN Graduate Geography

On May 5, in an inexcusable act of callousness and journalistic irresponsibility, The Daily Collegian published a letter from a self-proclaimed Nazi. One day after Yom ha Shoah, a day solemnly dedicated in memory of the Holocaust, the newspaper of this university saw fit to serve as a vehicle for the dissemination of Nazi propaganda: historical lies, and the worst kind of racism. The letter, entitled "Right or Wrong," denied the Nazi policy of Jewish genocide; proclaimed that "Barbarism will eventually triumph"; that "our culture" is "Jew-controlled"; that those preferring to believe the "Jew-lie" of six million dead to the "Aryan Truth" were cutting their own throats; that there was "some hope for re-education of our generation" to the wonders of Nazism. It ended with the words "Heil Hitler," curse his name.

There are two reasons for my response: first, to challenge and castigate The Collegian for publishing that letter; second, to share with the community the anguish I felt in seeing that letter. In doing so I hope to arouse your anger so that those of you who may have remained silent will be moved to action.

Why did The Collegian publish that vile letter? Clearly the issue is not one of First Amendment

rights. No newspaper is obligated to print obvious slanders in their letter's section. Decisions as to what will be printed are made every day. Did it warrant publication because, as the editorial editor insists, that letter reflected community opinion? Did that letter "conform to standards of good taste," a criterion for publication listed in The Collegian's letters policy? Is anti-Semitic, anti-black propaganda "good taste" in Happy Valley? To quote from that letter "A more prejudiced film (Holocaust) does not exist, with the possible exception of last season's Roots." Did that letter, as I was told, further the understanding of Nazism? Is this community in any doubt as to what the Nazis stand for? Does this community believe it is possible to "neither support or oppose" Nazism (Letters, April 25, 1978)? These are questions which only the community can answer, they are questions which must be answered. The professed objectivity of those who refuse to take a position is nothing more than the evasion of their ethical responsibility. The Collegian has obviously cast aside that responsibility.

What is the "issue" The Collegian felt impelled to bring to light at the cost of volunteering a platform to a Nazi lunatic? Is the fact of the destruction of European Jewry open to debate? Is the nature of Nazism at issue? How much evidence is required before fascism is

recognized? Does it require the destruction of an entire people? I find it hard to believe that the heinous nature of Nazism is not apparent. Under these four people the equivalent of every Jewish man, woman, and child in the United States, Mexico, and Canada, or every Jew in the Soviet Union, Asia, France, and England; was humiliated, gassed, burnt, and tortured. No, the real issue is not whether the Nazis did or did not murder European Jewry. The real issue is whether Hitler, curse him, was "right or wrong." Is the non-Jewish community still unsure?

What is this apparently specious "Aryan Truth"? It is the truth that Aryanism is bent on the destruction of the Jewish people, the black people, and any other people who are "genetically inferior" or morally indignant. Is there a "Jew-Lie"? Yes, the lie we are too eager to believe, that it cannot happen again — not here. Tell me good neighbors, is that true? I ask for proof. I ask you to demand an apology from The Collegian. I will not rest easy until your apathy. I see too many shrugging off anti-Semitism, too many eager to accept the myths of Jewish control and conspiracy, too little empathy for the tragedy of the Holocaust.

It is sad commentary that the Jews are again the focus of dubious debate. It is a travesty that we are subjected to the pain and the indignity of

such accusations as were made in that letter. It is an insult that even today we are not left alone, that we are daily harangued by evangelists who have decided that without conversion we are bound for hell. Once an entire people is designated in this manner does it matter what you do to them in the present?

If the Nazi ideology does not sicken you and give you reason to pause and express your anger, if you cannot feel the pain of reading such vulgarly, I insist that you too belong to that lethal segment of society that call themselves Aryans — whatever race, religion, or politics you profess. I accuse you of apathy and insidious racism.

I am a Jew. I would be a dead Jew, or to be more precise a non-existent Jew, had not my family escaped Europe. I could have been among the murdered, one of the annihilated. I will not be put on the defensive. Need I, a Jew, prove to the Germans who allowed it and the Nazis who executed it, their guilt? No, these people recognize their work. To quote the Hebrew poet Uri Zvi Greenberg:

The snows have melted again here... and the murderers are now farmers. They have gone out to plough their fields there, those fields that are my graveyards. If the tooth of their plough digs up and rolls over the furrows

One of my skeletons, the ploughman will not be saddened or shocked. He will smile... recognize it in the mark of his tool.

As the chimneys spewed the ashes of Jewish dead the criminal Himmler spoke to his Nazi assistants: "Among ourselves it should be mentioned quite frankly, and yet we shall never speak of it publicly... I mean... the extirpation of the Jewish race. This is a page of glory in our history which has never been written and will never be written."

It is written, on my soul and on the soul of every Jew. It should be written on the soul of mankind. On the eve of World War II there were 16,750,000 members in my family, in 1945 less than 11,000,000 remained. I have seen the evidence of the Nazi "extirpation." I have known survivors of Auschwitz and Treblinka. I have seen the evidence of Yad VaShem. I have read and studied and wept. I live with the horrible reality of genocide against my people.

I will hope that this community will demonstrate its anger. I will hope that I do not stand alone. I ask you to come out against the filth of Nazism, to demand an apology from The Collegian, a paper supposedly representing this university. As for those few who share Nazi goals and ideology, a warning, I will never forget, will never forgive, and will never let it happen again.