

the daily Collegian

15¢

Tuesday, September 12, 1978
Vol. 79, No. 35 12 pages University Park, PA 16802
Published by Students of The Pennsylvania State University



Photo by Chip Connolly

A man of many hats

The pioneer of participatory journalism, George Plimpton, reminisces last night in Eisenhower Auditorium about his career of first-hand participation in everything from a boxing match to a symphony orchestra. Plimpton's speech was sponsored by Colloquy. See story page 12.

Violence growing in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (UPI) — Sandinista guerrillas fighting to overthrow President Anastasio Somoza seized Nicaragua's fourth-largest city Monday and battled National Guard troops rushed from Managua with orders to kill the insurgents "to the last man."
The government ordered convoys of troops and helicopter gunships to Masaya, 15 miles east of Managua, to reinforce 1,500 National Guardsmen fighting to wrest control of the city from a force of 200 to 300 guerrillas who seized it earlier in the day.
Somoza clamped martial law on Masaya and Estel, another city where fighting between the guerrillas and government troops was reported Monday.
Late Monday night, a government communique said "cleanup operations in Masaya and Estel are being carried out with the greatest possible success." It said "numbers of communist

terrorists" have been killed while others "are fleeing in disorder."
In Washington, a State Department spokesman said that despite the "serious disorders" in Nicaragua, the United States had no plans to evacuate 5,000 Americans living there. One has been wounded and is being flown out.
Heavy fighting raged in all the country's major cities, including Managua and Leon, but it appeared the most intense in Masaya.
The Nicaraguan Air Force strafed Masaya from the air with helicopters and the Sandinistas replied with rifle fire.
"Those sons of whores (the helicopters) are shooting at anything that moves," said one resident who managed to slip out of the embattled city.
The National Guard rushed more troops to Masaya Monday to reinforce the estimated 1,500 guardsmen already there. A huge column of black smoke spiraled up from the center of town,

apparently from a gas station hit by fire from the helicopters.
Guardsmen cordoned off the town and refused to let anyone through. Reporters were warned they would be shot if they tried to pass the roadblocks.
The Red Cross set up an emergency field hospital outside the town but rescuers were likewise unable to pass the roadblocks to evacuate what one Red Cross official estimated at "hundreds of casualties."
One nearly hysterical woman pleaded with guardsmen at a roadblock to let her through, sobbing, "But my children are in there."
Witnesses said the helicopters strafed a relief center that was housing refugees rendered homeless by the huge fires which had devastated the city.
People fleeing the town said the Sandinistas were in complete control and were wearing regular army uniforms emblazoned with the letters

FSLN (Frente Sandinista de la Liberacion Nacional).
A Red Cross ambulance driver said the gunfire was so heavy it was impossible to evacuate the wounded.
Asked how many deaths there had been, he replied, "Too many."
The guerrillas launched their offensive Saturday night and quickly seized control of Leon, the nation's second largest city, and parts of Managua.
Government troops counterattacked with tanks and jets and a guerrilla source in Leon said the casualties from the latest fighting had been "enormous." Red Cross spokesmen said at least 21 Sandinistas and 14 guardsmen had died in Leon.
The death toll from fighting across the country was believed to have been well into the hundreds.
Somoza met Monday with his Cabinet in the "bunker" — Somoza's headquarters.

Fourth shot in Dallas 'probable'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — An acoustics expert yesterday played a reconstructed sound track he said indicated a "probability" of 50 percent that a fourth shot was fired in Dealey Plaza, Dallas during the assassination of John F. Kennedy.
The Warren Commission had concluded there were only three shots, all fired by Lee Harvey Oswald.
The chairman of the House Assassinations Committee, opening the second week of its public hearings on Kennedy's death, warned against drawing "sensational conclusions" from the evidence.
Acoustics expert Dr. James E. Barger twice played for the committee his recording of the reconstructed sounds of the moment of the assassination.
Under close questioning as to interpretation of the recording, he told the panel his personal estimate was that the probability of two shots was 95 percent; the probability of a third shot about 60 to 70 percent, and the probability of a fourth shot around 50 percent.
To reporters, the tape sounded like two shots in quick succession, then a pause and two more shots in quick succession.
Rep. Samuel Devine, R-Ohio, who said he was familiar with the sound of rifle shots, said, "My personal interpretation is that the first, second and fourth were rifle shots. The third noise sounded like something else."
Conspiracy theorists claim four shots at the motorcade would have been too many for one man to take in the allotted time frame with the suspected murder weapon, Oswald's bolt action repeating rifle.
The Warren Commission found it took FBI experts 2.3 seconds to get off a shot from Oswald's rifle. But

committee Chief Counsel G. Robert Blakey introduced surprise testimony that staff members and experts had gotten off two shots with a separation of only 1.65 to 1.75 seconds and three shots within 2 and 2.125 seconds.
Blakey said "it would seem that the FBI assumption of a minimum firing time of 2.25 or 2.3 seconds is questionable and will have to be verified."
Barger testified there appeared to be only 1.6 seconds between two of the shots, which Blakey said "raised the specter of two rifles" and resulted in the new tests.
"It was possible for a relatively untrained person to do considerably better" than the FBI, he said.
The committee experts' tests last weekend used two rifles identical to Oswald's but not his weapon, which has been in the National Archives for 14 years and hence was not considered in prime condition for the tests.
Barger reported to the House panel on elaborate tests based on a recording of sounds from a police motorcyclist's microphone inadvertently left open at Dealey Plaza at the time of Kennedy's slaying.
The study involved test firings in the plaza last month, both from the Texas School Book Depository from which Oswald allegedly fired and from the "grassy knoll" at the other end of the plaza, to compare with the police tape.
The accounts of 178 eyewitnesses, some of whom believed the shots came from the knoll, were evaluated.
After his elaborate presentation of tapes and graphs, Barger was asked by a staff member, "Is it accurate to say there is evidence of four shots?"

"Yes," the expert replied, "it is a possible conclusion."
Earlier, committee chairman Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, had warned the results of the tests "will be troubling to some." But he cautioned against too quickly drawing "sensational conclusions from this evidence."
Barger, a senior scientist with the firm of Bolt, Beranek and Newman of Cambridge, Mass., also analyzed gunfire recorded during the shooting of four students at Kent State University in 1970 and the famous "18½ minute gap" on the Watergate tapes.
In a major contradiction of the Warren Commission findings, Barger said the recording of the open police microphone showed there was an interval of about 1.6 seconds between the first and second apparent shots, a gap of 5.9 seconds between the second and third and five-tenths of a second between the third and fourth.
The commission had found, based on test-firings by FBI firearms experts, the fastest Oswald's Mannlicher-Carcano rifle could be fired was 2.25-2.3 seconds. Based on the Zapruder film of the assassination, the commission decided the elapsed time from the first shot to the third was between 7.1 and 7.9 seconds.
The police motorcyclist's recording was made on a continuous dictabelt, which the House committee first learned about last September but which the Dallas Police Department said had been turned over to the FBI, which denied receiving it.
Committee investigators finally obtained a copy from Paul McGahren, a retired Dallas assistant police chief.

committee Chairman G. Robert Blakey introduced surprise testimony that staff members and experts had gotten off two shots with a separation of only 1.65 to 1.75 seconds and three shots within 2 and 2.125 seconds.
Blakey said "it would seem that the FBI assumption of a minimum firing time of 2.25 or 2.3 seconds is questionable and will have to be verified."
Barger testified there appeared to be only 1.6 seconds between two of the shots, which Blakey said "raised the specter of two rifles" and resulted in the new tests.
"It was possible for a relatively untrained person to do considerably better" than the FBI, he said.
The committee experts' tests last weekend used two rifles identical to Oswald's but not his weapon, which has been in the National Archives for 14 years and hence was not considered in prime condition for the tests.
Barger reported to the House panel on elaborate tests based on a recording of sounds from a police motorcyclist's microphone inadvertently left open at Dealey Plaza at the time of Kennedy's slaying.
The study involved test firings in the plaza last month, both from the Texas School Book Depository from which Oswald allegedly fired and from the "grassy knoll" at the other end of the plaza, to compare with the police tape.
The accounts of 178 eyewitnesses, some of whom believed the shots came from the knoll, were evaluated.
After his elaborate presentation of tapes and graphs, Barger was asked by a staff member, "Is it accurate to say there is evidence of four shots?"

Fate of learning center will be decided tomorrow

By VICKI SCHNEIDER
Daily Collegian Staff Writer
The Learning Support Center may get a reprieve, or be permanently eliminated, tomorrow when Raymond O. Murphy, vice president for Student Affairs, responds to a student petition supporting the center.
The center, a self-improvement instructional program for students with problems in study habits and reading skills, was closed in June due to budget cuts in the Office of Student Affairs, Murphy said.
Paul Wepler (10th — chemical

engineering) said he became concerned when the center was closed and he started a petition to have the program reinstated. The petition, signed by about 25 students who claimed that they strongly disagreed with the decision, was sent to various people involved with the center both in the administration and the student body.
Wepler said a main reason why he is fighting to save the center is a survey taken in 1974 and 1975 on services considered most important by students. A self-improvement service such as the center was ranked second in the survey,

leading to the creation of the Learning Support Center.
Murphy said he will discuss his feelings on the petition and the fate of the center with Wepler on Wednesday.
Dante V. Scalzi, former head of the center, said he also received a copy of the petition, but was not at liberty to comment on it.
The petition has also been examined by Randy Albright, Academic Assembly president, who said the matter would probably come before the assembly at its meeting later this month.
According to the annual report of the

center, published in July, 1,927 students used the center in the 1977-78 school year. The report showed that the majority of the students were first term freshmen or seventh term transfer students.
A questionnaire given to students before their participation in the program showed that a majority felt they needed help in their study and reading skills. Another survey taken at the end of the program showed that over three-quarters of the students felt they had solved their problems due to the use of the center.

The report included student comments about the center, with those participating giving the center an "extremely positive" evaluation. One student claimed he had considered quitting school before taking advantage of the program.
Wepler said a major problem was the center's low profile and inadequate advertising. He said that although the participating students benefitted from the program, not enough students on the whole knew of the program to take advantage of it.
"The Office of Student Affairs must

have felt that with no advertising less students would use the center, so that less staff would be needed and costs would be kept down. The result was that students lost the service all together," Wepler said.
Some of the materials of the center have been turned over to the Office of Special Programs and Services for use by Equal Opportunity Program students. Sixty-eight percent of the students using the former center's tutoring services were EOP students, according to the annual report.

'Summit reaches 'decisive stage'

CAMP DAVID, Md. (UPI) — President Carter stepped up peace efforts at the Camp David summit Monday, waging an intense campaign to clear away "important differences" still dividing Israel and Egypt at a decisive stage in the talks.
"There is no basis for informed speculation about the outcome of this conference," White House press secretary Jody Powell told a news conference. "Neither optimism nor pessimism is justified at this time."
Powell, who has been acting as spokesman for all three nations at the summit, said the negotiators are in the

midst of an "intense and detailed effort to see if approaches can be found to deal with the important differences."
He said Carter, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat are also trying "to refine those areas where there is progress."
The authoritative Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram, in a report from the presidential retreat in western Maryland, said the talks have reached a "most delicate" stage with "profound differences" dividing Israel and Egypt.
Powell said Carter and Sadat met alone for two hours Monday morning

and then directed their aides to follow up to see if discussions with an evening negotiating session.
"We are now in a period of renewed effort, even more intensive and detailed ... searching for possible alternatives and approaches to the substantial areas of differences and to define the apparent areas of progress," he said.
Sadat, who took the biggest gamble of his life when he flew to Jerusalem last year to meet with Begin, may have to take an even bigger one now if the summit is to succeed and head off a new Middle East war.



Photo by Chip Connolly

Senate opens natural gas debate

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate finally took up the compromise natural gas pricing bill Monday, with a leading opponent denouncing it as "a C-minus piece of legislation" that would cost American consumers up to \$41 billion by 1985.
Time for a change
"Some sunshine this morning will fade behind afternoon clouds with afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorms in the area and a high of 80. Tonight will be mostly cloudy and noticeably cooler with the chance of a shower and a low of 54. Tomorrow will be a big change from today with cloudy skies, cool, and breezy with the chance of a shower and a high of only 67.

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, spearheading a move to send the measure back to committee, also rejected administration claims that the legislation would help shore up the dollar abroad.
Metzenbaum engaged in a shouting match with Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., the bill's chief manager, who opened debate with the declaration: "I don't want to face a cold winter with a short supply of gas."
The Senate chamber was nearly empty at the outset of debate, with a showdown vote not expected before Wednesday on the Metzenbaum coalition's move to pull the measure off the floor for extensive committee revision.
If the bill survives that effort, a

filibuster is expected to follow. And if the Senate finally approves the compromise, it still must clear the House.
As it emerged from the long-deadlocked House-Senate conference committee, the bill called for phasing out price controls on newly produced natural gas by 1985.
The Senate approved its initial version of price deregulation a year ago. And Monday, in another of the twists typifying the plodding progress of President Carter's energy program, the two senators who co-sponsored that measure parted ways on the current bill.
Sen. James Pearson, R-Kan., announced in a statement he is not happy with the compromise but will support it, whereas Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, has come out against it.

Sweet September The blooms of late summer remain fresh leaving no hint of fall's fading.