

# 'Hey stupid!' child's play for experienced insulters

By SHAWN HUBLER, Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Last month, a wide-eyed freshman phoned Bob "Suds" Carville's room. "We've never met," Carville told her, "but I hear you have lovely hair. Too bad your bra covers it."

"And your head," he added. "It's as thick as the crust on your underwear."

Giggling and gratified, the girl thanked him and hung up — another satisfied customer for Dial-An-Insult.

"We started it on a whim," says Carville, a 10th-term journalism major and editor of Froth, the University's humor magazine. "I was in my room one night and very depressed. I was tired of life, of work, of everyone."

"Somehow, I came to the conclusion that we should have everyone call us up, just so we could tell them to go to hell."

Now in its second term, Dial-An-Insult abused some 3,000 callers in September's one-week run, Carville said. Last Spring Term, when Carville and several friends started the service, they received 5,000 calls during the four-day operation, according to Centrex, the dormitory telephone service.

The "Abuse Line," which rang in Carville's dorm room, had been advertised in The Daily Collegian's classified ads and "In Edition."

"Fifteen minutes after the paper got out, we got our first phone call — 7:35 a.m.," Carville said. "For the first hour, it rang every 10 minutes. By the second hour, it was ringing every three seconds. From then on, it rang constantly. As soon as you'd hang up, it would ring."

Each caller received four to six insults from Carville, his roommate Robert Lambe (10th-landscape architecture) or floormate Steve Phillips (7th-biology). This term, Froth co-worker "Fungus" Miller (4th-mechanical engineering) added a second line in his West Halls dorm room.

The team used only undocumented abuse, and bought two books of insults to make sure that their material was unpublished, Carville said. Insults were also donated by Carville's neighbors on second floor Hartranft, he added.

"Most callers wanted ammunition rather than abuse, he said.

"People would call and say, 'Give me one for my girlfriend,' or, 'I just flunked a midterm. Give me one quick,'" said Lambe.

"We even got housewives from downtown who'd ask us to tell them about their husbands. So we'd say 'Hey, your husband is so lazy, he thinks manual labor is the president of Mexico.' And they'd agree!"

One caller relayed insults to his girlfriend until she began beating him physically, Lambe said.

"And we only gave him the usual," he added. "You know, like, 'Your girlfriend's a chip off the old iceberg. When you talk to her, you get an echo from her cleavage. Making love to her is like making love to an open window. She douches with Drano.' And a lot of other stuff you can't print."

Usually, however, women are more receptive to abuse than men, Lambe said.

"Guys usually get all bent out of



Illustration by Frank Baseman

shape," he said. "They take it personally."

Added Carville: "We'd tell them, don't take it personally, take it individually — it hurts more."

One professor, told this term to return an emergency call, reached Dial-An-Insult by mistake, Lambe said. After several minutes of abuse, he said, the enraged victim bellowed, "See here, young man, I was told to return a call to this number. I did not expect to be insulted!"

"Sorry, sir," Lambe snickered, "but you've been had."

The ultimate affront — disconnection — was often awarded to late-night or early-morning callers, who were informed that they were "too dumb to abuse," Carville said.

Insult battles lasted only minutes, Lambe added.

"We always won, of course," he said. "Most people know six or seven good insults. But we know literally hundreds ... besides, we're naturally abusive people."

"And we're probably the ideal men," Carville said.

All callers were told that they had reached Dial-An-Insult, the team said. Often, however, Carville and company would initially identify themselves as the University Creamery, the office of University President John W. Oswald, the Sub Shack, or the Lazy J.

"Half of those places didn't even have an 865 exchange, and people fell for it anyway," Lambe said.

"Sometimes we'd just say, 'click,' and put our hands over the receiver," Miller said. "And they'd go crazy on the other end, wondering whether you'd really hung up."

This term's new feature, from 10 to 10:15 p.m., was "Classic Insults from the Past: Stuff Your Mother Used to Laugh At."

"We'd do really banal stuff, like 'You're a meanie,' or 'Your mother wears army boots,'" giggled Carville. "People loved it."

After one week, the team informed all callers that the "Abuse Line" was no longer in service. Nevertheless, they still receive three or four insult requests each day, Carville said.

The service, which will probably reopen next term, is too time-consuming for constant operation, he said. Carville's room — billed on the door as the "People's Republic of 204 Hartranft" — also houses Froth headquarters, and personal or business calls get through while Dial-An-Insult is operating.

The group has also promised to notify Centrex when the service resumes, they said.

"It took a full time operator just to handle our line at the switchboard," Phillips said.

Two weeks ago, two East Halls numbers were incorrectly advertised in the Collegian Classifieds as Dial-An-Insult. The phone owners, victims of a practical joke, said they were forced to disconnect their phones after three days of non-stop ringing.

Lambe said, however, "If people really want to be insulted, I'll still insult them, if I'm in the right mood."

Even a naturally abusive person can have a heart.

## Listening to the local music(ians)

By SCOTT H. McCLEARY, Daily Collegian Staff Writer

There is a lot of musical talent in the State College area, which can work two ways depending on how the individual fits into it.

"You can make a living in music in this area," said John Rounds, an area performer and composer for six years. "There's no reason why you can't."

With all those people in the area, the music business is very widespread. People in different professions are tied into the local music business in some way. Social coordinators for fraternities or sororities, owners of drinking establishments, and

students downtown looking for a good time all deal with the music business in different ways.

"You can make a pretty good buck as a solo act. That's, because when you work by yourself, the checks seem bigger," Glenn Kidder, a local songwriter and performer, said.

Kidder, in addition to writing and performing, is teaching a Free University course this term.

But the area's wealth of talent has a negative side to it. The high number of outlets for the musical talent would seem to guarantee a job somewhere, but with all the performers in the market, the prices one can ask and still remain competitive tend to drop.

"There's a sort of glut of bands here," said Sherry McCamley, who plays keyboards and sings with a '50s revival group, Stevie and the Six Packs. The locally based band is riding the nostalgia wave, but only as a hobby on the weekends for some extra money.

"The Six Packs play in the area, but go on the road to play firehalls, fraternities and bars in other parts of the state. There the pay is a little better," McCamley said.

There are alternatives to the traveling. If a band is lucky enough to land a job as a "house band," they can store their equipment where they work.

The Beaumarcs is one such band.

The Beaumarcs are based in the Shandygaff Saloon, but the band, from Altoona, can leave their equipment in the bar and take some or all of their equipment to weddings or other jobs.

"The area seems receptive to original music. It is sort of isolated here, but it will get better. People have left the area, and maybe someday a New York City group will do a song that was written here in State College," said Rounds.

"And that's what to look for — the release of a local song on a level where it would have a possible national market."

Get your **WE ARE PENN STATE** Painter Hats

Before the Game outside Beaver Stadium & Starting Wednesday Ground Floor HUB

U-031

News from ...

## Thornburgh. Scranton.

*Bill Scranton, candidate for Lt. Governor will meet Today, Oct. 19, at 2:30 in the Gallery Lounge (First Floor HUB) to discuss issues facing Penn State and Pennsylvania. All are welcome.*

**BILL SCRANTON**  
Oct. 19/2:30 PM/Gallery Lounge

Bag Lunch Bag Lunch Bag Lunch Bag Lunch Bag Lunch Bag Lunch

## FOOTBALL SPECIAL

### BAG LUNCH \$1.50

Hoagie Potato Chips  
Orange Drink Pastry

at **FINDLAY SNACK BAR** and P.S.U. Mobile Food Unit  
(Parked in front of Shields Bldg.)  
**10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.**  
Saturday, Oct. 21, 1978

Bag Lunch Bag Lunch Bag Lunch Bag Lunch Bag Lunch Bag Lunch

"A wonderful book... it should be read by anyone who has ever contemplated going to law school. Or anyone who has ever worried about being human."  
—CHRISTOPHER LEHMANN-HAUPT, The New York Times

## One L

An Inside Account of Life in the First Year at Harvard Law School  
by Scott Turow

\$2.95 at your bookstore

A PENGUIN PAPERBACK

## How would Freud relate to O'Keefe?

Cold. Yet warming. Hearty, full-bodied flavor. Yet smooth and easy going down. And, O'Keefe develops a big head on contact. Conflict. Conflict. Trauma. Trauma. Freud's diagnosis? We think he would have said, "It's too good to gulp." And you will, too. In the final analysis.

**O'Keefe Canadian Ale**  
Golden Pale

**O'Keefe Golden Ale**  
It's too good to gulp.

Imported from Canada by Century Importers, Inc., New York, NY

## La Souperbe

**Bowl of Soup du Jour**  
w/  
House Salad or Dessert  
**\$1.35**

**FRI & SAT DINNERS:**

Spinach Crepes	PRIME RIB
Beef Crepes	Seafood Newburg
Fruit Crepes	Ratatouille

Hoagies .99 w/Bowl of Soup du Jour **\$1.35**

**FREE BEER**  
w/ any Soup Special or Dinner & an L.C.B. Card

**OPEN SUNDAY 11-8**

## Greyhound Rx. The cure for college blahs.

It's a feeling that slowly descends upon you. The exams, the pop tests, the required reading, the hours at the library, the thesis — they won't go away.

But you can. This weekend, take off, say hello to your friends, see the sights, have a great time. You'll arrive with money in your pocket because your Greyhound trip doesn't take that much out of it.

If you're feeling tired, depressed and exhausted, grab a Greyhound and split. It's a sure cure for the blahs.

Greyhound Service	One-Way	Round-Trip	You Can Leave	You Arrive
To New York, N.Y.	\$23.35	\$44.40	7:35 am	3:10 pm
Bristol, Pa.	\$14.95	\$28.45	12:45 pm	7:40 pm
Pittsburgh, Pa.	\$11.55	\$21.95	12:25 pm	5:00 pm
King of Prussia, Pa.	\$12.70	\$24.15	5:10 pm	9:15 pm
Philadelphia, Pa.	\$13.35	\$25.40	7:35 am	12:30 pm

Ask your agent about additional departures and return trips. (Prices subject to change)

State College Bus Terminal 237-5865 152 N. Atherton St. State College

**GO GREYHOUND**