

Squeezed out

It's the old squeeze play, and if it's not intercepted, future generations of students are going to be squeezed out.

On Monday, the State College Borough Council will hold a hearing on a proposed amendment to the borough's zoning ordinance. Afterwards, council will vote on whether to pass the amendment.

That amendment would reduce the number of unrelated persons who may live together in strictly residential areas from five to three.

In State College, any ordinance that deals with unrelated persons who live together can be considered to be aimed directly at students. And according to one Planning Commission member it was noisy, rowdy students who caused some State College homeowners to request that council consider the amendment.

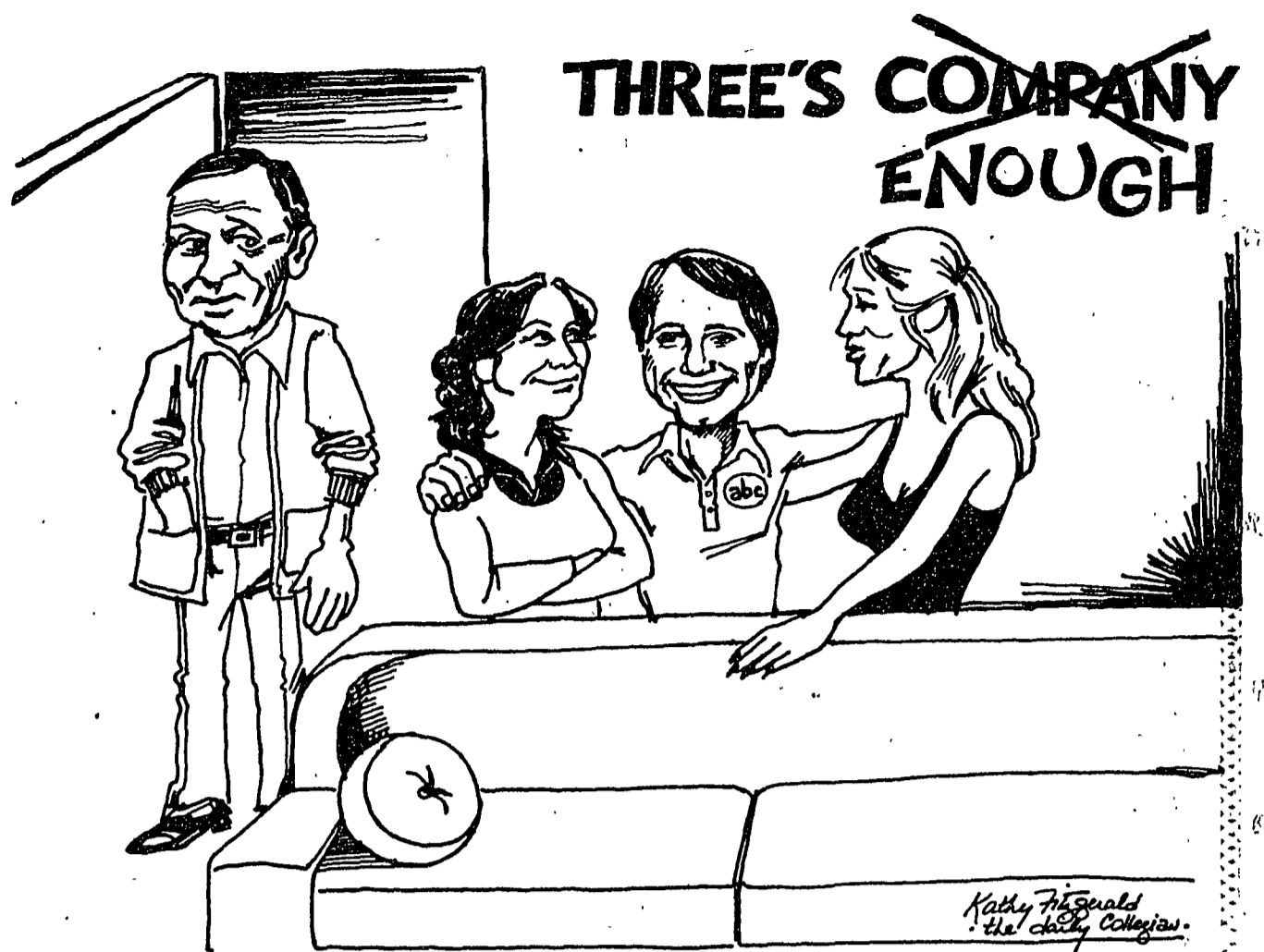
While the amendment would not affect apartments that already are rented to more than three persons, it will gradually restrict all apartments to that number. Any converted house that is sold, or any conversion units that

are constructed in an already existing dwelling will face the restriction, as will any dwelling that has ceased to rent to more than three persons for more than a year.

Thus, if the housing shortage in town doesn't ease up in the next few years, and if this amendment is passed, the housing situation will gradually get worse.

The amendment by any other name means discrimination against students, and this is why representatives from several student groups, including the Organization for Town Independent Students, will appear at the hearing to object to the amendment.

State College already has noise and appearance ordinances, and if they were enforced there would be no need for this amendment. The solution to the conflict should not be to tie another piece of legislation around the borough's throat. Indeed, restricting the number of unrelated persons who may live together is a way around the problem — not an answer to it.



Kathy Fitzgerald
the Daily Collegian

Letters to the Editor

Extrapolation

One of the basic precepts of a free press is that whenever uninformed people use it to extrapolate on something they're unfamiliar with, the perpetrator will crack through the thin ice of his own faulty logic and false statements.

Case in point here is an article by Brian Golden in the Dec. 15 issue of The Daily Collegian.

It seems Brian has a deep fear of a coming era in the Mideast, "one that means trouble for the U.S. and the western alliance as a whole. . . . There is every reason to believe that

. . . the world will be worse off when the dictatorial Shah of Iran is gone."

One of Brian's "every" reasons is a report in a journal that "much of Iran's internal dissent is orchestrated by the Soviet Union." The author further distorts the situation by saying "The Shah has been a stabilizing force in the Persian Gulf with his fierce anti-Communism." Looks like Joe McCarthy's not as dead as we'd all hoped.

It is my sincerest hope that such a misguided diatribe was not taken too seriously by too many people. It would appear to the objective observer that Brian has confused the interests of multi-national corporate conglomerates with those of the

common mass of American people. The truth of the matter is this: There are not American interests in Iran, only capitalist ones.

The Shah of Iran is one of the most bloodthirsty tyrants on this planet. Hardly a single day goes by when we do not hear of his American-equipped armies slaughtering people in the streets, or of the well documented use of torture by his American-trained secret police.

So what's the reason behind Jimmy "human rights" Carter's shamelessly hypocritical support of the Shah? As long as he remains in power, the Shah can keep Iran and its people as an enormously profitable investment bed for the multinational corporations.

Russian assistance to the Iranian people in the struggle against their oppressors cannot be faulted. In fact, it should be applauded. Can we condemn the Soviets because their memories of life under a hated and despised monarchical tyranny have not yet faded, as have those of the American rulers?

At this point of the struggle, it is no longer a question of

"Will the Shah remain?" but rather, "Will he be brought to justice for his crimes against humanity?" In any case, he will go, and another crack will appear in the base of the not-so-worldwide-anymore corporate capitalist hegemony.

Kerry Hixenbaugh
class of 1978
Jan. 4

the Collegian

Dave Skidmore
Editor

Judy Stimson
Business Manager

The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and campus or 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.

New Times killed by new times

During the break, while you were down at Bourbon Street getting soused on overpriced drinks and being propositioned by 12-year-old hookers, I was back in my hometown, hanging out at the local drugstore.

I know one might expect a casually hip columnist such as I to indulge in more exciting pastimes, but I was broke — and besides, I've discovered that one can occasionally stumble on interesting insights amid the shelves of Vick's Vapo-Rub and Doan's liver pills.

For instance, on the occasion in question I learned that H. L. Mencken was drastically underestimating the situation when he commented that nobody ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American public. Actually, the surest way to wealth is to assume that Americans have no taste whatsoever. Conversely, the best way to go bankrupt is to work from the assumption that for the most part they do.

This revelation came to me as I was loitering by the magazine rack, and a shortish build of a middle-aged matron (decked out in pink curlers and dayglow treader slacks) bustled over to buy some reading material. After momentarily pursuing the selection, a look of berserk terror suddenly appeared on her face.

She grabbed up the sole remaining tattered copy of People magazine and waved it at a nearby clerk, all the while saying, "I bought this one LAST WEEK! Where's the latest one?"

The clerk, who was apparently used to such situations, remained calm. Keeping his distance, he coolly snatched the issue from her extended hand, examined it, and then pointed out to her this was a double issue and she'd have to wait another whole week for her next fix

of the latest dope on Burt Reynolds, Brooke Shields and other fave raves.

Although this particular People fan is undeniably a bit on the extreme side, her taste in journalism is more the norm than the exception. People magazine, a runaway hit at the newsstands and drugstore magazine racks of America, is one of the seventies' few real financial success stories.

Patrick Kiger

People is THE magazine for those who want the latest dirt about celebrities, but who are embarrassed to be seen buying Photoplay or Hollywood Confidential.

No matter that nobody would confuse People's prose with anything by Tom Wolfe or Saul Bellow. It has lots of pictures, and besides, its writers dig deep to give America what it really wants to know, such as this startling scoop about Debby Boone:

"... If its the thought that counts, Debby (You Light Up My Life) Boone is in trouble. Introduced to a group of Kentucky high schoolers recently as a Bible-believing Christian who neither smokes, drinks, nor swears, she was quizzed about the last. 'Well,' confessed Debby, 'at least I never swear out loud.'"

Getting back to our matron in the drugstore, what was really sad about her plight was that if she really needed something to read so desperately, all she needed to do was go back to the

magazine rack, where a thick stack of New Times' farewell issue was forlornly sitting, apparently untouched by customers.

Remember New Times? It was the first to blow the whistle on former Agriculture secretary Earl Butz's racial slurs, and broke scoops on Paraquat and the Black Panther Party's alleged involvement in drug dealing and extortion.

Founded during the wake of Watergate, New Times was put out by a group of people who shared a mistaken faith in the American public's "right to know" and curiosity about issues such as the environment and corruption in government.

In it's brief existence, the magazine pulled off some impressive feats of investigative reporting and won its share of awards.

Unfortunately, however, accolades from fellow journalists are no match for glossies of Farrah Fawcett-Majors and Nick Nolte, and the magazine dug itself into an unescapable financial hole. As editor Johnathan Larsen commented in his final column, "as we moved further into the sugar-coated seventies, it became increasingly obvious we were going against a very strong tide."

So New Times quietly folded. But that's no reason for Americans to be dismayed, because People's brand of pseudo-journalism — which has even spawned an imitator, Us magazine — will most likely continue to thrive. After all, it's better suited to the drugstore environ — Cheryl Tieg's cleavage and Burt Reynolds' moustache seem to belong on the shelf right next to heartburn remedies and minty-fresh feminine hygiene sprays.

Patrick Kiger is an 11th-term journalism major and is a copy editor for The Daily Collegian.

Collegian forum

But first, a line must be drawn

By DUANE HOLLY
6th-accounting

In view of Mr. Randolph Easton's statement, on Dec. 13, concerning Penn State's financial involvement in South Africa, I would like to present a more realistic picture of the divestiture movement on this campus.

The only opinion that Mr. Easton and I hold in common is that money and morality do not mix. The problem is that he has accepted it and we, those in favor of divestiture, haven't. The fact that a situation like South Africa is allowed to exist is proof enough that a plea for human rights is futile. The only alternative is to realize that some people value money much more than they do people's lives and freedom, and to fight them on a monetary level. Thus, crippling South Africa's economy will bring about change much more quickly than will protesting about the questionable deaths of jailed prisoners like Steven Biko.

Mr. Easton's misconstrued idea, that our "primary concern" should be in the University's financial dealings, is both narrow-minded and misinformed. If the logic behind Mr. Easton's remark is that Penn State's

financial interest would be in danger, I would suggest that Mr. Easton and those like him re-examine their own values of a person's life and his freedom. If one takes the time to look into the future after the transition of power in South Africa, it will be apparent that the University's monetary interest will be in danger. The reason for this assumption is that the black majority, after taking its rightful place in the government, will not forget who helps finance its oppression. There is no doubt in my mind that this is the primary reason why the United States has such an intensified concern about maintaining the "stability" in South Africa.

Mr. Easton's idea that our divestiture movement might have harmful repercussions is not only illogical, but also quite funny. The mere defense of stability and progress that Mr. Easton speaks of is in itself approval of the apartheid policies in South Africa. The ironic part is that there is no stability in this African nation when the white minority lives in constant fear of a revolution. There is also something wrong when mothers and older children are shown taking shooting

practice. The stability that Mr. Easton mentions is also maintained by riots, shootings, and other "peaceful" activities that occur daily. On the contrary, a more stable existence for everybody would be achieved by the transition of the government to the black majority rule and the immediate termination of all apartheid policies.

We who are in favor of divestiture will not sit around and wait until the South African government finally "wakes up" to the fact that its apartheid policies are futile. I can only compare Mr. Easton's suggestion of patience to that of telling a Jewish person in the '40s that Hitler will eventually realize that he is wrong in what he is doing in the concentration camps. Both statements are examples of dangerous mentalities, that must be awakened to the fact that for no reason should a person's rights be compromised, especially not for monetary reasons. Mr. Easton asked, "Where should one draw the line?" The only reply that I can offer is that the question isn't that of location of the line but the realization that for the betterment of the world a line must be drawn.

Frosh Rep. gets rude reception

Gregg Cunningham, Centre County's newly elected Republican representative to the state House, had his first encounter with real world politics Tuesday after taking his seat in the legislature.

In short, he tried to buck the House GOP leadership and got bucked back a little bit harder.

Amidst the chaos of reorganization, the members were debating whether or not to seat the apparent winners in two contested races — Kenneth Halverson, R-Somerset, and Ronald Gatski, D-Luzerne.

The Republicans control the house with 101 to 98 votes at present, with the seats of Halverson and Gatski still in dispute in the courts. If the disputed seats go to the Democrats, the split control of the House will be even more unstable.

So while the majority is on their side, the Republicans wanted to get their choice for House Speaker, Rep. Jack Seltzer, R-Lebanon, voted in and kick out Democratic Speaker K. Leroy Irviss.

In caucus, the Republicans apparently decided to vote as a block for tabling the matter of the two contested seats and get to the matter of voting on Seltzer.

Only when they voted on the floor, the vote to table was 100 to 99 instead of 101 to 98.

Who was the stray cat? Freshman Rep. Gregg Cunningham.

Needless to say, the leadership jumped down his throat and quickly persuaded him to switch his vote to the party line.

"I was converged on," Cunningham said to the Centre Daily Times in an interview.

He told the CDT he had urged the Republicans in caucus to vote to seat the two apparent winners.

What was his explanation for voting the way he did, then switching his vote? He says there was some confusion on his part concerning the Democratic stand on the issue, denying he had been pressured by the leadership to change his vote.

But the other story, one source said, was that some of Cunningham's fellow Republicans were so mad that they began yelling at him at the top of their lungs. The leadership was not at all pleased with him, either.



Pete Barnes

According to a second CDT interview, Cunningham's philosophy on the leadership goes: "Voting with the leadership is not inherently bad unless the leadership is just trying to move you in a way that it operates to the detriment of the people of your district."

And his philosophy on strong-arming by the leadership? "At that point you have to tell your leadership no!"

This is an admirable attitude, and it is good to see Cunningham hold these convictions and try to stand on his own two feet. This is also the attitude usually

professed by candidates for public office and newly elected office holders.

But there is a big difference between the rhetorical world of campaigning and the cold realities of legislative office.

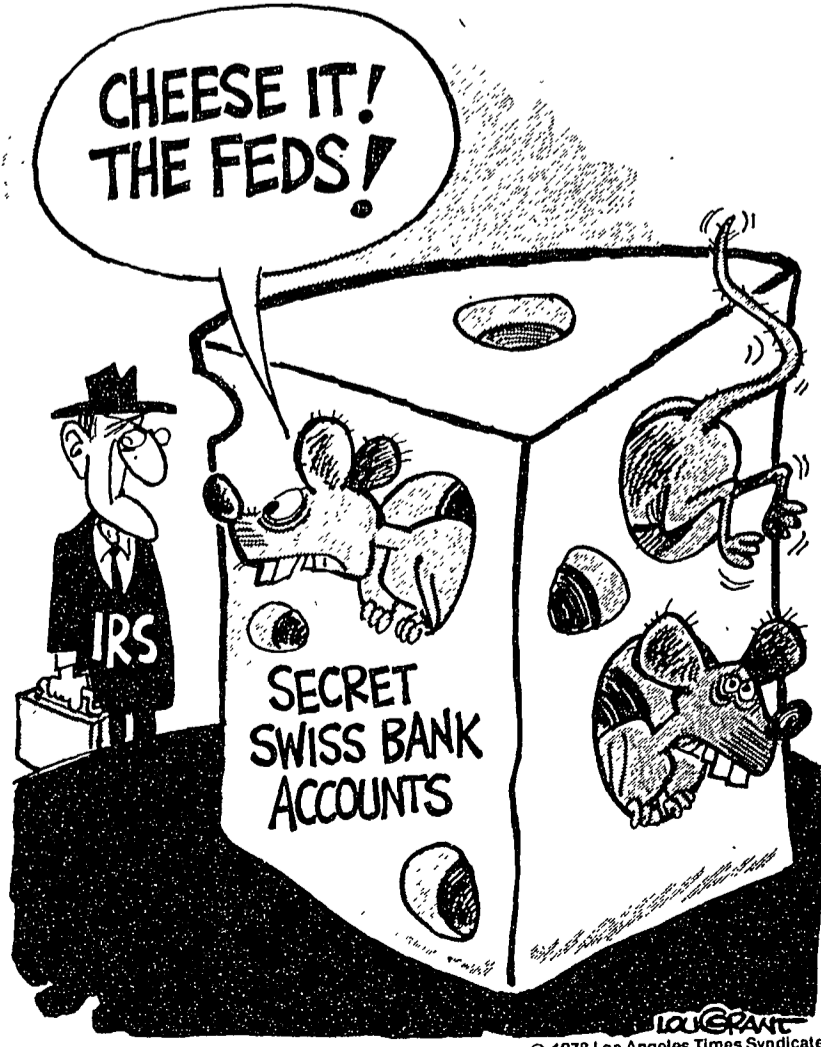
The difference is disillusioning. This is especially true in the case of freshmen legislators who, upon taking office, are quickly acquainted with the facts of legislative life and quickly learn that government does not operate in the fair and just democratic way described by high school textbooks.

In this case, the reality is that freshmen legislators must rely on the leadership for just about everything they need — for office space, supplies, information on bills, advice, committee positions, and the rest. More importantly, the party leadership holds the key to all legislators' plans because the leadership controls the agenda for bill introduction and consideration. If the leadership doesn't like you, kid, then you won't even get your mother introduced, let alone any bills.

Politics is the art of compromise. Occasionally, all of us must compromise our beliefs and convictions in situations that may not be agreeable to us.

Cunningham should by all means do what he believes is right, but he should not be so quick to buck the system. The system may be rotten, and he should do all he can to change it. But in the meantime, to be an effective legislator for Penn State and the rest of his constituency, he has to learn how to work in that system.

Pete Barnes is an 8th-term political science major and assistant news editor of The Daily Collegian.



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