

# Dues

A number of important government seats are up for grabs in Centre County this year, and voters will be called upon to decide who should fill them.

State College Borough Council will lose three Council members — Richard Kummer, Allen D. Patterson and Wallis Lloyd. Of those whose terms are up, only Councilwoman Mary Ann Haas is seeking re-election. Four additional candidates will run for the four open seats.

University students should have a special interest in this election, for one of the five candidates, John Tobin (6th-community development), is a Penn State student.

In the past year, Council has decided issues such as residency limits in downtown apartments, garbage collection fees (which indirectly affect rent costs), parking and the much-debated human rights ordinance. These are issues that affect every student at the University, but because there are no students

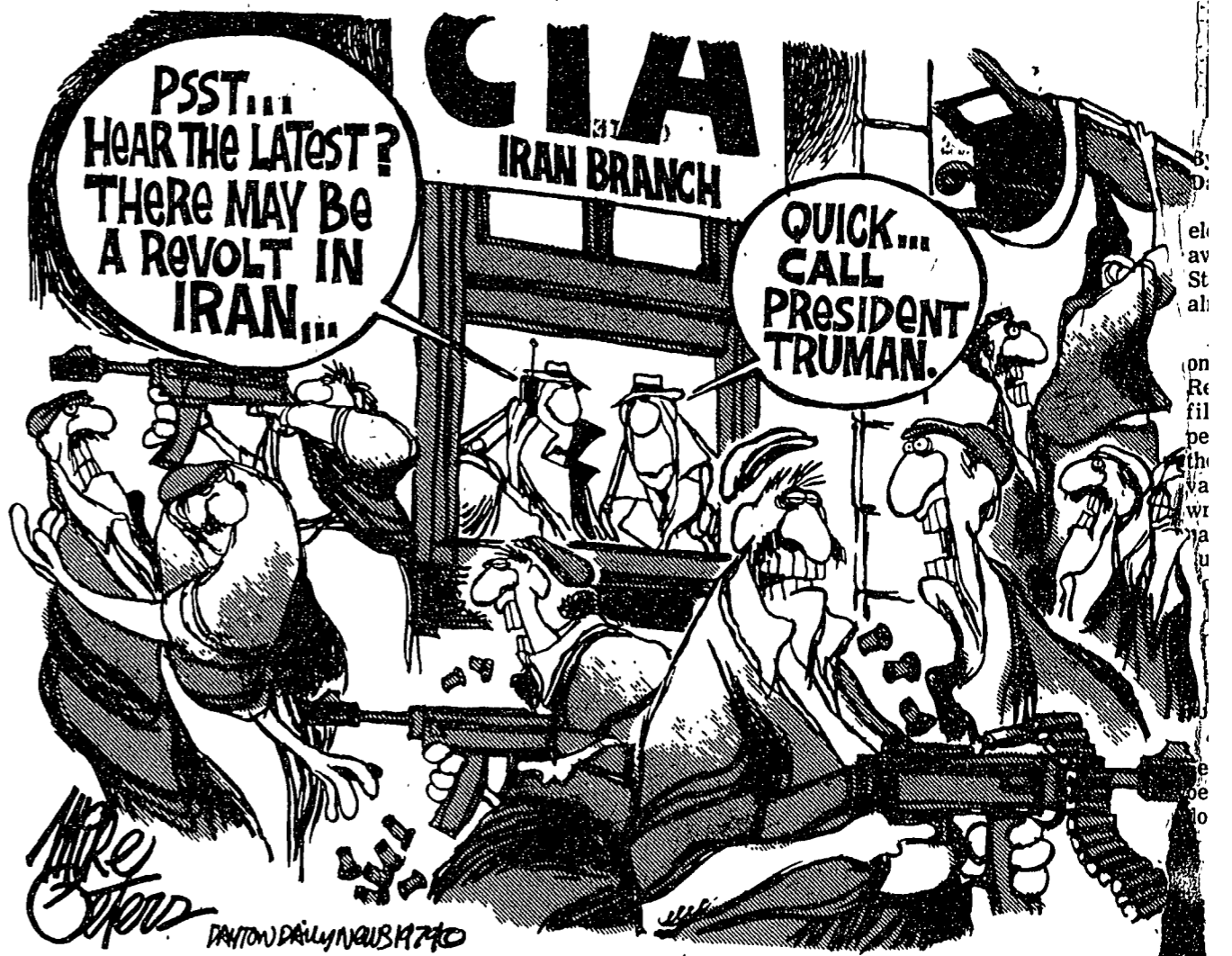
on Council, it cannot be said for certain that student input is paid its due.

Centre County government is, on the whole, fairly accessible and not terribly formal, and its members have often proved themselves to be open to suggestions. One need not feel removed from its workings, and students have no one to blame but themselves if their voices are not heard. Yet in the past, attempts to integrate students into local government have usually been unsuccessful.

The time is ripe for students to make the difference that everyone is sure we can make. Primary elections for not only the Borough Council seats, but for county commissioners and positions on the school board and many other areas of local government will be held May 15.

There will be frequent opportunities for you to register to vote before the primary.

Take that opportunity — its the first step towards making the difference.



## Two fateful words

# Carter takes a trip

Two nasty four-letter words, Iran and OPEC, make President Carter's current trip to the Middle East the most fateful of his presidency.

The tumult of the Iranian Revolution has unleashed forces of Islamic revival that have thrust the Middle East back onto the front page. Additionally, The Arab Energy conference Monday issued a decision that may tie future supplies of oil to efforts by the west toward the creation of a Palestinian state. In other words, we may have the next Arab oil embargo without benefit of an accompanying Mideast war if the president doesn't bring home a signed peace agreement.



Brian Golden

The fall of the Pahlavi regime in Iran removed the strongest American ally in the Persian Gulf, and Israel's single greatest source of oil. And the tender embrace of the Ayatollah and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat in front of the new PLO mission in Tehran signalled the creation of a new staging center for terrorist activities throughout the Middle East.

The victory of extremist Islamic forces in Iran troubles Egyptian president Anwar Sadat. Since his magnificent mission to Jerusalem in November, 1977, he alone has held out for moderation against a chorus of calls for military action against Israel. The continuing stalemate since Camp David has weakened Sadat's position and no doubt led him to demand the concessions of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin which Jimmy Carter unsuccessfully tried to browbeatingly extort earlier this week.

The Islamic revival also troubles Saudi Arabia, and this worries the Carter administration. The Saudis have always been a moderating force in the Arab world, bankrolling Sadat and mitigating potentially destructive price hikes within OPEC. But Camp David, with its non-consideration of the Palestinians, bothered them, and they showed their displeasure with endorsement of OPEC's 14.5 percent price hike in December, and more recently by abruptly cancelling crown Prince Fahd's state visit.

Although the ruling House Of Saud has always enjoyed good relations with the holy men of the country's predominant Sunni sect, they are not blind to the Marxism springing up around them in

Iraq, Iran and the Yemens. They perceive the President of the United States as a weak leader, despite his sending of Naval vessels to the waters off Yemen Tuesday. For domestic tranquility's sake, they may cast their lot with appeasement of the more extreme Arab states of Iraq, Syria and Libya.

The Palestinian question itself irritates even the most patriotic of Arab States. There are large concentrations of Palestinian refugees within all Arab league countries. These blocs represent a potential for trouble, as was amply evidenced by the Palestinian activity in the Iranian revolution.

Thus, Jimmy Carter can accomplish much with a final resolution of the spirit of Camp David this weekend. A peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, with an accompanying framework for the creation of an independent Palestinian state, would remove the most powerful military component from the Arab fold.

It would also set the stage for a theorized Israel-Egypt-Saudi Arabian alliance to safeguard western interests in the region in the Post-Shah era.

An Egyptian-Israeli peace would be a victory for the forces of moderation favored by Sadat and the Saudis. It would also aid in splitting off the Saudis from the more radical elements of OPEC. Since the Saudis produce one-third of the cartel's oil, independent Saudi action could blunt the effect of any OPEC pricing decision, simply by manipulating output.

With its two largest members not complying (Saudi Arabia and Iran) with price decisions, and with Mexico coming on as a world exporter, the extortionary power of OPEC would crumble. A more economically sound determination of world supply and price would do wonders for the American balance of payments problem, and would once again make American technology something of value in the international community.

But all of this is contingent on a successful Middle East visit by President Carter. Jimmy Carter has been here before; Camp David was a last ditch effort, too, and moved the Middle East closer to peace than it's ever been. And although on the whole the man from Georgia has been a woefully inept leader, he can rescue his own political fortunes and the future of international energy trade with a diplomatic success this weekend.

What are his chances? As one senator said, "If Jimmy Carter didn't have assurance already from both sides that this will go, he'd never make this trip." Judging from Carter's track record, let's hope you're right, senator.

Brian Golden is a 10th term broadcast journalism major.



## How naive?

The front page story titled "Pa. Liquor monopoly may end or change," in the Feb. 15 issue of The Daily Collegian causes me to write this, in reference to comments made by Richard Lester, Liquor Control Board Supervisor for Centre County.

Lester states, "Prices aren't that bad; there's not that much difference from other states." How naive can a person be? Or uninformed? All he has to do is pick up a copy of any issue of The Washington Post and do some comparative shopping. He will quickly see that hard liquor prices are generally 30 to 50 percent lower there than here. I don't call that a "little difference."

In addition to price, there is the issue of selection. While Lester states, "We carry between 2,000 and 3,000 items. A private individual couldn't afford that," the fact remains that across many private outlets, the total offerings are much, much greater than Pennsylvania's system can ever hope to have on hand. That's a real benefit of free enterprise, rather than monopoly. Again, Mr. Lester, glance at the Post and see if you can't find some brand names that aren't on the Pennsylvania list. You'll find many.

Of course, besides Pennsylvania's ultra-high prices and generally poor selection, there is the fundamental question of whether Pennsylvania should be entitled to have a monopoly in any business. Why liquor instead of gasoline? Surely, Pennsylvania could make much more by taking over petrol sales and tacking an 85 percent tax on its raw cost. The fact is, while Pennsylvania might have the legal right to monopolize on liquor, it is ethically wrong for it to do so. Unfortunately, raising ethical issues with Harrisburg is like shouting at someone whose ears are closed.

Dennis Roberts  
Associate Professor of  
Educational Psychology  
Feb. 15

## The way out

I'd like to take this opportunity to ask everyone, including my fellow students, to assess his feelings concerning the resolving of worldwide hunger, both domestic and foreign.

Hunger in the world is increasing, and the outlook in many poor countries is cause for alarm. Self-reliance for these poor countries is the necessary way out of hunger and poverty.

Although aid from the United States has saved many lives, it has sometimes discouraged some aid-receiving countries from increasing their own food production. This can happen especially when we do nothing more than simply give food to a nation. It may be tempting for any nation to use the power it can wield resulting from its food-producing capacity in light of a world food problem to manipulate needy nations; but because much of what we, as a nation, do on the international level will eventually affect us here in our sheltered land of America, we should not abuse our God-given resources.

Our aid programs need to be better organized and consistently focused on self-reliant development. This kind of aid is important and you can help make it happen.

What can you alone do? Write to your congressman. It will alert him to your concerns. Tell him your views — what you think is important! Our legislators are the ones to whom we have entrusted the power which we collectively have.

## From the editor:

# How we hope to answer our critics' cries

Since being named editor of The Daily Collegian in January, I've had my ear bent time after time about all the things that are wrong with the Collegian.

Students, faculty and administrators have talked to me about inexperience, inaccuracy and poor journalism. In certain cases, they have valid criticisms; in other cases, they do not.

Admittedly, the Collegian has its faults and its problems, just like any other newspaper or organization. But because of a newspaper's important and visible role in a community, excuses and reasons for mistakes are often not accepted, and rightly so, considering the great responsibility a newspaper has.

It may be difficult to accept, but mistakes are a by-product of improvement — we try to learn from our mistakes to make ourselves better. We work to improve the paper and to decrease the likelihood of mistakes in the future.

Starting Monday, the Collegian will

publish a weekly feature called "Interview." These will be transcribed interviews with personalities of student interest and concern, such as administrators, faculty members, student leaders, sports personalities, government officials, speakers — the list is endless.



"Interview"'s purpose is two-fold. First, it will give readers valuable information and insight into personalities of student interest and concern. But what's more important, it will give

these people the opportunity to talk without the apprehension that usually accompanies a newspaper interview. Because the question and answer session will be transcribed word for word, there will be no misquoting and no statements taken out of context — just the person's thoughts and views, completely on the record.

In another effort to try to improve the Collegian, primary sources for certain stories will be sent story evaluation forms following the publication of a story. The forms ask questions such as "Were you quoted correctly?" and "Do you think you were treated fairly in the article?"

But the forms, which in the past have been sent out irregularly and returned with low frequency, will be of value only if they are returned.

We are trying to improve the paper in other ways, too, primarily by working more closely with reporters, to give them the experience they need to

become better journalists. For example, a news team of reporters and photographers will be making trip Harrisburg once a month and Washington once a term.

On the feature side, the Collegian will publish a "Weekend" page every Friday, beginning tomorrow, which will list everything there is to do at University over the weekend, including movies, sports, exhibits and special events.

I've mentioned a few of the noticeable changes readers will see in the Collegian, and it would take another column to discuss other changes.

The important thing to remember though, is that some of these changes were made because of criticism. A newspaper can ever hope to improve without it. Criticism from you, reader — we want it and need it.

Pete Barnes is a ninth term political science major and is editor of The Daily Collegian.

# Letters to the Editor

Please, everybody, let's tell them that we do care about the hunger in people's stomachs, no matter how far away they are.

David Wollover  
9th-agricultural economics and rural sociology  
March 6

## Selfless

I am in complete disagreement with the article which recently appeared in The Daily Collegian concerning the remarks of former Secretary of Education John C. Pittenger, criticizing the branch campus system of Penn State University.

I cannot agree that the Commonwealth campuses were initiated solely from political motives. On the contrary, they were instituted for purely selfless motives — to provide a sound education for deserving and worthy students who otherwise would not have been able to receive such an education. In this, the University has succeeded admirably.

Sol Lubin  
President, The Penn State Club of Wyoming Valley  
Feb. 26

## They also serve

It happens every year. The Daily Collegian forgets us, the dance marathon committee forgets us, and many of the dancers don't even realize we were there. We're WEHR, the East Halls Radio Station who, with the financial backing of the Student Bookstore, provided music for the dance marathon during the "off hours" — late night and early morning.

Who needs a "thank you" anyway? So we've been doing this same job for the last few years in the dance marathon without thanks from anyone. So we were given only a few days notice this year and had to rush to get together our equipment and sponsors. So our name wasn't even included in the half-page ad in the Collegian thanking businesses and radio stations . . . so what? It was all for a great cause and we were proud to help.

As advertising directors of WEHR, we would at least like to publicly thank all those who helped us on such short notice. Thank you, WEHR engineers, technicians, disc-jockeys, advertising personnel, board of directors, and East Halls residence association for performing a true public service.

Mark Hintz  
9th-advertising  
Diane Bonifanti  
6th-advertising  
advertising directors, WEHR  
March 5

## All out

Upon returning from term break one must consider whether or not to submit a dorm contract for the coming year. One thing that should be pondered is how poorly Food Services operated on the last few days of winter term. If the service across campus was as bad as it was in Findlay Dining Hall then we pity those that also had to remain until Tuesday morning.

Following are examples of mismanagement and disregard for students. On Sunday night, it was decided to have only one dining hall open instead of the usual two. As a result, there were exceptionally long lines and the hall was forced to stay open 15 minutes after the

usual closing time so the entire line could get served breakfast on Monday; there was no whole milk in the machines. Also, no salads were served at Monday dinner. Throughout the last few days, there was a shortage of sugar dispensers, with only one on each of two or three tables, and the food on the printed menu was different from the meals actually served. Finally at the last meal served on Tuesday morning, there was no cereal at all, no milk except chocolate, and the orange juice was watery.

These may seem like petty grievances but with pressures of studying for finals upon us, we wish to eat our meals quickly and hassle-free. We didn't expect to wait in line for nearly half an hour, and when we finally got to eat we found that the food was not available. Hopefully, with the increased room board charges for next year, Food Services will be more efficiently and with more awareness of students' needs.

Stephen H.  
9th-manager  
Joseph R. Romani  
9th-electrical engineer  
March 6

## Hey, sis!

It is now over — or should be. The incredible ordeal of applying for a dorm contract is now history. It should be noted that while we were waiting, a letter was received by our parents which stated, in regard to dorm contracts, "Everyone, with the exception of freshmen, now apply on a first-come first-serve basis."

This is not true. Members of sororities did not wait in line. Their rooms were guaranteed. They need only submit their contracts at any time during the prescribed period. Why are some students freed from the ordeal of applying for dorm contracts while others were resigned to submit to the rules?

Tom  
9th-fin  
March 6

# the Collegian

Pete Barnes  
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Marjie Schlessinger  
Business Manager

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

The editorial office reserves the right to edit letters, and to reject them if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste.