Editorial Opinion

Crying wolf

Fired-up student 'leaders' made PSU populace look bad

The State College Municipal Council chambers were particularly crowded Monday night. Before the meeting even started, the seats were filled and people lined the back wall.

More than a few had come to hear the council's decision on the Centre Area Transportation Authority's recent request to have its executive board revamped.

CATA had asked for the elimination of four of the board's nine seats — two of which represented the riders, and one each representing the Undergraduate Student Government and the community at large; a request that would retain only the seats of the five participating municipalities.

The request angered students on USG and several had come to the meeting prepared to fight.

But when the issue came up on the agenda, USG members received a pleasant surprise. Council President Ingrid P. Holtzman announced that, for the time being at least, the council would retain the USG seat. Later, during the citizen's hour, Holtzman said she was going to submit the name of USG Vice President Vicki Sandoe to fill the seat.

After the citizen's hour, USG President Hal Shaffer, obviously pleased, put down the speech he had hastily written after Holtzman's first announcement — a speech that would have argued for Sandoe's appointment. Thanking Holtzman, he sat down; he wasn't going to press the issue.

But two other University students decided they were. Mike Scanlon, Organization for Town Independent Students president, took the floor and, while those in the chamber looked on, told the council what it surely already knew — that students make up the bulk of the CATA ridership.

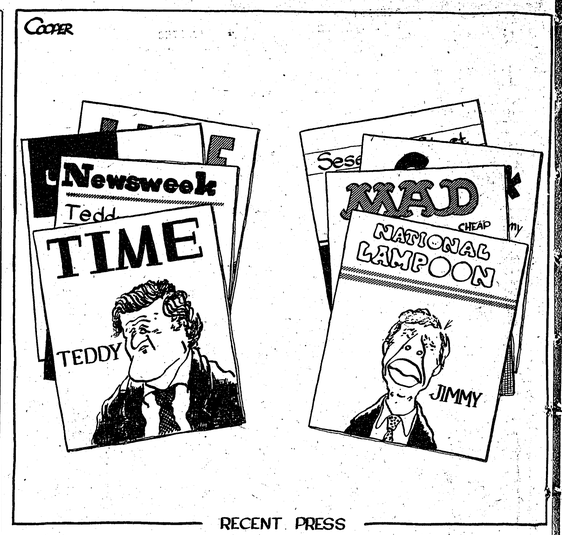
Then, USG Senator Joe Healey stood up to tell the council, in an antagonistic tone, that students are citizens too and that council members should start treating them as such.

The inappropriateness of the remarks, coming right after the council had done what everyone said it never does — recognize students — was not lost on anyone but the speakers themselves.

Although their hearts may have been in the right places, the conduct of Scanlon and, especially, Healey was embarrassing to other students in the chambers. Student leaders are supposed to represent students; it's a crying shame when they represent them in a negative way.

As Shaffer said, the council's action proves it is willing to help lay the groundwork for a beneficial town-student relationship.

The actions of some of our student "leaders" makes one wonder if the students are.



RECENT PRESS

Letters to the Editor

Playing fair

At the beginning of Fall Term this year there was a change in registration policy. Previously, registration priority was by term standing. The higher your term standing the better your chance of getting your choice of gym classes. The new system gives priority to first-through sixth-term students.

We were all told by the physical education department that if we waited until our senior year, we would have priority over all underclassmen. This was not true at fall '79 registration. The priority was changed without warning before the beginning of Fall Term, causing many seniors to get closed out of gym classes by underclassmen.

Although this change was needed to make people take gym classes in the first two years, couldn't it be done with some warning? We would have been willing to take gym classes our junior year but we were told not to if we wanted the interesting classes. Some of us who came from Commonwealth campuses think there wasn't any variety at the branch campuses and we waited to take classes here.

If the people responsible for the decision to change the registration process accidentally forgot the seniors, there is still time to correct this mistake for Winter and Spring terms. If these people knew what they were doing to juniors and seniors and did it anyway, we would like to know why.

Eric Young
10th-public service
William Phillipy
10th-administration of justice
Oct. 29

What Ted really said

To dignify Brian Golden's column "Kennedy living in Camelot past" (Oct. 30) with a response containing hard core economic statistics of the last 19 years and an outline of Sen. Ted Kennedy's legislative past in the U.S. Senate as recorded in the Congressional Record is quite tempting. But I'd rather save Golden from the embarrassment he deserves for his pompous political commentary so that he is not too overwhelmed by his own ignorance should he decide to survey the truth about Sen. Kennedy's legislative positions and endeavors as they are recorded in the Congressional Record.

Even as nonsense, his column about Kennedy is grossly inadequate.

I would, however, like to put into perspective for those readers who may have scanned Mr. Golden's column, just one thing.

At Columbia Point, Boston, on Oct. 20, 1979, the dedication of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library took place. Mr. Golden states that Sen. Ted Kennedy dedicated himself to his brother's memory saying "the dream will never die,"; that it was left to President Carter to return us to reality saying that this is the world of 1980, not 1960; and that we need new solutions, not the ones which made JFK's dream "an economic nightmare" (as Mr. Golden puts it).

It was actually President Carter who spoke first that day. He spoke of the need for Americans to adapt while making a transition from times of abundance to times of scarcity (and hard economic times). Kennedy spoke immediately afterward in a voice that literally boomed to return us to reality at 9,000 plus.

The words Sen. Kennedy spoke at Columbia Point, are not the words of an Arthurian Romantic spouting hindsight, obviously. They are words of strong commitment and hope for the future.

It is just as absurd to say that Sen. Ted Kennedy is the embodiment of his brother JFK's economic and political convictions as it is to blame all the economic woes of the last two decades on John F. Kennedy. Mr. Golden does both.

The voters will decide whether they want some weak-kneed pessimist to lead us "into and through the deep, dark valley of the next decade" (as Golden puts it), a commitment to failure, or a strong and determined leadership — commited to success and meeting the challenges of the next decade with new ideas and opportunistic insight for solutions.

I think some positive thinking, for a change, could do a lot of good for more than just the economy at this point. Don't you, Mr. Golden?

Michael J. Tucker
Pleasant Gap resident
Nov. 1

Stay home

This letter is in response to the behavior of the audience at Wednesday night's Colloquy program dealing with the supernatural. The audience behaved terribly. The initial five minutes of the presentation were lost to anyone seated farther than ten rows from the front of the stage because the audience was talking loudly. The applause that rang out every time the speakers mentioned drugs in any context was another example of the immaturity of much of the audience.

College students should at least have enough maturity to be able to sit quietly and listen to an interesting presentation such as the one Wednesday night. I was ashamed to be part of the Penn State student body because of their behavior, since those speakers will probably associate disgusting rudeness with us from now on.

As usual, a number of people who haven't quite made it out of junior high school in their behavior will spoil things for the rest of us. To those people, either grow up and learn to treat speakers with respect, or stay home and be obnoxious. Some of us have enough maturity to know how to handle presentations.

Patricia K. Gruber
10th-individual and family studies
Nov. 1

The gathering darkness

Christopher Wright's comments on the dangers of a "New World Information Order," in which Third World countries would control their own news flow, were very insightful. He wrote that some of those countries "have a vested interest in keeping their people partly in the dark, and they showed at a United Nations conference . . . that they also wanted to control what everyone else in the world knows about them."

Mr. Wright went on to ask whether the world would have known about the "present genocide in Cambodia or the savagery in Uganda" if that information were controlled by those countries.

For an answer, one has only to look at the Soviet Union. How many people realize that right now upward of 2 million people are facing slow death in prison-concentration camps? How many realize that during the past 50 years more than 60 million people were slain by the Russian Communists? How many realize that torture and closed trials are common Russian tactics used to squelch dissent?

How many realize that ethnocide is being waged against the Georgians, Latvians, Estonians, Lithuanians, Ukrainians, etc.? Obviously, having Moscow primarily control the news flow is less than satisfactory and serves as a warning against a "New World Information Order" that would put the control of international news in the hands of individual countries.

Jeffrey C. Rozwadowski
4th-theater
Oct. 31

Editorial Opinion

Your page

Tuition and loop increase no big deal but Eagles and Smock rate

Page 2 of The Daily Collegian is devoted to varying opinions of the University community. It is meant to reflect the opinions of students, faculty and administrators whenever they wish to voice an opinion.

The bulk of letters, naturally, are from students. Students write in about what angers them, how they feel about certain issues, and the like. We can run only the letters we get.

We get a wide variety.

From the tone and topics of the letters the Collegian has been getting recently, students seem very concerned about dead groundhogs, coverage of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia sports and Joe Smock.

processing or decriminalization of marijuana.

It is frightening to think that students care little about these issues. But if the letters we have been receiving are any indicator, then this is the case. We are afraid that all of this reflects a general apathy among students. Such apathy is dangerous because it allows University policies to be implemented unchecked, unprotested and unopposed. Such apathy makes student demands for input into campus organizations because without student support, they have no real power and administrators know this.

It is not too late, though, for students to deal with important issues.

Save me, save me

Hey, guess what? The Collegian had it right for once!

A recent Collegian editorial criticized how we students have come to neglect page two. It was noted how our virtuous sounding board, our hotline to the university administration had become a cluttered battle-ground. Skirmishes between discoer and rock-n-roller, between man and groundhog had stained the ivory-white towers.

What to do?

Look to the omnipotent Collegian staff for guidance, of course. Let these dedicated journalists rescue us all from the depths of apathy and bring unto us the rewards of social awareness.

"Praise be!" my soul shouted. "Save me, save me. Let my eyes and ears indulge in these great revelations," said my soul as I hungrily consumed article after article.

Ah, but the taste was not so sweet. I thought I'd choke. I'd been fooled; perhaps I'd simply been foolish.

Too late to change

I see that USG is really becoming active in its surveys about dorm living plans, got decriminialization and planning spring break trips to Florida. Everything looks good.

Also, I see that a presidential commission is advising that the building of nuclear power plants should not be halted despite a growing number of protests across the country. Yet I see a very dormant, uncaring University community, only two hours away from Three Mile Island, that is only concerned about short term priorities.

"Well," you might say to me, "we are only here for four years, we have enough to think about!"

When you think about it, it is that attitude, saying that we are not permanent, that causes us and our views to be constantly overlooked. What is going to happen when you do become permanent somewhere? It may be too late for you to change things, and you probably will not be able to, for you had not learned how to.

David A. Moskowitz
4th-secondary education
Oct. 31

Subtle sexism

I don't think the subtle form (maybe not so subtle) of sexism exemplified by your headline of Oct. 31, "Woman nominated for education secretary," has any place in responsible journalism.

Had it been a man nominated, I somehow doubt that the above-mentioned headline would have made any note of his sex.

Perhaps I'm being a little naive, but I'd like to believe that President Carter nominated Judge Hufstedler due to her outstanding qualifications and not because of her genetic make-up, as inferred.

Michael Weiner
graduate-genetics
Oct. 31

Correction

An opinion forum by Undergraduate Student Government President Hal Shaffer Friday about the Association for Residence Hall Students-sponsored rally read: ". . . will my participation make any difference? In this case, I say yes! If you believe this, (I have some beautiful swampland in New Jersey you might want to buy . . .) show up at Old Main at 12:30 this afternoon."

Due to a problem in production, the clause in parentheses did not belong in Mr. Shaffer's forum and should not have been printed.

The Daily Collegian sincerely regrets any inconvenience or embarrassment this has caused Mr. Shaffer.

USG: Weight room cut helped some

By GRETCHEN WORTH
Undergraduate Student Government Senator (Town)
and STEPHEN REEVES
Undergraduate Student Government Senator (East II)

In response to student concern over the scheduling of recreational time at the weight room, the Undergraduate Student Government Senate formed an ad hoc committee to study the situation. This report details the findings of this committee:

Due to poor communications, the reasons for scheduling the weight room hours were not presented clearly. The reasons outlined by Robert Scannell, Dean of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, for the change were:

1) The added strain on the weight room during class time due to the general population's increased awareness of the benefits of physical fitness.

2) A need to schedule practice time for varsity athletes.

3) And the liability resulting from the unsupervised free weights.

There seems to be a general misconception that this decision was made primarily for the benefit of varsity athletes. The hours for the combined weight lifting facilities on campus are alloted to: free time, 62 percent; class time, 24 percent; varsity athletics, 6 percent; and closed, 8 percent. This is based on a 15-hour day, seven days a week.

Collegian forum

The major beneficiary under the new system has been the physical education classes, during which time only students registered for the class are allowed access to weight facilities. This excludes regular students and faculty members as well as varsity athletes.

Supervisors have been hired to reduce the University's liability resulting from accidents involving the lifting of free weights. Their major responsibilities include: to see that the equipment is properly used, to insure equipment is in working order and to contact appropriate medical assistance if someone is injured. The majority of supervisors are work-study students, but some are on payroll.

As a result of the controversy arising from policy decisions within the College of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, a six-member committee has been formed to advise the college on decisions involving facilities. The committee is made up of students active in intramural and non-varsity athletics chosen through the Department of Recreational Sports.

We believe that the allotment of time to varsity athletics is not unreasonable, inasmuch as there are other facilities available at the restricted time which is also University-wide practice time.

We recommend that all weight room supervisors be trained in standard first aid. This would seem a logical step in reducing liability.

In closing, we found that the scheduling of weight room hours was a reasonable decision in itself; our major complaint is that it was made without student input.

the daily Collegian
Wednesday, Nov. 7, 1979 — Page 2
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Pete Barnes
Editor

Marjie Schlessinger
Business Manager

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Arabs disregard rights, Israeli consul charges

By ELYSE CHILAND
and BARI WINEMILLER
Daily Collegian Staff Writers

The Arab state's refusal to acknowledge any Jewish rights to Palestine is the core of the Middle Eastern conflict, the Vice Consul of Israel said at a Yachad-sponsored forum last night.

Nimrod Barkan, who has been touring the United States for four months said, "Peace in the Middle East will come only when the Arab states will recognize Israel is here to stay."

This recognition of the Jewish state is the only realistic way to resolve the conflict, Barkan said. "The Arabs don't want to live with the Jews and the Jews don't want to live in the same country as the Arabs," he said.

But a Palestinian member of the audience said, "A secular state, where everybody — Jews, Christians, Moslems and non-believers — can live together should be formed."

Another spectator challenged this statement, though. He said, in reference to the violent actions of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, "when you can practice what you preach, then talk to us (about secular democracy). Until then, talk to us later."

"It is unfortunate for Palestine that the PLO represents Palestine," Barkan said.

When the PLO began, it was not a military organization, he said. However, it has since been taken over by several different terrorist factions, the most powerful of which is led by Yasser Arafat.

Barkan compared the Palestinian situation to Cuba.

"The PLO is drifting more and more into being a Cuba in the Middle East. It will give the United States as much trouble in the Middle East as Cuba in Latin America," he said.

Photo by Betsy Overly

Nimrod Barkan

ARHS cancels rally idea, awaits Oswald's decision

By BILL CASSIDY
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The Association of Residence Hall Students decided last night not to hold another dorm contract rally in place of the one canceled last Friday.

ARHS Executive Vice President Don Allen said several reasons contributed to the decision.

"We lost a lot of momentum, and as I see it, there is a lack of time and money to hold another one," he said.

Allen said ARHS lost about $350 publicizing Friday's rally.

"We're just waiting to see what happens right now," he said.

But according to Raymond O. Murphy, vice president for student affairs, ARHS could be waiting for a while yet.

"President Oswald is in no hurry to make a decision on the dorm contract issue," he said.

ARHS sent its proposal to University President John W. Oswald on Nov. 1, and Residential Life submitted its proposal to the president's office on Monday.

Residential Life refused to disclose the content of its proposal.

ARHS President Steve Osborn said it is unfair to students that Residential Life will not disclose its proposal.

"I think that Residential Life should have made its proposal public because it affects so many students," he said.

Osborn also said Residential Life should have turned its proposal into the president earlier so the proposal could have been printed in the newspaper.

"I regret that Residential Life didn't turn their report proposal into Oswald sooner so that there would have been an article in the Daily Collegian saying that Residential Life supports this. . .," Osborn said.

Stan Latta, assistant director of Residential Life, said it would be unfair to the president to print the proposal in the newspaper.

"I won't disclose our proposal because I don't think that Oswald should have to read our proposal in the paper," Latta said. "It should be on his desk when he sees it for the first time."

Osborn said he expects the decision on dorm contract submission to be made sometime after the beginning of term break.

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