

Wrong combination

University wastes time and money removing USG's safe

Choose your favorite cliché: "Cutting off your nose to spite your face" or "Two wrongs don't make a right."

Both sayings describe the University's act Monday when it removed a floor safe from Sparks Building. The safe was installed last March in a closet in Sparks by the Undergraduate Student Government.

William Hetrick, director of physical plant administration, said the \$900 safe was removed because of its unauthorized installation and because of structural considerations.

Director of Student Activities Melvyn S. Klein said the safe was removed because USG used it for storing money and "altered the space without permission."

The closet had been allotted by the University for USG use, Andy Weintraub, USG vice president, said.

According to Weintraub, USG paid the total cost of the safe and gave a full apology for its unauthorized installation.

The safe, designed to store equipment and USG film money, has been returned to the USG office, Weintraub said.

USG will pay for the safe's removal and the cost of restoring the closet "to what it was

before," Klein said. Hetrick said he estimated a "pretty good ballpark figure" of between \$300-\$350 for the job.

Klein said it is routine for the office of physical plant to take care of matters like removing the safe and repairing the closet. But since USG paid for the safe's installation and will have to bear the eventual cost of its removal, should not USG have been allowed to try to have the safe removed at a lower cost?

Moreover, the safe's presence was not harming anyone and was valuable to the student government.

Weintraub said he was told that USG did not go through the proper channels. This is true. The safe's installment by former JEM Productions Business Manager Ernie Hicks was a clear violation of University policy. But should a worthwhile item be removed simply as punishment?

The University should not have deprived the present USG administration of the safe in Sparks because of the actions of a member of a previous administration.

Student funds are now being wasted only because the University wants to prove a point.



Inside view of today from a page out of history

Columnist's Note: The negative feelings surrounding the current presidential campaign exemplify what has become a discouraging trend in America — many voters have become turned off to politics. In part, this may be due to the fact that voters simply don't understand enough about the office of the president or how it works. Last week, Daily Collegian staff writer Paul Sunyak traveled to Mount Rushmore, South Dakota, where he interviewed former Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt on the presidency, negative political apathy and the current state of world affairs. The following is a transcript of that interview, edited for more length and less clarity.

COLLEGIAN: Whew! That was quite a climb. You guys got a beer?

WASHINGTON: Sure. In the frig. Help yourself.

COLLEGIAN: Now down to business. Let's chip away at what you think are the biggest issues in America today.

LINCOLN: Well, I think gun control is the biggest issue. Senator Kennedy is unequivocally right in calling for gun control, and I favor it 100 percent.

ROOSEVELT: Abe, you have the perception of the Constitution. It was not intended in the Constitution, in

fact, the Constitution was written against gun control, right Tom?

JEFFERSON: Hmm. Let me see (shuffling papers). I think I've got it written down on a napkin

somewhere. . .

ROOSEVELT: What a filing system! Is that how you did the Declaration of Independence, too? You were there, can't you even remember?

JEFFERSON: I can't recall much from the night we wrote that part. We were pretty drunk — Pat Henry and John Hancock and the rest of the guys. All I can remember was Betsy Ross bawling about how we should include something called the ERA. We told her not to worry about it, equality for women was a passing fancy.

COLLEGIAN: But it wasn't. It's still a

big issue with a lot of people. However, the Republicans just scratched it from their platform and the Democrats haven't taken a stand one way or the other. What about that?

LINCOLN: It saddens my heart to think that the party I led to victory — a party which demanded equality for all mankind — could have backslid so much in such a short period of time.

COLLEGIAN: Now it looks like we're getting somewhere. But first, let me get a consensus from the others. Guys, do you or do you not think Abe looks like a young Ayatollah Khomeini?

WASHINGTON: There's a question we can get our teeth into. Yes, I think Abe looks a lot like the Ayatollah. But with different glasses, I think Teddy would look more like Bani-Sadr than Abe looks

like the Ayatollah.

LINCOLN: You must be kidding! Teddy looks nothing like Bani-Sadr.

ROOSEVELT: Bally. Where have you been for the last nine months, at the theater? If you watch television, you know I bear a striking resemblance to Bani-Sadr. You, on the other hand, are twice as homely-looking as the Ayatollah.

LINCOLN: That may be true, but I am the most famous president named Lincoln. Can you say the same?

COLLEGIAN: Mr. Jefferson, what do you say?

JEFFERSON: When in the course of human events it becomes necessary to render a decision, we the people, in order to form a more perfect union, abstain.

COLLEGIAN: What do you view as the major contributors to political apathy in the United States?

JEFFERSON: Ah, the "Who cares? Let's party!" syndrome.

LINCOLN: You are right. People seem to be losing faith in the political system. I don't know why this has occurred, but I have noticed a decline in participation over the last four score and seven years.

WASHINGTON: I think the problem stems from a lack of respect for the presidency. When I started, the presidency was respected. Those chosen to fill the position were competent. The people had faith. And congress worked with me, instead of trying to compete.

COLLEGIAN: And that was?

WASHINGTON: If you don't use it, you lose it.

Paul Sunyak is a 10th-term journalism major and staff writer for The Daily Collegian.

Letters to the Editor

Disappointment

I am disappointed that you would use my paper to further so obvious a cult as Mormonism in your July 26 Collegian.

The article is very misleading and can only benefit Mormonism and eventually harm those who accept it.

Utah (more than 70 percent Mormon) has had a divorce rate that exceeds the national average every year but one for over 30 years.

Polygamy — though they say they do not practice it — is widely practiced in Utah and is protected by state officials. Polygamy is as much a part of Mormonism's teachings now as in Brigham Young's days, but no article says that.

Please do not allow your newspaper to be used in such a manner. Everything you could say about Jim Jones could be said about Joseph Smith. Mormonism's people are totally subservient to him.

John L. Smith, Utah Missions, Inc.
Marlow, Oklahoma
August 11

High ideals

I read with considerable pleasure the story in the Collegian on the Mormons by Pam Medve. I believe it is one of the best stories I have ever read in the Collegian.

From stories I have read, what I have witnessed, I have developed a picture of the average student as indifferent to ideals and too sloppy in character. He is often pictured as having a liquor bottle in one hand, some pot in his pocket and a person of the opposite sex nearby.

From what I have observed, the Mormons evidently have high ideals which they try to demonstrate by the way they walk, as well as by their talk.

Too many persons claiming to be Christians, seem to be satisfied to go to church (most don't go at all), mumble over some prayers, listen to a pleasing sermon, and because of their conduct, are undecipherable from those who claim to have very high ideals.

I salute the high ideals of the Mormons, and ask them for trying to do something.

Your story was like a fresh, clean breeze coming from the vale of old Mt. Nitany. It reminded me of what I saw and experienced here more than 50 years ago.

Poor alternative

In response to Jean S. Guertler's letter of August 8 concerning Rep. Gregg Cunningham's efforts to restrict abortion funding, I would like to comment on several points she made.

Her discussion of the right to choose abortion within a pluralistic society shows a lack of understanding about the concepts of pluralism and choice. Pluralism is legitimate when it permits a choice among alternative goods. We have the choice to live where we want to live, buy what we want to buy, be what we want to be.

With regards to abortion I ask, what are we choosing? Do we have the right to deny the lives of the youngest members of our race?

Before 1865 we had the choice, limited by political jurisdiction, to own slaves. Certainly this was not a fair, moral choice, but pluralism sanctioned this in opposition to natural law. With respect to slavery this law holds that all people are free and automatic individuals.

Human bondage, then, is not an issue where pluralism can be permitted. Similarly, abortion cannot be allowed under the aegis of pluralism, because it too entails a transgression of natural law. It violates man's right to exist, and the unborn child has as much right a life to life as everyone else.

Guertler's statement, "Serious moral choice involves alternatives which offer no final happy resolution . . ." warrants careful consideration. If we analyze the alternatives for their rightness or wrongness, then perhaps a clarification of the matter can be made.

Looking at abortion and the arguments raised supporting it, I ask, is an evil committed to obtain a good? Would a woman pursue a career or that she not experience a pregnancy resulting from rape are good desires.

However, letting these wishes take precedence over a pregnancy requires that a life be taken. Any goods proffered are contingent on this first act. Choice in this case interferes with the life imperative: "Thou shalt not kill." Thus we cannot choose abortion as a reasonable alter-

native. There can be no choice when it comes to the life of an unborn human being.

Larry Mueller, State College resident
August 13

Now hear this

Draft registration has divided many people in this country and on this campus. With Supreme Court Justice William Brennan Jr.'s stay of a Philadelphia court decision ruling the sign-up process unconstitutional, many young people will be anxiously waiting for the Supreme Court's final ruling on the matter.

The constitutionality of forcing persons to reveal their social security numbers has been questioned. Moreover, any registration plan excluding women may be ruled as discriminatory against males.

Although The Daily Collegian has run open pages in the past on women in the draft and on registration, the question still lingers of whether registration is right or wrong.

On Tuesday, Sept. 9, The Daily Collegian will focus its first open page of Fall Term on the continuing controversy surrounding the new military draft sign-up. If you have any comments on registration, please submit them to the Editorial Editor, 126 Carnegie. All letters must be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 30 lines. Deadline is Friday, August 22.

the daily Collegian

Friday, Aug. 15, 1980 — Page 2 © 1980 Collegian Inc.

Betsy Long Editor Kathy Matheny Business Manager

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Working the court beat makes jesters of pros

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. — Officially, this group of about 15 reporters is called the Bucks County Courthouse Press Corps. Unofficially, it is a group of fun-loving journalists — professionals, at that — which makes The Daily Collegian staff look normal. Well, at last normal for newspaper people.

For five weeks this summer, I was a member of the courthouse press corps, representing Today's Spirit, a small daily newspaper from Hattboro, a suburb of Philadelphia.

I was nervous at first. The other reporters wrote for papers the Spirit competes with. I thought it might be a little cutthroat for stories. I hadn't expected the press corps to be such a close-knit bunch; they were more like colleagues, they were friends.

And they welcomed me into their circle and showed me what professional reporters are really like. For more than a month, it was like living in a Marx Brothers movie.

The first two weeks I learned the ropes. The entire courthouse was my beat and I had to be alert for any hearings or trials the Spirit should cover. Marty, who runs a news service for the local papers, took me under her wing and help me find the sources I needed for certain story information.

Emilie, from the Doylestown Daily Intelligencer, was my model of the typical, young female reporter. Her huge handbag held notebooks, pens, change for the phone and vending machines, clips and press releases — a portable press room of sorts.

Jack, of the Bulletin, taught me to be skeptical of things I heard, and how to take better notes by using the system of abbreviations and symbols.

Ed of the North Penn Reporter and Tom of the Allentown Morning Call usually teamed with Jack in a threesome

that made the Marx Brothers look dull. The last three weeks of my internship, the six of us covered an arson-murder trial. It was a long and often boring trial, and I learned what portions of testimony I could safely miss in order to cover a county commissioners meeting or political press conference elsewhere in the courthouse.

But now that I've seen the so-called real world, I'm no longer afraid of graduating into this world. Reporters of all ages are a crazy bunch, looking for fun like everyone else, and they often have a sharp, wacky sense of humor.

In a way, going back to the books will be disappointing after all the fun I've had. I've had a job I enjoy and coworkers I liked. We all got along, we teased each other and helped each other and we laughed together.

Covering trials can be depressing. A reporter sees tragedy, cruelty and misfortune every day in court. Perhaps that's why the best corps reporters often seem to flippant — their levity helps counteract the environment.

"After this, Jan goes back to being a mid-mannered coed," Tom said on my last day.

"What are you going to give me for a going away present?" I asked.

"We're going to throw you in the Delaware Canal," Jack said. "Bring your bathing suit."

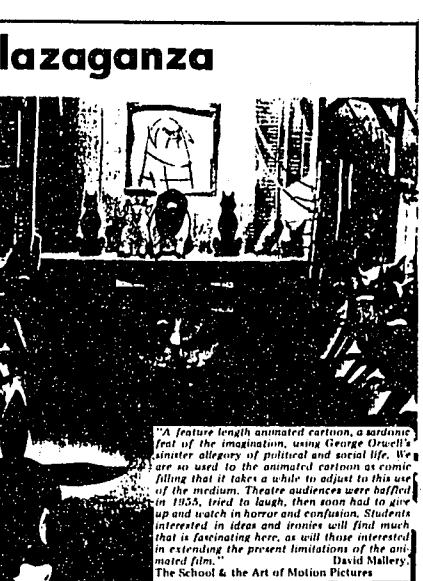
"So now that you've seen the real world, are you sure this is what you want?" Tom asked.

"There is still time to change your major," added Jack.

But I wouldn't give up now. I've seen the big time and it's what I want. Really, here I come ready or not. But I think I'm ready.

"We argued over what kind of pizza to order for dinner and who would pick it up."

Jan Corwin is a 10th-term journalism major and copy editor for The Daily Collegian.



the Scorpion

232 W. CALDER WAY presents

TUESDAYS—Happy Hours All Nite
WEDNESDAYS—"Scorpion All Stars"*

THURSDAYS—"Tahoka Freeway"
FRIDAYS—"Tiger Lilly"

SATURDAYS—"Backseat Van Gogh"

*Band Schedule for Next 2 Weeks
*Jam with State College's finest—Musicians Welcome



THE SALOON

Sunday
Tahoka Freeway & Blackout. No cover!

Monday
Men's Gusto Nite 8:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Grab the gusto and Monday Nite Baseball!

Tuesday
Ladies Nite: featuring Tiger Lily, the Saloon's original "Upside Down Margarita" and no cover!

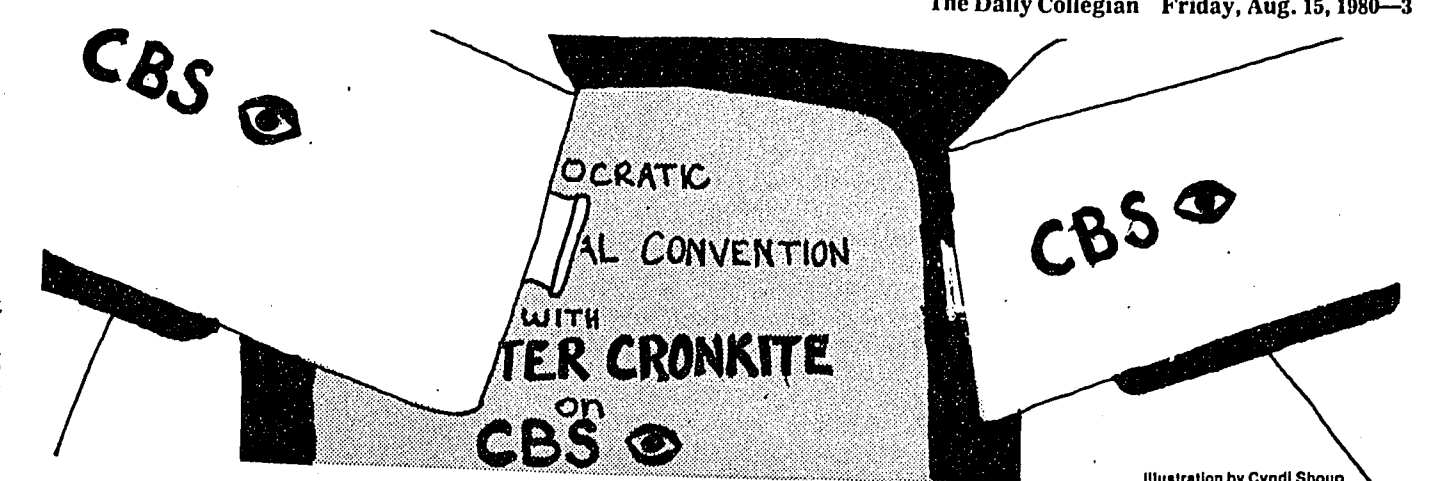
Wednesday
The Original "Warren O. Fitting Oldies Nite" from 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. and No Cover!

Thursday
Backseat Van Gogh
"Sex, booze and rock 'n' roll" with no cover!

(and every Sunday thru Thursday it's Happy Hours from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

Friday (August 15)
Glenn Kidder

Saturday (August 16)
Glenn Kidder and no cover!



Coverage of party conventions: media travel down memory lane

"It's Bush, Walter! It's BUSH, BUSH!" That's Leslie Stahl, reporting to Cronkite during the Democratic National Convention in cool journalistic style.

After she and Walter bantered a bit, she turned her head to the side, rolled her eyes and stuck out her tongue for the benefit of everyone out there in television land — all in dispassionate broadcast tradition. You're right Leslie, it's very bush.

Not too long ago, it would have been valid to write a column on the effect media coverage has on national politics. But that's not news any more. We know that convention planners schedule the master proceedings for prime time. Winners and also-rans mug for the photographers with upraised hands clasped together, arms wrapped around one another, binding them physically and symbolically.

We're into the age of media and the media. When "Doonesbury" dealt with the press coverage of the coverage earlier this week, I thought it was cute, typical Trudeau — satire and social comment. When he ran another strip, I began to wonder.

Sure enough, spread across the pages of "Time," "Newsweek," and "U.S.

News and World Report" were articles on the electronic medium by the print medium. Then TV did a piece on radio coverage. Radio reported on the newspapers, and before you know it, it's spread beyond the pen and ink people in "Doonesbury."

At the conclusion of one night of the Republican convention, Dan Rather commented on the legendary Ford/Bush switch. Headset and suspenders firmly in place, he let us know that this is what reporting is all about. This is what makes it all worthwhile. His colleagues agreed, mikes and headphones nodding in affirmation.

But think about it. What if you turned to the front page, read a piece on the conventions, then at the end, saw "Reporter's note: stories like this make it all worthwhile. This is what it's all about. It's moments like this that make me proud to be a journalist. Thank you, everyone."

The media are important. They influence us precisely because they communicate to us. But this sense of self-importance, like everything else, is inflated. The news media should cover the news, not the media. I'm sorry, Walter, but that's the way it is — or should be. Back to you, Leslie.

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