

Editorial opinion

An open book

Disclosure policy would prevent conflicts of interest without hurting academic freedom

Is a University administrator a public official? Is the University part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania because it receives \$127 million in state funds each year?

Or is it, for reasons of academic freedom and administrative integrity, completely independent of control by bureaucrats in Harrisburg?

These were some of the legal hairs split recently when the state Ethics Commission ruled, at University lawyers' request, to exclude the University from state ethics legislation.

If the University was included under the law, administrators with power to make important financial decisions would have to file financial disclosure forms, which reveal sources of income more than \$500, but not the actual amounts.

Under the legislation, if a University official in charge of buying books is on the payroll of a book manufacturer, the public would know about this potential conflict of interest and maybe that administrator would be transferred to, say, buying sinks.

However, University administrators



apparently didn't think it a good idea to abide by the legislation, and sent the University's attorney, Delbert J. McQuaide, to Harrisburg to argue their case before the commission.

But why? The administration and the law firm will not discuss their reasons for requesting the University's exclusion, refusing comment on the matter until they receive a written copy of the ruling. At this point, their motives are subject to speculation.

Does the application of state ethics legislation to a state-related university threaten the University's independent

forms are only a page long and require no legal expertise.

Smith said he has heard the complaint that ethics legislation for the University threatens academic freedom. This objection is irrelevant, Smith said, because the law automatically excludes all teaching personnel.

Perhaps, regardless of the issues involved, University officials simply don't want to disclose their financial sources for fear of embarrassment or worse. Who knows whether administrators might be moonlighting for other companies, receiving generous fees for expertise and influence?

Taxpayers cannot do much but speculate on this possibility, but speculate they will unless University officials prove them wrong.

In this era of tight budgets and dwindling appropriations for the University, the last thing Penn State needs is for taxpayers and legislators to lose confidence in the officials who spend their money.

Legal finagling aside, for this university there is no reason why education and ethics cannot mix.

TV rates tops in class

By DAVID MEDZERIAN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Being new to the College of Business Administration, and not knowing anything about the courses I had somehow ended up with this term, I was surprised to walk into my Accounting 101 class and find, instead of an authoritative looking teacher, a 21-inch portable. Yes, I was about to experience my first class-by-television (commonly called "Videoclass").

As the proctor passed out our TV Guides (instead of a syllabus), she explained that the University had researched the effectiveness of videoclasses.

"Eighty-five percent of students surveyed preferred a small videocassette to a class in the Forum," she told us proudly.

"Ninety-five percent of students in videoclasses scored the same on tests as those students in a class of 30," she continued. "And four out of five dentists surveyed recommend sugarless gum for their patients who chew gum!"

"Besides," she continued, "the University makes a fortune from commercials during the show. Did you know that in last week's Nielsen ratings, 'Accounting 101' was third, behind only '60 Minutes' and 'Laverne and Shirley'?"

"You mean it beat 'Three's Company'?" someone asked.

"That's right," the proctor said.

"Hey, 'Wonder Woman' is on Channel 48, 'someone yelled from the back of the room'."

"You dummy, we don't get Channel 48," the blonde in the front row replied.

"Besides, I wanted to watch 'Donahue'."

"But 'Carol Burnett' is on now!"

"Who wants to watch 'Carol Burnett' when 'Wonder Woman' is on?"

"But 'Carol Burnett' does her salute to 'Gone with the Wind'!"

"What about 'Donahue'?"

"QUIET," yelled the proctor. "We're going to watch Accounting 101."

"That's not listed in my TV Guide," said the blonde.

"What channel is it on?" asked the Carol Burnett fan.

"SHHHH," the proctor said. "The show's starting."

The orchestra struck up a lively tune, and the announcer began, "Live, from State College, it's 'ACCOUNTING 101'!"

The audience cheered, but the class remained silent.

"And here your host and the star of our show, YOUR PROFESSOR!"

The professor came on stage, and the studio audience cheered louder than ever. My undaunted classmates, however, remained silent.

"The blonde broke the silence. 'Miss Proctor, could we please watch something else?'"

"Well, 'Tom and Jerry' is on Channel 10," the proctor said.

"An overly studious freshman spoke up. 'But how are we supposed to learn our accounting if we don't watch the show?'"

"So, Ed," he said, "how are your accounts receivable?"

"Fine," Ed replied. "But you should see my accounts payable!"

The studio audience roared.

"Please, please," the blonde begged. "Mr. Ed is on Channel 4."

We were getting desperate.

The proctor finally agreed.

"Besides," she said, "today's show is recorded."

"Someone in the back objected. 'Wait until Rita Moreno finishes her song,' he said.

And I thought classes in the Forum were rough.

Letters to the Editor

No answers at all

On Sept. 3, NBC aired a White Paper on Cuba and the Caribbean, and in the space of one and one-half hours of prime-time TV managed to convey more half truths, gross distortions and lies than could possibly be corrected in one letter to the editor.

The program zeroed in on Castro, portraying him as a revolutionary hero with a "near psychotic ego" who exercises a mystic power by insinuation over the glibly masses of Cuba, and who is exploiting the volatile situation in Central America to his own ends.

It cannot be denied that the situation in Central America is explosive, neither can it be denied that Castro's own ideological position commits him to working towards revolution in other countries than his own. But to focus attention on Castro as the ultimate

threat to American security while barely mentioning the complex causes of suffering of the Central American peoples is to commit a crime against the truth.

And to ignore our own country's direct participation in that suffering (often in the name of freedom and democracy) compounds the crime.

Rather, the question is simply whether or not the United States is involved in the downfall of Arbenz's democratically elected government in Guatemala in 1954 (a government implementing reforms which could have conceivably prevented the situation that prevails today?).

Why is NBC so concerned with the postponement of free elections in Nicaragua now? Did they shed tears for the Nicaraguans, who for 40 years were bled dry by the Somoza regime (a regime which helped install)?

Why didn't they mention the fact that we have

military advisors in El Salvador now, and that organizations such as Amnesty International have requested our state department to reconsider proposed assistance "intended to improve the operational capabilities of the Salvadoran security system" which will very likely "contribute to worsen the human rights situation in that country?"

Reports such as NBC's White Paper simply fuel the fear of leftist governments that lead us to support the worse kind of right wing dictatorships instead of exposing the bloody by-products of American foreign policy.

One letter cannot correct NBC's failure to present an accurate portrayal of the situation in Central America. We urge you to look deeper, beyond the reductionist arguments and simplistic answers which are no answers at all.

Vicki Markley-Saurs
Tishien Sairs
Friends of Central American Liberty
Sept. 9



"THINK—THINK HARD!" ABBIE HOFFMAN, THE FANCLUB YIPPIE... UP AGAINST THE WALL! DON'T TRUST ANYONE OVER THIRTY! OFF THE PIGS! THE CHICAGO SEVEN! TRY TO REMEMBER...

Living together

Could coed living improve dorm life? Proponents argue that it could increase security and cut down on vandalism.

Opponents cite lack of privacy and sexual promiscuity as some negative aspects.

If given the choice, would most students choose coed housing? For what reasons?

On Tuesday, Sept. 16, The Daily Collegian op-ed page will focus on the pros and cons of co-ed housing and the reasons for its absence at University Park. Students, faculty and other members of the community are encouraged to submit letters to the editorial editor, 128 Carnegie. All letters must be typed, double spaced and no longer than 30 lines. Deadline Friday, Sept. 12, 5 p.m.

the Collegian
Thursday, Sept. 11, 1980—Page 2
Betsy Long
Editor

Abortion bill rejects basic rights for poor women

Anyone who thinks Supreme Court decisions are distant, vague specters having little real effect on Americans' daily lives should consult Rep. Gregg L. Cunningham, R-Centre County, to learn the tragedy of this assumption.

Well, perhaps citizens of Centre County won't think twice about his latest proposal to deny state welfare funds for abortions to women whose lives are not endangered by pregnancy.

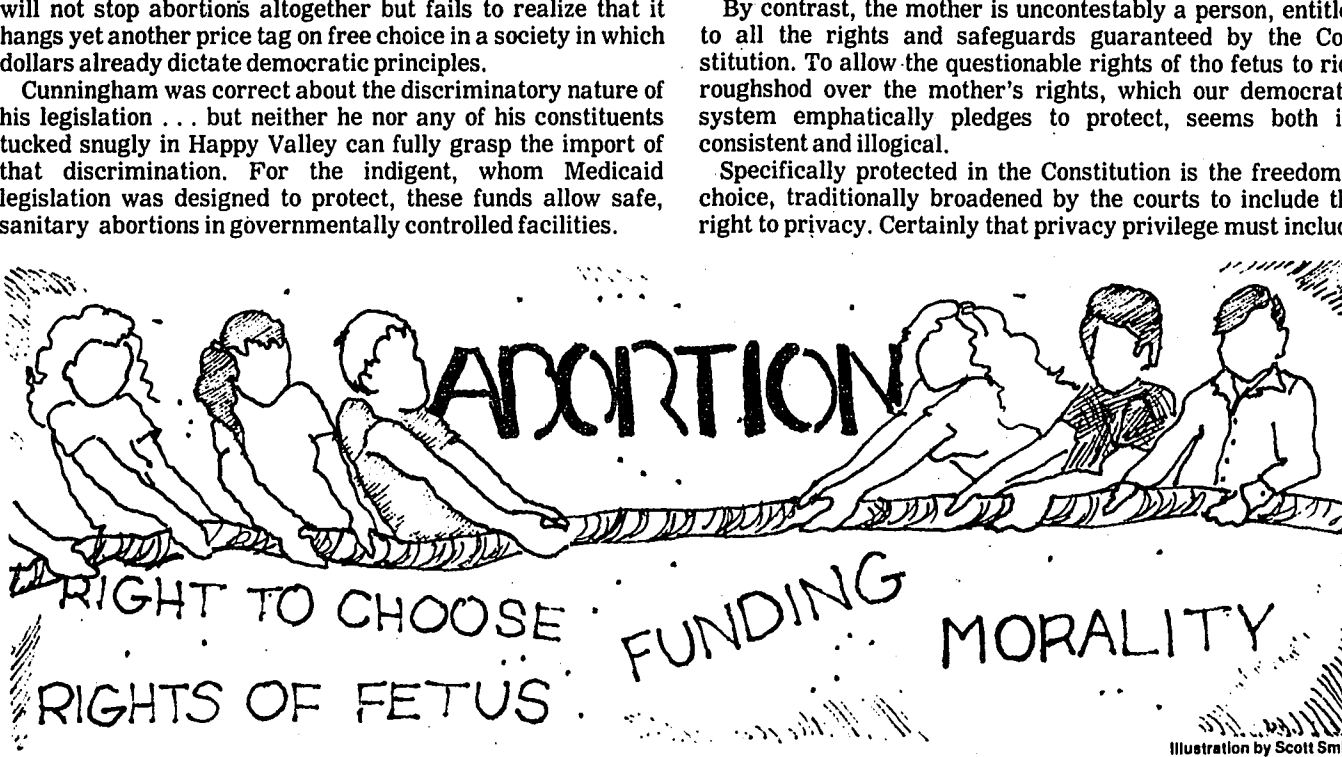
And maybe that is the real tragedy, for the effects of the legislation which Cunningham has introduced will be far-reaching. They will reach into the poor sections of Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Reading... and virtually any metropolitan area where kids must grow up fast and tough, where pregnancies among 10-, 12-, and 14-year-old girls are not uncommon, or slipped under the rug of middle class mores and dollars.

Present Pennsylvania law, passed in 1978, limits Medicaid funding for abortions to cases in which pregnancy endangers the mother's life or is caused by rape or incest. But the law was stricken from the state books when the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled it unconstitutional.

Boostered by the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision affirming the constitutionality of similar federal legislation, Cunningham introduced a bill limiting the original state law still further to allow Medicaid funding for abortions of only those pregnancies which endanger the mother's life.

He defends his proposal as legislation that will "spare the children of the poor by refusing to fund their slaughter."

And by his own admission, this legislation discriminates. "My bill is discriminatory against the children of the rich mother and thereby subject to her discretion," he points out. "The logic is convoluted. Cunningham recognizes that the bill



will not stop abortions altogether but fails to realize that it hangs yet another price tag on free choice in a society in which dollars already dictate democratic principles.

Cunningham was correct about the discriminatory nature of his legislation... but neither he nor any of his constituents tucked snugly in Happy Valley can fully grasp the import of that discrimination. For the indigent, whom Medicaid legislation was designed to protect, these funds allow safe, sanitary abortions in governmentally controlled facilities.

Once the state yanks this funding, poor women will be forced to either carry their pregnancies to term or seek less adequate abortion services with whatever money they do have.

In either case, the state would be legislating its personal brand of morality, its own definition of life... of which there are many. Despite the fervor with which Cunningham describes his mission to spare the slaughter of unborn children, no one—not the courts, nor legislators, nor medical practitioners—has determined when life actually begins. Is the fetus an individual from conception or is there some time in its nine-month development when it becomes a person? Isn't there a time when the fetus is considered a part of the mother and thereby subject to her discretion? Many contend so, but no interpretation prevails thus far.

By contrast, the mother is uncontestably a person, entitled to all the rights and safeguards guaranteed by the Constitution. To allow the questionable rights of the fetus to ride roughshod over the mother's rights, which our democratic system emphatically protects to protect, seems both inconsistent and illogical.

Specifically protected in the Constitution is the freedom of choice, traditionally broadened by the courts to include right to privacy. Certainly that privacy privilege must include pregnancy.

Cunningham and proponents of his proposal would, of course, argue that the legislation would not outlaw abortion, but merely limit the use of tax dollars for such operations. But that is exactly what is most unfair about the legislation.

If a group of legislators could push legislation through which would outlaw abortion entirely, then we could assume they were acting by mandate of a majority of the population at large who had decided that abortion was so morally reprehensible that no one should be allowed to terminate her pregnancy.

Granted, this proposal comes from a legislator representing a fairly affluent community which elected him on a strong anti-abortion platform. However, what he proposes will have little or no effect on the people he represents, except to give them the satisfaction of imposing their dogmatic ideology of an entirely different group of constituents, a group with little political clout to make its voice heard in Harrisburg.

Of course, some could also argue that Medicaid recipients would still have private abortion facilities available to them just like everybody else. Or could they? These people are receiving aid for a damn good reason... the money just isn't there, so neither is the opportunity.

The Supreme Court also pointed this out in *Maher vs. Roe*, an abortion case decided in 1976: "For a doctor who cannot afford to work for nothing and a woman who cannot afford to pay him, state refusal to fund an abortion is as effective an interdiction of right as would be necessary to foreclose the option entirely."

How many rights are already foreclosed to these people because of financial and social limitations? And how many more can we foreclose to them while still calling our system equal? Cynics among us would say that no society is truly equal. Agreed. But when the kingdom of equality under the law becomes the dollar, our system goes pretty far afield from the highly-lauded principles outlined in the Constitution.

Passage of the legislation which Cunningham proposes would be an abortion of a different kind, an abortion of basic rights which the Constitution guarantees to all, regardless of financial status.

Lynne Johnson is a 14th-term journalism and political science major and copy editor for The Daily Collegian.

Carter, Reagan trade long distance insults

United Press International

President Carter and Ronald Reagan traded insults yesterday each accusing the other of bending the truth about the energy shortage.

Reagan was first, promising in a speech in Cleveland to free the United States from OPEC oil domination and charging Carter with misleading the public by claiming there is an acute shortage of energy resources, while "the truth is America has an abundance of energy."

"When Mr. Carter says we don't have enough energy at home, what he really means is his policies won't let Americans find and produce the energy they need," Reagan said.

Carter, in the White House, accused his Republican foe of making false allegations and demanded "one shred of evidence" that administration policies have discouraged discovery and production of energy in America.

"Governor Reagan is wrong," Carter said in a statement in the Oval Office. "Again he has made accusations without checking the facts."

"I do not intend to let my Republican opponent misrepresent facts about this administration," he declared.

Reagan said, "President Carter called for the moral equivalent of war and created the Department of Energy which is the bureaucratic equivalent of surrender."

He said conservation is necessary, but "any president can reduce our energy use if, like Jimmy Carter, he deliberately puts 2 million people out of work."

Carter, who announced that Deputy Energy Secretary John Sawhill has been named chairman of the new Synthetic Fuel Corp., went on:

"It's ironic that on a day like this we have to respond to false allegations made by the Republican nominee for president, Mr. Reagan."

"Let me tell you the truth," he said to reporters, citing an all-time high for coal production, increased crude oil production for the second time in a decade and predictions of another record yield next year.

This form of long-distance presidential debate apparently will have to substitute for the staged confrontations planned by the League of Women Voters.

Attempts yesterday to work out a format to which Carter might agree failed, and the league said it would go ahead with a Sept. 21 debate in Baltimore, with

Reagan, independent candidate John Anderson and an empty chair on the stage.

The league always uses an empty chair to symbolize someone who has been invited to participate and has refused, explained President Ruth Hinerfeld.

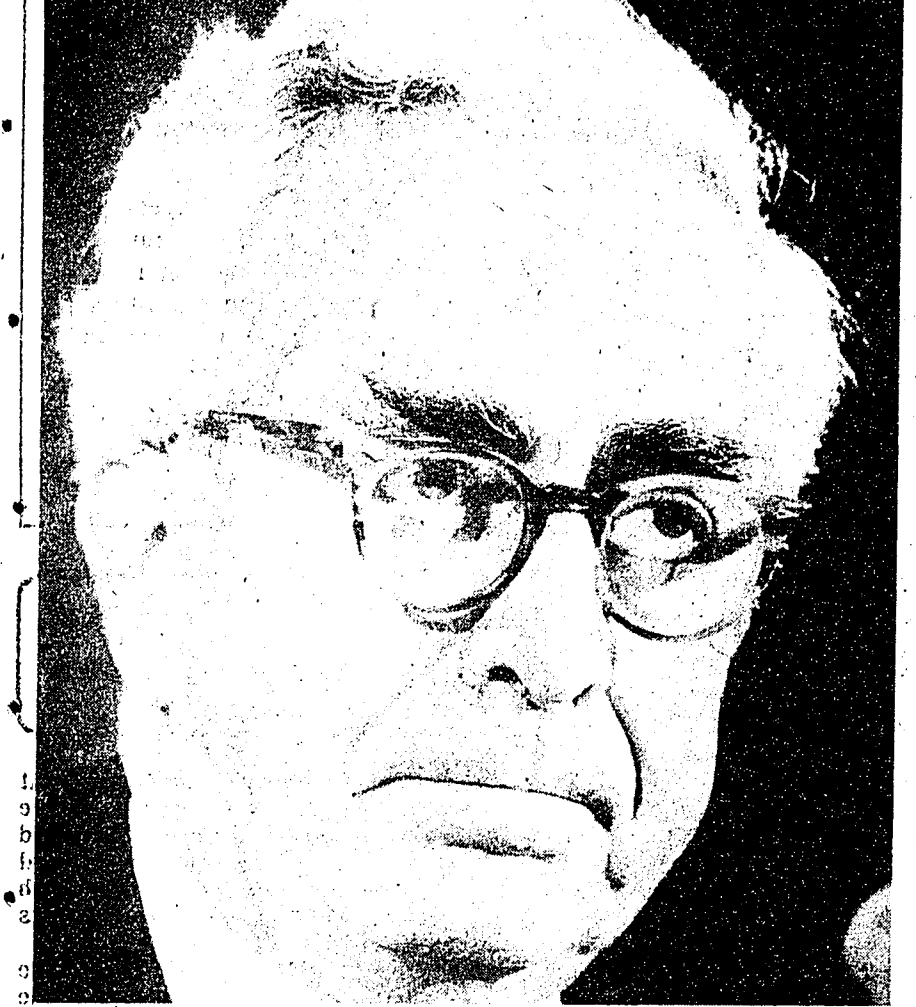
Anderson, in Los Angeles, dodged several opportunities to criticize Carter personally for refusing to debate Sept. 21. He blamed Carter's aides for scuttling the plans. Carter's rejection sets up a Reagan-Anderson confrontation.

"I want to leave it to others to assess his motives. I don't have any difficulty assessing Mr. (Robert) Strauss' motives," he said, referring to the president's campaign manager.

Asked why he believes Carter's aides — not the president — made the decision, Anderson said:

"There is perhaps a higher obligation and heavier responsibility on the man who has had the stewardship... of our national affairs for four years to render an accounting, than there is on any of the other candidates involved."

"That's why I find it difficult to think the president would make that decision, but it is relying on the advice of campaign managers who are looking at this as a purely political thing."



Lloyd Cutler, White House lawyer, testifies before the Senate subcommittee investigating Billy Carter's relationship to Libya. The House yesterday demanded that the White House submit all files it has on the Billy-Libya case.

White House has 7 days to provide Billy-Libya files

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House demanded yesterday that the White House provide within seven days all documents and records it has on Billy Carter's relationship to Libya.

Rep. Peter Rodino, D-N.J., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, argued against the move, saying reams of material already have been submitted to the Senate.

"Not more than a dozen members took the opportunity to review these materials that had been so sought after," he said.

But Republicans nevertheless pushed for a resolution demanding the material, and after Democrats failed — on a 209-124 vote — to kill the measure, it was approved by voice vote.

Bert Lance will appear before a closed meeting of the Senate panel investigating Billy Carter provided his written replies to the panel's questions are made public immediately. It was announced yesterday.

President Carter's former budget director refused to give a sworn deposition to the panel's investigators Tuesday unless reporters were allowed in the room. He had said he feared his brother had finally agreed to register as a foreign agent for Libya.

government "povercrats."

But Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., chairman of the panel investigating Billy Carter's dealings with Libya, said yesterday staff attorneys worked out an agreement with Lance's lawyers to obtain Lance's sworn statement.

Lance will appear before staff investigators Sept. 18, Bayh said, "for the purpose of preparing a statement by Mr. Lance on all matters pertinent to the subcommittee's inquiry."

"At the close of the meeting, the statement will be immediately made available to the public and the press," Bayh said.

Lance has said he knew little about Billy Carter's dealings with Libya, and had no dealings with the White House on the subject.

In the Senate, a special judiciary subcommittee continued hearings into the Billy-Libya connections. The panel heard yesterday from Lloyd Cutler, the president's White House lawyer.

Cutler testified he had forgotten to inform the panel previously of a conversation he had with the president July 8 or 9 about the Billy affair. Cutler said in that talk, he informed Carter his brother had finally agreed to register as a foreign agent for Libya.

Congress blocks plans to sell India nuclear fuel

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Despite a last-minute State Department appeal, Congress yesterday dealt a blow to the administration's controversial plan to sell nuclear fuel to India, when key House and Senate committees voted to block the sales.

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Iranian Parliament approves Ali Rajai

By United Press International

Iran's Parliament gave Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Rajai an overwhelming vote of confidence yesterday but the hard-liner said he saw no early prospects of agreement with President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr on the formation of a full cabinet.

The infighting threatened to further postpone Parliament's debate on the fate of the 32 American hostages, but Tehran Radio said the assembly will meet next Sunday to consider a Foreign Relations Committee reply to a letter from U.S. congressmen seeking an end to the 14-day crisis.

The political clashes in Tehran paralleled reports of serious new fighting along the border with Iraq.

Tehran Radio reported that Iranian forces shot down two more Iraqi MIG fighter jets and two helicopters. This brought the number of Iraqi aircraft Iran claims it has downed in the latest fighting to four jets and three helicopters.

In Iraq, the Baghdad regime said it intended to recapture territory it claims on the Iranian side of the frontier.

On the political front, a leading cleric, Ayatollah Golpaygani, sent a telegram to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini asking him to step in to "end the crisis" in the government because the political "differences have reached a stage where they seriously threaten the revolution and the government," the radio reported.

Bani-Sadr, a moderate, has rejected seven of the 21 names Rajai submitted to make up his cabinet, and the president later said even the 14 ministers he approved did not have his full support.

The radio, monitored by the BBC in London, said Parliament voted 169-14 with 10 abstentions to show support for Rajai.

Rajai thanked the assembly for its backing but indicated it would not end the government crisis.

THE STUDENT DIETETIC ASSOCIATION
announces its first meeting
Thursday, September 11, 1980
SPEAKER: Sara Parks R.D.
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Get clipped

at The Daily Collegian. Employers are looking for the kind of experience you'll get writing for one of the nation's top rated college papers. Tryouts for Collegian Candidates School will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14, in 162 Willard. Bring a Blue exam book.

O.K. So you had a great time at the Arts Festival, right?

Comme Ci. Comme Ca.

I still think Uncle Eli's is the best festival of all! Besides, rain doesn't bother them.

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