

Editorial Opinion

Empty seat

Proposed advisory board may weaken student voice in CATA

The student seat on the Centre Area Transportation Authority Board is in jeopardy. CATA Chairman E. Emory Enscoe, in his resignation letter to the board, suggested eliminating four at-large board positions — including the student seat — and replacing them with an advisory board.

Under the proposed change, students will lose the benefit of direct input into CATA decisions. The face-to-face, head-on confrontations between the student representative and the board would be nothing but a memory if students are pushed into an advisory board with other "special groups" like the aged and the handicapped.

But students are not a special minority group, but a mainstay of CATA ridership. Students comprise more than 60 percent of CATA's ridership. As such, they deserve and should demand proper representation on this board.

If, in the inevitable chaotic shuffle of moving positions around and redesignating authority, the student's voice is lost, students will suffer.

Under this proposal, present student representative Linda Roosa would not be replaced after her term expires in September 1981.

While the student representative has input into crucial CATA decisions, he or she does not have a vote. Major decisions are made by representatives of the five member municipalities, but a group that makes up more than half of the ridership should have at least one vote.

Adding an advisory board could be an effective move on CATA's part if students are given an equal or increased role in decisions that affect the large number of students who ride CATA buses each day.

Will this advisory board have a vote? We feel it must, if it is to benefit CATA at all. An advisory board member could express an opinion until he's blue in the face, but without a vote, what is the use?

Will the addition of an advisory board jeopardize the right to representation students have



Photo by Rich O'Sannarino

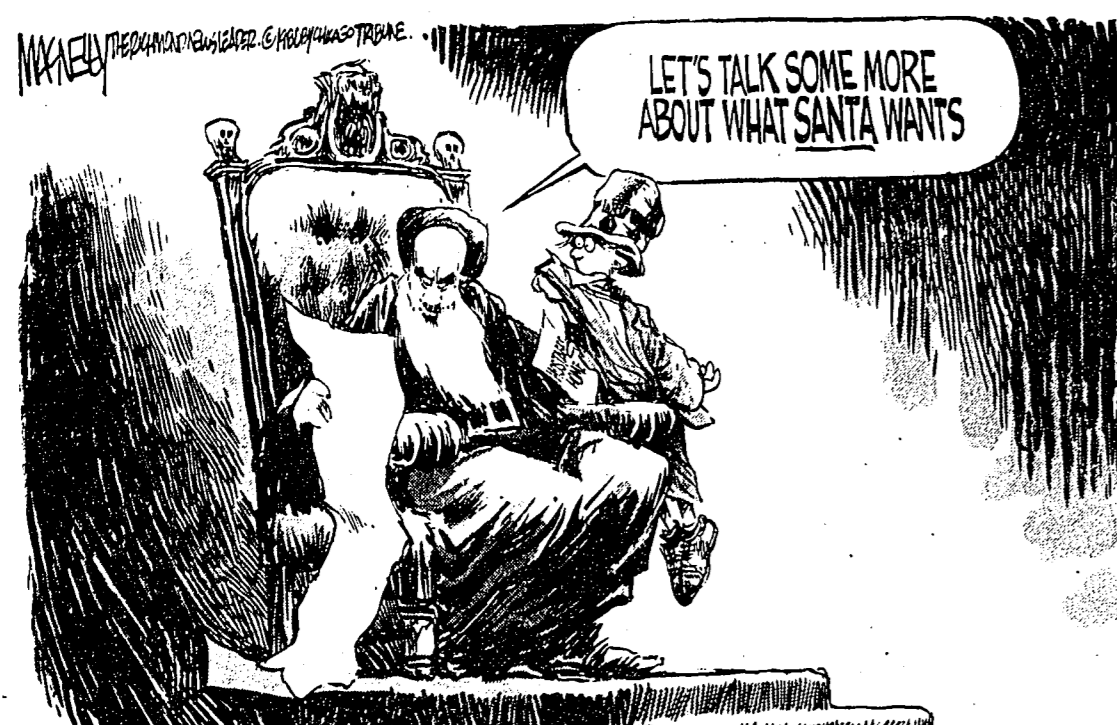
fought so hard for?

Perhaps the alternative which would best serve the students' needs would be to leave the student on the CATA board with a meaningful vote, and also to be represented on the advisory board along with the handicapped and downtown residents.

It will be the duty of the student representatives on the advisory board to take an active

role by relying student sentiment on transportation problems. Students have a right and a responsibility to protect their interests in transportation matters. Their input is too valuable to be ignored.

CATA cannot seriously consider implementation of an advisory board until it is sure that students — who make up over half of CATA's ridership — will not lose or weaken their voice.



Award winning cartoonist Jeff MacNelly is a new addition to the editorial page

Gym hoax: Master plan to heist no. 6 card foils upper classmen lock out

The story I am about to tell you is true and no names have been changed to protect the innocent.

The Great Number Six Card Heist idea was hatched one humid night over a sixpack of Rolling Rock and a cold Brothers pizza. There I was, 10th term and one gym class short. Images of cap and gown and diploma danced through my head. No matter what, I had to get a gym class. And I had this feeling I wasn't alone. There were others like me out there and they needed a sure fire plan that could work for them, too.



Lisa Morano

I didn't want just any gym class. Ballroom dancing and medicine were alright for some people but not for me. I wanted racquetball or tennis or some other extremely popular sport.

I decided to enter my brain: I could crawl on my hands and knees from Shields to Ree Hall, get lots of publicity and they would have to give me a class. I'd be a campus martyr, a contemporary Joan of Arc. No, that wouldn't work. I have sensitive knees.

I could cry and have a mental breakdown at the department head's desk. Most men hate to see women cry. But I hate to see me cry. I get the hiccup and gasp for air for at least two hours. It sounds hideous. And I hate weepy women anyway.

I could wait until I'm 12th term and then crawl and cry at the same time. That would be a sure success. People always have pity for students who are at graduation's door.

I kept leaning through my class schedule, hoping by some divine miracle a good idea would come to me. And it did.

My roommate was 7th term. According to the rules, she could register for any gym she wanted and get it, just like that. She could preregister for me, and bring me the number six card and then I could pick up the class at registration. Simple.

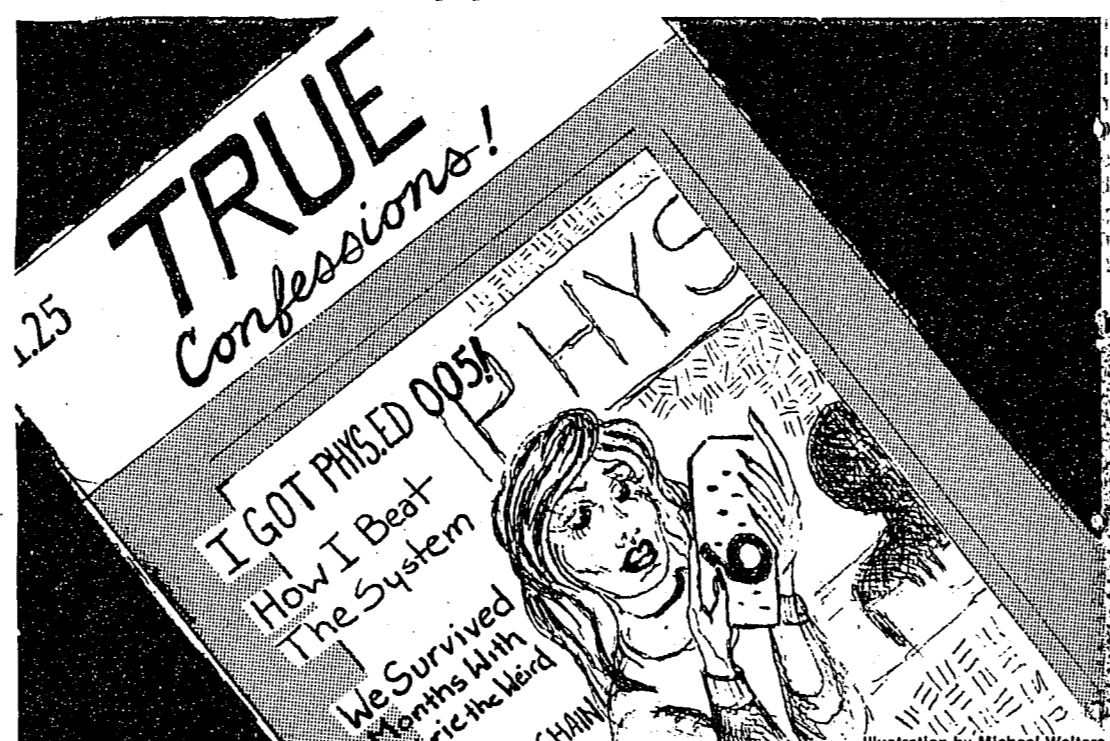


Illustration by Michael Walters

We drove to Shields in silence, we had rehearsed the plan too many times. "Don't worry, Deese, everything will be fine," she said and got out of the car.

I couldn't smoke to calm my nerves. I don't smoke. It was too early for a beer and I'm afraid to take drugs. So all I could do is sit and wait.

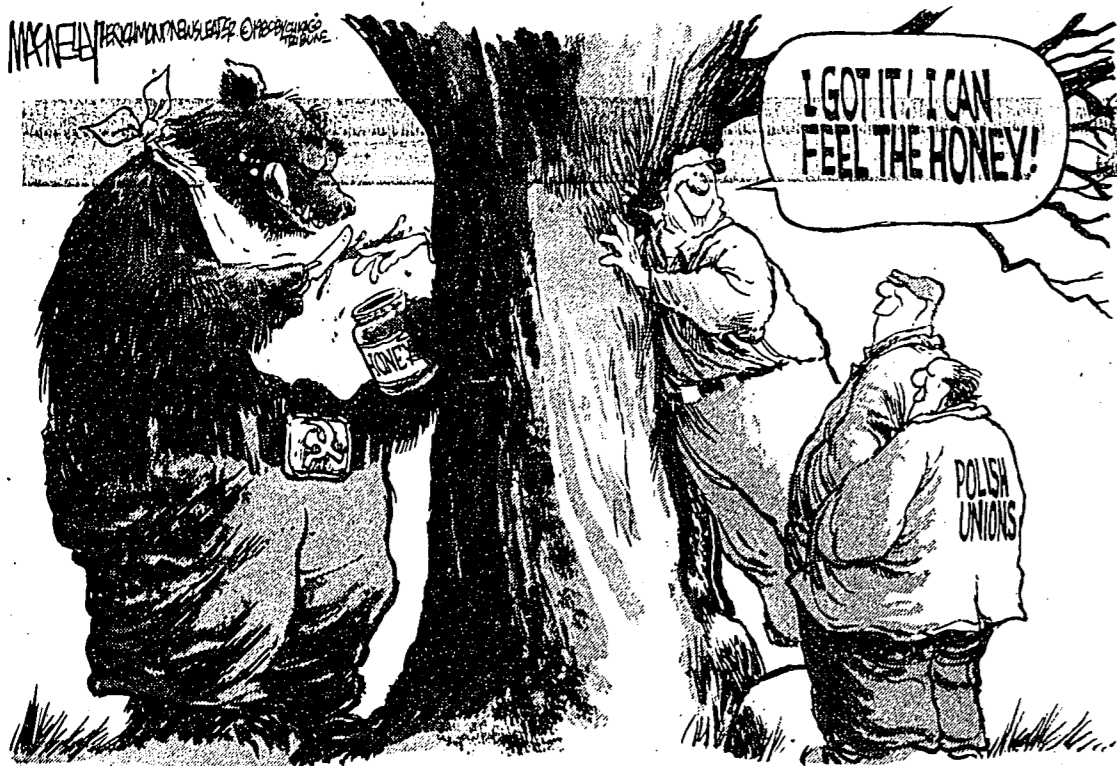
Two hours later, Sue came running to the car with a big grin. "I got the card," she said, "no sweat. Now let's go home so you can make my bed."

Needless to say, I registered without a hitch, smuggling the card into registration in a seer, singly harmless baccalaureate handbook.

Now, I have my last gym class and I can get the heck out of here in the spring. It just goes to show you, you can beat the system if you've got a good plan, a cool head and a 7th-term roommate. Well, that's all there is to this story.

Aren't happy endings great? Well, excuse me, I have to go make a bed.

Lisa Morano is an 11th-term journalism major and the assistant editorial editor for The Daily Collegian.



Letters to the Editor

Inflated egos

On Dec. 5, a review on a recent Backseat Van Gogh concert by Michael Kulp was printed in The Daily Collegian.

As a musician, I can appreciate Backseat Van Gogh's vocal tightness and understand why a band must be "calculated" at times to achieve success.

However, Kulp's use of the words smug, pompous and condescending have never been used more correctly when he referred to the group's nose-up approach to their music and audience.

Who do they think they are? They are not great. They are average musicians at best. Their original songs consist of three-chord patterns so rehearsed that it is a crime they call them original.

Their egos would be quite understandable if they were playing Madison Square Garden this week. However, they are not. They are playing the Phylax for Happy Hours.

Greatness? Hardly.

John D. Dittmar, 11th-advertising Dec. 5

Music mindreader

I am writing in reference to Michael Kulp's review of Backseat Van Gogh's HUB performance last Wednesday night.



Chris Peters, 10th-general arts and science Dec. 5

Back Seat VanGogh- Well deserved kick

I would like to thank Michael Kulp for his less than kindly review of Backseat Van Gogh's Wednesday night HUB concert. It got the band so stirred up that they went out Friday night and performed one of their best shows ever, featuring all the spontaneous musical elements that Kulp claimed they were incapable of, and more.

There is no doubt they are very talented musicians who can entertain exceptionally well when they put their minds to it. It does concern me that it took a bad review to get the energy flowing.

I hope Backseat Van Gogh takes the criticism positively and realizes that everyone needs a kick in the butt now and then to force them to take an objective and perceptive look at themselves.

Blow them away in Philly, guys!

Valeri Sprowl, graduate-public health nutrition Dec. 9

Fine line

This morning I read Michael Kulp's review of the free concert given by Backseat Van Gogh last Wednesday night in the HUB. I did not attend this concert, so my main reason for reading the review was to learn how it went. Instead of getting a clear picture of what was performed, I got the feeling the night was a disaster.

I have seen Backseat Van Gogh perform many times and have always found them to be an exciting, creative, top-quality rock and roll band. I would be surprised if they are capable of being the absolute dogs portrayed by Kulp's review.

Although a critic has the responsibility of evaluating a performance and commenting on it, he also has the responsibility of reporting an event. The review of Backseat Van Gogh was unnecessarily harsh and downright nasty. Maybe in the future, Kulp should try to strike a balance between good reporting and bad opinionating.



Lee Davinroy, 6th-Division of Undergraduate Studies Dec. 5

Oak Tree to cost new owners almost \$5 million

By VICKI FONG Staff Writer

Oak Tree Apartments, former Phase I and II of the bankrupt Laurel Glen apartment complex, will cost their new owners almost \$5 million in the purchase agreement and more than \$1 million in renovations, a local realtor said.

Nell Donahue, president of Benchmark Realty Inc., said State College attorney Richard L. Campbell, former Centre County Judge R. Paul Campbell and he are general partners in Heritage Oak Associates, a group of about 15 partners that bought the property last week.

Most of the other investors, who are limited partners, are local residents, but he would not reveal their names.

Heritage Oak Associates will pay \$4.75 million for the 410-unit apartment complex, which is owned by Rochester Savings Bank, mortgage-holder of the bankrupt property.

"We're very excited about the property and recognize its potential," Donahue said. "Absentee ownership has caused some of the problems over the years. There's no reason why there shouldn't be good affordable housing in the area by local owners."

David Sadovsky, vice president of the Rochester Savings Bank, said the Heritage Oak Associates' offer was not the only one considered.

"We had a number of offers to choose from, mainly from outside the State College area," he said. "But the overriding consideration was that we were dealing with local people who know the local idiosyncrasies — people who will be able to make the project a success."

Concerning renovations, Donahue said, "That should be another \$1 million. We expect we'll be spending substantially more in the next few months."

"We're starting work by going through each apartment and correcting violations," he said.

Donahue said he and the two Campbells have experience with problem apartments because they also own University Terrace, formerly Eastgate Apartments, which once had maintenance troubles.

"We invested significant amounts similarly in University Terrace," he said.

To finance the sale, the bank will approve a 10-year mortgage at 9.875 percent interest for the investors, Sadovsky said. The interest rate is

considerably less than the current market rates of about 14 to 15 percent, he said.

"We realize to charge the current rates there would be no way the group can pay operating expenses and the mortgage at the same time," he said.

The bank will lose money despite the deal, Sadovsky said. The original loan added up to about \$5 million for former owner Stanley Melnick of Melnick Enterprises, Atlanta, Ga., he said. The bank will also lose four years of interest at 9.5 percent, which adds up to about \$1.8 million.

"In the interest alone, we literally received nothing from June 1976 to now," he said. The bank also had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in renovations this summer, he said.

Benchmark Realty Inc. will take over the management from Property Management Inc. The complex will be renamed Heritage Oak Apartments.

Richard L. Campbell, one of the partners, said, "We've been interested for some time in the apartments, but the opportunity was not present until a couple of months ago."

Sadovsky said the bank was satisfied with the

sale.

"We're 250 miles away," he said. "We're not in the business of renting property. We feel much more comfortable with Donahue and the Campbells. But there's a lot of work remaining to be done. I know it, the town knows it, and the purchase group knows it."

Heritage Oak Associates had to deposit a substantial amount of money in an escrow account to assure that needed repairs for the apartments would be completed, Sadovsky said. He would not disclose the amount, but said it was "in the excess of six figures."

"This has been a problem loan for five years," he said. "We intend to monitor the progress until we know that the problems have been effectively repaired."

Despite the heavy investment, Donahue said rents should not be increased above local market rates.

"Rent might be below market rates," he said. "We hope to give the best of both worlds."

About 350 to 360 of the 410 apartments are now occupied, Donahue said, and about 31 of the unoccupied units need substantial repairs.

The apartments, built between 1968 and 1972 by

Bertram W. Rudy of Feasterville, Bucks County, have been plagued with a long history of financial troubles. In spring of 1975, the Rudy operation went into receivership.

The mortgage holder, Equity Financial Corp. of Chicago, retained Melnick Enterprises of Atlanta, Ga., as the managing agent. The Melnick later bought the property from New York state lending institutions, but in June 1976 filed for bankruptcy.

Despite its history, Donahue said he was optimistic about dispelling the property's negative reputation.

"There's no question of it. We expect Heritage Oaks in September to be filled to capacity," he said. "I think it has more to offer than any other apartment project."

Correction

In yesterday's edition of The Daily Collegian, Janet Mazzullo's election as chairwoman of the Undergraduate Student Government. Senate's appropriations committee was inadvertently omitted.

CATA may back out of taxi management

By JOHN SCHLAENDER Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Centre Cab, the taxi system owned and operated by the Centre Area Transportation Authority, may be sold by State College to a private operator.

State College Municipal Council voted at its meeting Monday night to begin negotiations with CATA to permit the municipality to consider alternatives for the cab system next year.

Centre Cab is one of few, if any, taxi systems in the Northeast that is owned by a local government rather than a private firm. State College is the municipality with the largest interest in CATA.

Council President Mary Ann Haas said the vote, in effect, was to remove the responsibility of Centre Cab from CATA. When this could be done depends largely upon interested buyers, she said.

But Joseph Biedenbach, CATA's interim manager, said, "They (council members) really haven't talked with us about it. It can't be classified as anything but preliminary."

Biedenbach said Centre Cab operated at a loss during the first six months of this year, but he said the deficit was caused by the expense of purchasing the cabs.

"We really got Centre Cab at the worst possible time," Biedenbach said.

State College telephones out for 2 hours

A "major communication breakdown" left State College without phone service for about two hours yesterday afternoon, a phone company spokesman said.

Starting at 1:30 p.m. State College residents, businesses and emergency services could neither make nor receive phone calls, said James C. Walck, manager of the State College Bell of Pennsylvania office.

Bell restored phone service at 3:15 p.m., Walck said.

A mechanical failure in the microwave system which handles calls between State College and Altoona caused a backlog in the State College office, 250 S. Allen St., meaning the local phone office could not process calls, Walck said.

Bell is trying to update the microwave system in Altoona, Walck said, and during this conversion a mechanical failure occurred, causing the Altoona

system to turn down all long distance calls.

"After the microwave breakdown in Altoona, the State College system filled up," Walck said. Most attempts to make phone calls "reverted back to dialtone," Walck said.

Walck said service in Altoona was affected by the system breakdown. Pittsburgh and Harrisburg also experienced minor problems, he said.

Walck said that during the conversion in Altoona, the problem could happen again and at any time, especially when phones are being used extensively.

Emergency services, including all regional police services, the Alpha Fire Co. and ambulance services, and hospitals, encountered few problems yesterday afternoon. However, each agency said it handled the situation differently.

State College police said they handled the breakdown by saturating the town with visible patrols, especially in high-activity areas. A spokesman said if the breakdown had lasted longer, the department could have contacted local citizens' band radio clubs and utilized radios in municipal-owned vehicles.

The Centre County Emergency Communications System, dispatchers for local ambulance, fire and police, said they monitored CB channel nine to replace phone service.

A spokesman at Ritenour Health Center said radio contact with ambulance, police and the Centre County Hospital keeps the center from being cut off in the event of phone failures.

University Police Services was likewise unaffected by the cutoff in telephone service. A spokesman said the police office was able to receive incoming calls, but could not make outside calls.

Information for this story was compiled by Daily Collegian staff writers Philip Guts, Becky Jones, Betsy Long, David Medzerian and Paddy Patton.

The ERM Club is having its ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR THE WINTER TERM TONIGHT DEC. 10, AT 7:30 P.M. IN 301 Aq. Admin. Bldg.

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| Sunshine Cheez-Its 16oz. box | 99¢ | Kraft Shredded Mozzarella Cheese 8oz. | \$1.19 |
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