

the daily collegian opinions

editorial opinion

Smooth riding

New CATA manager brings change of attitude

"Our union wants to be fair, but he can go p... a straight rope if he believes that (he could get away with it)" - Bus driver John Strand's response to former Centre Area Transportation Authority manager Vernon Lyght's 1979 attempt to declare all positions vacant after last winter's CATA strikes.

"Adolescent fantasies." - Vernon Lyght's response to a charge of union-busting tactics. Life around the Centre Line garage has traditionally been something less than jovial. Managers have come and quickly gone; strikes have come and eventually gone; charges and counter-charges have come and stayed around.

by just sitting down and working things out and compromising." new manager Paul Oversier said recently. "I do think there could have been more give and take (in the past) by both management and labor. That's what it's all about."

But for several years that's not what it was all about. Including Oversier, CATA has had four managers in the past four and a half years, a turnover that does nothing to maintain harmony and stability within the organization. Bus riders also have suffered. Most recently, a 24-day strike last winter stalled buses and stranded riders, and drivers did not ratify a contract until the end of Spring Term.

displayed a voucher for toilet paper and said he hoped less would be used in the future. This fall, he temporarily dismissed a union member during a disagreement concerning the posting of a notice on the union bulletin board.

Though Lyght and the bus drivers initially may have had some solid complaints, real issues often got lost in petty bickering. Lyght resigned in October, after five CATA board members also had resigned. So now it's Oversier's turn to try and repair the frequent breakdowns in labor-management relations. So far the road seems smooth; Oversier stresses open communication, which may result in increased trust - something CATA has been sorely lacking in the past.

president, Kurt Westby, seems to have responded favorably to the change in management. Though he does not think problems will vanish, he said he is optimistic about improved labor-management relations.

"Oversier is a reasonable person acting within the realm of management," Westby said. "There was a lot of misunderstanding in the past on both sides. Now there is definitely better communication and understanding on both sides." That's good for everyone - union, management and most of all riders, who just might not have to fear another strike as contract negotiations approach once again.

reader opinion

Go, Mike, go

The sisters of Alpha Chi Omega would like to congratulate a special person who participated on our Second Annual Nittany Lion Push-Up-A-Thon. His name is Mike Walters and he is a member of Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity.

Lisa Nies Nittany Lion Push-Up-A-Thon Chairman April 2

Pragmatism

Matt Dupepe's forum about the Polish situation is another example of the negative "pragmatism" that seems to be dominating the philosophical outlooks of too many Americans. Our nation does not truly believe in a quest for peace.

the Soviets from a position of strength. Most of us have been brainwashed into believing that the welfare of the state should be valued more than a human's life. Billions of dollars are wasted in the defense budget to create weapons that will blow away humans for the sake of the security of the United States. The United States is just an arbitrary state like any other country. The value of an individual is much higher than that of a political entity.

Jay Morgan, 3rd-liberal arts April 2

Do tell

Could the members of Froth and The Monty Python Society please furnish us with the student number of the University? What kind of higher education university insults the intelligence of its student population by passing off a gerbil as a candidate for one of its highest offices? What is even more insulting is the fact that the joke goes on and on even after it has worn itself out. Couldn't the money that is spent on the gerbil's

campaign be put to better use? Couldn't that money be used to make Froth a better publication? We've gotten so many laughs from "Wimpy the Gerbil" as we have from reading Froth. At a time when money is tight, and University issues are of utmost importance, do we really need to see a picture of a gerbil in our daily newspaper?

Jay L. Kaplan, 12th-speech communications John F. Tomayko Jr., 12th-pre-medicine

Dear fools

To all of the self-righteous fools who have not yet learned from history that morality cannot be legislated and who support the HIA: Go ahead and call a fertilized egg a human being. You use this absurd notion to invoke a far reaching and dangerous precedent of government intervention into peoples' private lives. Go ahead and make a pregnant woman's baby public property. Go ahead and bring a multitude of unwanted babies into a sick and already overpopulated world.

Nelson Navarro, 9th-electrical engineering March 30

Nurse...

As naive as I must be, I thought that I had, at last, been exposed to every inconvenience that this University could unfold on a person. I really believed that I've been jugged by advisors, each one a tad more peculiar than the last. I've been herded through registrations, as have we all. I've dropped and added classes - that's



always a thriller - I've faced caffeine menus with a smile, I've been written up for God knows what (by the way, Bro, that's a small 'g' so lay off). I've been paid for 20 hours of work after having worked 22. The list goes on. With the onset of spring, I've found yet another obstacle in my constant pursuit of happiness. The way this weather's been lately - snow one day, frizzle the next, then snow the day after - it causes no surprise to me that I wound up with a cold. Life goes on.

everybody else, do try to have some consideration and keep those colds within regular business hours.

Matt Wolford, 5th-English March 26

the Collegian

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BOARD OF EDITORS: Managing Editor, Maryann Holowski; Editorial Editor, Tom Boyer; Assistant Editor, John Allison; News Editor, Cindy Denkin; Dave Medezian; Sports Editor, Mike Poom; Assistant Sports Editor, Sharon Fine; Ron Gardner; Arts Editor, Stuart Austin; Assistant Arts Editor, Elaine Westmore; Photo Editor, Sled Vision; Assistant Photo Editor, Janis Burger; Renee Jacobs; Graphics Editor, Lynda Cloud; Copy Editors, Rosa Eberly, Diane Kuller, Denise LaFare, Andy Lisker, Lisa Moran; Paddy Patton, Wendy Trilling; Becky Jones; Campus Editor, Wendy Young; Assistant Editor, Chuck Hall; Town Editor, Phil Gullis; Assistant Town Editor, Becky Jones; Features Editor, Pamela MacLack; Weekly Collegian Editor, Christopher Lee; Assistant Weekly Collegian Editor, Neil Aze; Contributing Editor, Doug Bell.

Rebels outnumbered in Thailand

By JAMES W. HATTON Associated Press Writer BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda appeared to be winning the battle of the air waves yesterday against Gen. Sant Chitpima and other leaders of the bloodless coup.

Thailand's popular king fired the rebel officers, and they decided not to venture beyond Bangkok where their forces were reported outnumbered 2-1. Prem, who tied the capital with the entire royal family after the coup started early Wednesday, continued to broadcast orders and appeals for support from his military stronghold in Korat, 150 miles northeast of Bangkok.

Although Sant's rebels controlled Radio Thailand in Bangkok, several stations owned by the navy and other government departments broke away from the state network and relayed Prem's broadcast from Korat. A Bangkok rally called by Sant also fizzled when only about 1,000 people showed up. Some were there for a kite show scheduled for the same time, and others carried transistor radios broadcasting messages from Prem.

One of Prem's broadcasts said former Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan was appointed to mediate the crisis and that he shuttled to Bangkok after an audience in Korat with King Bhumipol Adulyadej.

Meanwhile, forces loyal to Prem were reported to have dug in along the main highway at points 55 miles and 80 miles northeast of Bangkok, and two of Prem's jet fighters buzzed the building where Sant's Revolutionary Council met.

Sant told a news conference that his forces will be content to dig in around the capital. He said they will maintain defensive positions and not venture beyond the metropolitan area. Sant also paraded before TV cameras 42 army battalion commanders he said were backing him. "These 42 commanders command more troops than in the rest of the country combined," Sant said. "These people will protect you."

Sant and his followers also failed to get an audience with the king to explain their position, and a "royal command" broadcast in the name of the popular and usually apolitical monarch fired Sant and his cohorts.

In addition, a statement was read on Radio Korat in the name of Queen Sirikit, criticizing the rebels for raising internal conflicts when Thailand was facing external threats.

Feeling the pressure, the Revolutionary Council offered in one broadcast to restore the constitution and allow Parliament to meet within 15 days to choose a new prime minister.

Observers interpreted this as an attempt by Sant and his associates to buy popular support. But there was little indication that the tactics were working, the observers said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department issued a travel advisory cautioning Americans to limit travel to Thailand as long as the political situation and the possibility of violence remained uncertain.

It called on the estimated 7,000 to 10,000 U.S. citizens already in the country to stay home and said many U.S. Embassy personnel were doing just that.

State Department spokesman William Dyess said the situation was "tense and fluid" and that the travel advisory was issued as a matter of prudence.

He said no actual fighting or other violence had been reported, and that as far as the United States was concerned, the legitimate government in Thailand was any one recognized by the king.

Accidental claims 2nd NASA worker

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - Work toward next Friday's launch of the space shuttle Columbia continued last night, but a second worker had died from an accident involved with the shuttle two weeks ago.

Forrest Cole, 51, an employee of Rockwell International, died Wednesday night at Shands Teaching Hospital in Gainesville, Fla., a company spokesman said. He was the second worker to die from the March 19 accident after a successful shuttle fueling test.

After the test, several technicians, noting an all-clear signal, entered a shuttle chamber that had been purged of oxygen and filled with nitrogen. The room was supposed to be blanketed with air.

John Ejerstad, the first to enter the compartment, died that day. Cole was the second to enter. Other workers, some of them injured by the temporary lack of oxygen, pulled them out.

Cole had been in intensive care since the accident. Rockwell spokesman Dick Barton said yesterday. "He was in critical condition when he arrived, and I don't believe it ever changed," he said.

He said Cole had been with launch operations at the Kennedy Space Center for 18 months. He previously worked for the company's Columbus division for about eight years.

An investigation into the accident continues, but Barton said Cole's death will not affect the launch date, which was made official Wednesday.

"The final report has not been made," Barton said. "Certainly anything that they come up with that... is an immediate item, they will implement."

Company combats student stress

By JACKIE MARTINO Daily Collegian Staff Writer

To some students, the arrival of midterms is synonymous with an increase in stress and test anxiety. Hoping to combat this stress associated with exams is a locally based company, Process Skills Incorporated.

Charles Stebbins, a former psychology instructor at the University and president and chief executive officer of Process Skills, defines test anxiety as a physiological, cognitive and emotional state that affects test performance.

The physiological state includes physical changes, such as sweating palms and increased heart beat, and ties directly into the cognitive state through worry. The final state, the emotional, is a fear reaction sometimes accompanied by crying, Stebbins said.

Process Skills teaches people the skills necessary to deal with stress related test anxiety as well as how to use the stress in a positive manner, through a kit titled Educational Process Skills Intervention Training. The kit includes a workbook and cassette tape and is available at local bookstores.

"At the heart of any performance are important stress management skills," Stebbins said.

Mary Engel, director of marketing communications, said "Stress is something that can be eliminated only through skills."

Stebbins said there are no drugs or mind control, such as hypnosis, used in his program.

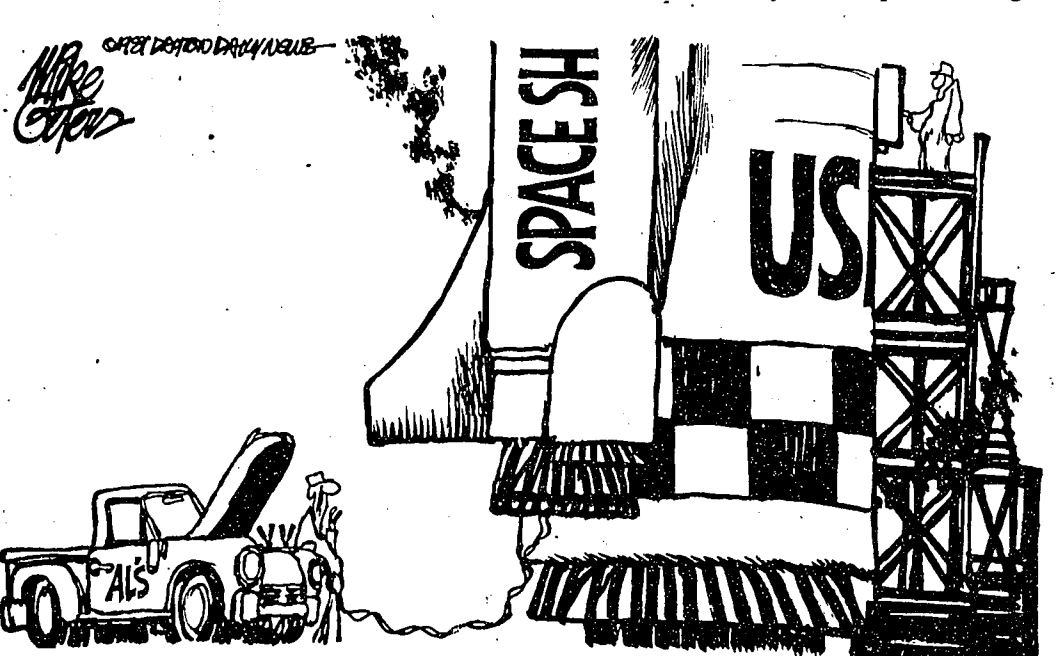
Stebbins said he first noticed the extent of test anxiety when he was in college, though he never had problems with testing himself.

"You see a lot of people who should have been scoring As were making Cs," he said.

While he was a graduate student at the University, Stebbins began to work with athletes, including football players and a member of the women's tennis team. He said athletes are a special test anxiety problem because of the negative, below-average intelligence, stereotype society often attaches to them.

Stebbins said the EFSIT kit, designed to be used 30 minutes a day for three weeks, can be useful to everyone, not just people with severe test-taking deficiencies, pointing out that deficiencies can sometimes develop later in life.

A student, who did not wish to be identified, said the program worked well for her.



OK, NOW TRY IT...

Are the Atlanta murders passe? Dorm fire safety a big concern

Monday, March 30, 1981, was definitely a big day for news. The President was shot, Poland called off a nationwide strike. That troops freed a hijacked Indonesian plane and Indiana won the NCAA tournament.

There was another story that day, it was not one of the "big stories" on the 11 o'clock news. The Daily Collegian had it buried on page 14. The news was that another black child was found dead in Atlanta. That brings the total to 21. Only one child is still missing.

Why is the Atlanta story no longer a headline? Has the novelty of the situation worn off? Or have we begun to realize our utter helplessness in the murders? Two other Atlanta stories appeared in the news that day. First, the American Civil Liberties Union is up in arms over a curfew that the Atlanta City Council has imposed on children under 14. Second, the Southern Christian Leadership Council has decided to stop funneling aid to the victims' families, and several black leaders believe that some families are trying to capitalize on the tragedy.

Sinatra gave a benefit concert for the victims' families. Newsweek ran a special report on the Atlanta situation. The nation was reaching out, trying to understand, sympathize and resolve the tragic murders.

The furor has died down. The case is growing into a situation comparable to the hostage crisis. Our nation is accepting the tragedy as a seemingly unending situation which is important, but does not rate all our attention. We are beginning to devote our energies elsewhere.

But can we endure another situation like the hostage crisis? Can we endure the months of worry, unanswered questions and unending setbacks? We are becoming a nation of people who witness senseless acts of violence, shake our heads and blame it on the unfairness of it all. We all know that it has to stop sometime.

But when? Life and hope. Sammy Davis Jr. and Frank

appeared on the news last night. He said that if a mother and her three children are murdered in the San Diego area, why should it surprise us if the same thing is attempted on the President?

That is all too true. Senseless tragedy occurs day in and day out from the cities to the suburbs. It shows not to be hopeless when it spreads to the national level. The only difference is that the everyday occurrences usually do not affect us on a personal level.

But maybe we should view each unnecessary act of violence as an attack on each individual American, because one day each one of us will have his turn to be the victim. One day each one of us will need help. And once we are the victims, maybe we will be more aware of the need for solutions to the crime problem.

I don't know if the answers lie in gun control, more convictions or stricter laws, but I'm tired of feeling so hopeless. I don't know what to do to help, though. But the same scary question keeps running through my mind. When the 22nd or the 23rd or the 24th child is found in Atlanta, is anybody going to notice, or rather is anybody going to care?

Wolf De Treux is a sixth-term journalism and communications education major and a staff writer for The Daily Collegian.

By WILLIAM H. MCKINNON Assistant vice president of housing and food service operations

In response to the letter of Mary Anne Janco, printed in the March 20 issue of The Daily Collegian:

We share your concern for the safety of residents. Your letter demonstrates considerable understanding regarding the difficulties anticipated with smoke detectors. Unfortunately, students, particularly male residents, vandalize fire safety equipment and fire alarm systems.

Beginning with the older halls, we have instituted a program to install smoke detectors and integrate this detection system into the building fire alarm system. The first smoke detectors were installed in Atherton Hall and are now operational. The design for a system for Hamilton Hall is underway. In designing a system for Hamilton, an undergraduate student's hall, we are attempting to develop a system that will minimize the problems resulting from vandalism. The system is to be installed and evaluated in 1981 and, after design modifications to resolve any unanticipated problems, this design will be used for future residence hall installations.

The type of smoke or fire detection system installed in a residence hall is not at all similar to the home detector that retails for approximately \$15. The smoke detectors installed in Atherton are of industrial quality, operate on AC current on both normal and emergency power, and are integrated into the building fire alarm system. They register on a building locator panel, and any alarm is automatically reported via a computer to police services. The Atherton type of smoke detector costs an average of \$400 to install. The cost of installing this type of smoke detection system throughout the residence halls is estimated at \$1.5 million.

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