

editorial opinion

Theory of evolution

Liberal Arts business option is practical, but what about the good old days?

Academic prostitution or just good marketing sense? The College of The Liberal Arts recently decided to offer its students a business option.

The new option seems to be aimed more at getting students jobs when they graduate than at rounding out their liberal education. Liberal arts majors now can embark on a 27-credit journey through such previously unfamiliar fields as business law, quantitative business analysis, marketing and accounting.

As a result, the University now can graduate liberal arts students with the skills needed to find entry-level positions in corporations or to become entrepreneurs themselves.

Practical as it seems, does the addition of the option mean the college is backing down from its traditional commitment to education for its own sake?

Barton Browning, chairman of the op-

tion, said the option was prompted by a suggestion from the Liberal Arts Student Council and is not an attempt to increase the college's enrollment. Even so, it is hard to believe that the students' recommendation did not stem from an increased concern with finding jobs.

Since Socrates, the value of a liberal arts degree has been its unspoken guarantee that "this person has a well-rounded education that should enable him/her to take on just about any career challenge."

Those students looking for "pure knowledge," far removed from the vocational bend of engineering and business curriculums, could count on the College of The Liberal Arts for an appropriate environment and courses to meet their needs.

However, the introduction of the business option may reinforce fears that jobs for those with a truly classical education are hard to find or, worse yet, non-existent without specific training.

By the same token, many employers say their prime requisite in choosing trainees for high-level management positions is that they be able to speak, write and think abstractly.

Bingo! A market for the liberal arts major.

In such cases, the option is a boon for students who are interested in management positions and who want a basic knowledge of the business world.

It is heartening to see the administration showing sensitivity to the changing needs of its graduates.

But for those who had looked to the College of The Liberal Arts for a broad education offering a smorgasboard of intellectual ideals, it is a little sad to see the ideal of a liberal education subordinated to the jarring realities of the marketplace.

The Daily Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by its Board of Opinion, with the editor-in-chief holding final responsibility.



THAT'S FUNNY...THE LOCKS BEEN CHANGED...

=reader opinion

Mud mountains

The Daily Collegian's editorial opinion concerning the women's mud-wrestling contest sponsored by Delta Sigma Phi fraternity seeks to make a mountain out of a molehill.

The event cannot be classified as a totally sexist one. Although I am sure many men were there for the purpose of gawking, most seemed to be there to have a good time. Approximately 20 percent of the audience was female. These women were cheering as much as the men. A vast majority of this cheering concerned wrestling moves. Calls of "Get more leverage," and "Go for a headlock," definitely outnumbered those of "Look at that ass."

I feel people have a fascination with mud. Many dirt and mud-related sports, like dirt biking, mud bogging and four-wheeling are very popular today. Most guys would much rather play games like football after a good rain than when the ground is hard and dry. I suppose this

tendency may be a throwback to childhood, when making mudpies and playing in the dirt was fun. Much has been said about the hoisting down of the contestants after each round. It has been said this turns the event into a "wet T-shirt contest." The actual wrestling was only done to the legs and arms, leaving the woman still basically mud-covered. I find it incredibly hard to become aroused over a muddy blob that is barely recognizable as a female.

Last year the student council of Clearfield High School (a nearby school) sponsored a female mudwrestling tournament. The students found it very enjoyable. There were no calls of sexism or exploitation. Parents of high school girls get upset very easily where their daughters are concerned. If they found little wrong with it, I fail to see what the so-called feminists are concerned about. They seek to make an issue of this just because it has the sound of sexism.

The editorials and complaints started as soon as the tournament was announced. They did not even give the event a chance. Liberals complain

when conservatives (the Moral Majority, for example) try to censor television programs and other events without screening them first. Now the "feminists" are basically doing the same thing. Nothing should be criticized without adequate knowledge of it.

Besides, it was a fundraiser for a good cause, and all the participants were volunteers.

Robert B. Oliver Jr., 5th-business administration
Brian P. MacEwen, 12th-civil engineering
April 14

the Collegian

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Paula Froke
Editor
Business Manager

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Scarcity is what it is all about

By CARL A. MOFFAT
11th-political science

It is time for a "New Beginning." The United States must awaken from the dream of unlimited abundance and face the stark reality of today. The future, if we continue to persist in our ways on this planet, is bleak indeed. For the first time in the history of our nation, our tomorrow may not seem as bright as today.

What underlies this common fear? Simply stated, it is scarcity. You know what that is. Most of us had a sampling of the effects scarcity had on our society during the 1973 Middle East oil embargo. Do you recall the long lines at the gas pumps? The short terms of customers forced to wait hours for them to make a purchase there was no supply left to buy?

The idea of scarcity has always been anathema to the American creed. We refuse to recognize it even exists. At Penn State, only the discipline of economics pays lip service to the word and its ramifications for our nation. Most other colleges within the University prefer to ignore it.

As astounding as that may seem, I feel I may know something of the reason to the

question of why this is so. Many of the students and faculty at Penn State were brought up believing that ours is a land of unlimited resources and potential wealth. So why should we concern ourselves with tomorrow when there is so much to be done today?

It is more than obvious that the only significant growth that will occur with a policy of uncontrolled, random growth is in the rate of entropy experienced by this society and the ecosystem that we are all a part of. Even the immortal Reagan cannot alter the second law of thermodynamics, which states:

In any irreversible process the total entropy of all bodies concerned is increased.

Every system left unto its own devices changes in such a way as to approach a definite state of rest. (G.N. Lewis)

It seems ludicrous that the reasons for writing this article even exist. Have we as a nation become so mindless that we will blindly swallow the "consumption equals growth equals wealth equals security equals happiness" propaganda, only to ask for more? Have we as a culture surrendered so much of our dignity and integrity that we actually believe that things like quality, health, job satisfaction and social worth are quantifiable?—thereby making them subjectable to the arbitrary cost-benefit analyses of growth zealots who tell us that anything we may strive for has cost ultimately related to money, and benefits associated only to economics.

There are sane patterns of growth: Patterns that sustain, nourish and replenish rather than deplete, exploit and destroy; patterns that encourage practi-

cality, resourcefulness and thrift rather than extravagance and waste. There is growth that perpetuates quality in our existence and does not try to sell it to us.

And what about horizontal growth—improving upon that which is already in place in our society and creating a security found only in sustainability? This idea of strength through exhaustion will accomplish precisely that.

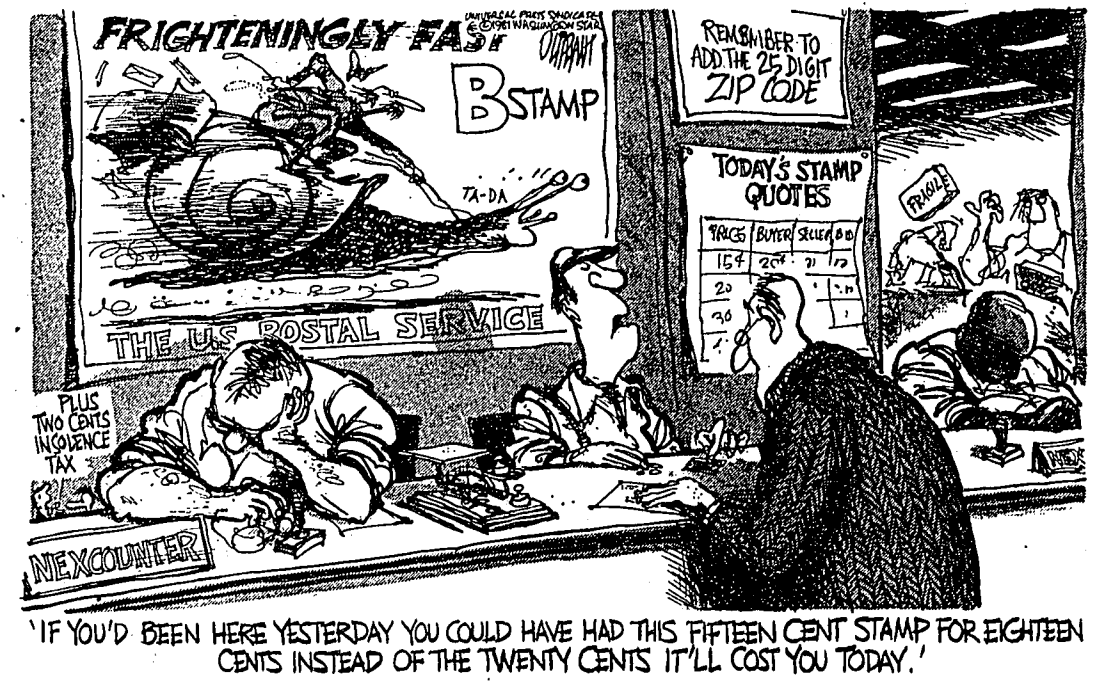
It appears, with all the glowing promises of prosperity, opportunity and "the good life" being espoused by the Growth Day rhetoric, that Reagan and the National Coalition for Growth are cranking up another American Dream. Only by abandoning the growth-for-growth's sake mentality and realizing the cyclical order of our environment (and it is growing) can we hope to pass on to the future Americans what must surely be starting to look like a dream—namely good soil, clean water, breathable air and the ability to maintain an existence based on something with more meaning and worth than conspicuous consumption.

Think about it! Think about the supposed "choices" offered to us in the system of growth we are currently living in. Think about it in the context of being only one of 4 billion people living on this planet.

Today also, as you think about growth and as you listen to the advocates of free and unrestrained growth and expansion, remember that in the biological world there is a specific term reserved for uncontrolled and unlimited growth.

Cancer.

forum



IF YOU'D BEEN HERE YESTERDAY YOU COULD HAVE HAD THIS FIFTEEN CENT STAMP FOR EIGHTEEN CENTS INSTEAD OF THE TWENTY CENTS IT'LL COST YOU TODAY.

Direct from Reagan and company: 'Growth Day'

By TIMOTHY BOWSER
Eco-Action member and resident of the planet Earth.

Growth.

We all know what growth is. Growth is beneficial. It's good for us. After all, growth is natural, Right?

I wonder just how many of us have taken the time to think about growth and the infinite implications surrounding this concept. Today might be a good day to reflect upon the idea of growth, particularly as it relates to our society and this planet.

forum

You see, according to an April 9 advertisement placed by Mobil Oil in the editorial page of *The New York Times*, today is Growth Day. Apparently, a "new coalition" of educators, businessmen, foundations and labor leaders" have founded Growth Day in an effort to "re-establish growth as a foundation of American Life."

Complete with a proclamation from none other than President Ronald Reagan, the ad calls for Americans to support the concept "that an expanding economy is the cornerstone to relieving this nation's social, economic and security problems." Reagan, in his proclamation, states that "only with economic growth can we insure the expansion of economic and social opportunities that will benefit all Americans."

Other times I wonder if those of us who

should be most concerned with growth—mainly our governmental leaders and policymakers—have ever taken the time to ponder the question of growth.

The mentality behind Growth Day and backers certainly indicates that they never wrestled with the assumption that absolute growth is neither necessary nor inherently good. I find the notion of economic growth "curing" our social and economic ills to be juvenile and short-sighted — not to mention vague.

The idea of growth, economic or otherwise, tells us absolutely nothing about how we will be relieved of the tragedy of poverty, unemployment, rising energy costs, or food and water shortages. Neither does any of the current growth rhetoric being spewed forth by the Reagan administration tell us in what ways "all Americans" will benefit by this mystical growth. Who is defining these benefits and how do we measure them? I suppose we could assume that increased growth would mean increased national security, a chicken in every pot and a tiger in every tank.

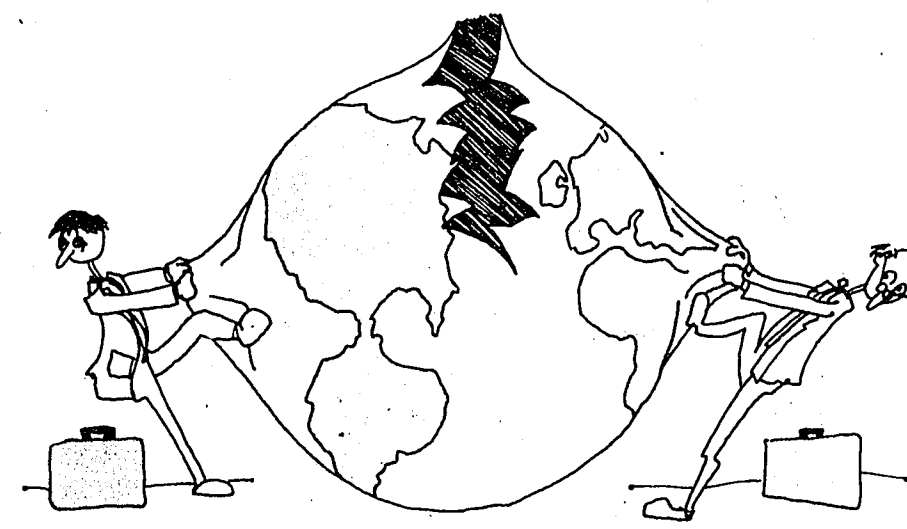
Should we assume also that this increased affluence has been attained simply because we have more cars, TVs and fast-food chains? Because we have more luxury hotels, suburban developments and shiny factory farms? Because we can produce more MX missiles than the Soviet Union? Or because we can produce more waste than we did the year before? Is growth the ability to build, buy and consume as much of whatever there is for the sake of increasing affluence?

Maybe we should measure growth by the number of trees we cut down; or the miles of strip mines that we create; or the acres of prime farmland on which we build houses and parking lots. Maybe the definition of growth lies in the amount of air and water we pollute or the amount of nuclear waste we generate. These conditions are to be taken, we are often told, as indicators of progress. And progress, as we all know, is inextricably related to growth.

Reagan's proclamation further states that only through growth can we continue our American way of life and hope to enjoy increased prosperity. The National Coalition for Growth, sponsor of Growth Day, claims that growth is "America's essence." Nowhere do we find the question of whether it is physically feasible to

continue growing at the rate to which Americans have been accustomed. Nor do these growth advocates question our right to continue such growth, given the fact that we as Americans constitute 6 percent of the world's population and already consume over 40 percent of the world's resources.

What happens to "America's essence," extremely dependent as it is upon fossil fuels, when the oil, coal and gas inevitably run out? Contrary to popular belief we are dealing with finite quantities of each. It would seem that growth in the consumption of energy (on which our Reagan Master Plan is predicated) would cause fossil fuels to become depleted at an increased (growing) rate. How will this coalition deliver our "Divine Right Growth" then? A national growth policy



Mideast instability caused by overcrowding

Israel is not sole cause, vice consul says

By RONALD WATERS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The war between Iraq and Iran shows not all of the strife in the Middle East is caused by the presence of Israel, the vice consul from the Israeli Consulate in Philadelphia said last night.

Nimrod Barkan said other conflicts between Libya and Egypt, and Syria and Jordan, along with the civil war in Lebanon further indicate that the area is intrinsically unstable mainly due to the large number of countries in the region.

"The fall of the Shah of Iran was one of the most important events in the '70s because it took away from the United States one of its most important allies and this underscores one of the major weaknesses in American foreign policy since the Vietnam era — namely, the decline of credibility and the reliability of America," he said.

The revolution also hurt America because it canceled U.S. hopes of creating a pro-American alliance in the Middle East based on Israel, Egypt and Iran, Barkan said.

The importance of the 1977 peace agreement between Israel and Egypt should be stressed, he said.

"We believe something very important happened in 1977. It was the first time an Arab country left the camp of hatred and entered the camp of peace. They signed the peace treaty because they realized war is not worth the cost."

For these reasons, he said, America should continue to support Israel.

"We believe the United States has a strong interest in Israel. It is the only reliable ally in the Middle East. It is the only ally the United States can count on. We believe that if the United States says that it wants to support democracy, then it should support the only democracy in the Middle East."

Barkan said speaking about the Middle East is always tricky, because it is the one place in the world where something is always happening.



Nimrod Barkan, vice consul from the Israeli Consulate in Philadelphia, explained various aspects of the political situation in the Middle East last night.

The fall of the Shah of Iran was one of the most important events in the '70s because it took away from the United States one of its most important allies.

—Nimrod Barkan, Israeli vice consul

"After the fall of the Shah, there seemed to be some form of superficial Arab unity," he said. "The war showed that there is a threat to the supply of oil that has nothing to do with Israel."

Barkan said the revolution in Iran drastically changed America's influence in the Middle East.

Holy Week Worship

April 13-18
At Grace Lutheran Church
At 10 p.m. Except Saturday -11 p.m.

Tonight: Passion Communion
Thursday: Maundy Thursday & Foot Washing
Friday: Good Friday Tenebrae 11 p.m., Saturday: Easter Vigil & Easter Communion

Easter Sunday:
Sunrise Service, Eisenhower Chapel — 6 a.m.
Communion — 10 a.m., 5:30 p.m., Eisenhower Chapel
11:45 a.m., Grace Church

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THE PRESS BOX is located at 129 S. Pugh St. #2006, from the parking garage.

The Original State College Sports Bar

Hazing speech canceled

A speech on fraternity and sorority hazing featuring Eileen Stevens, founder of the Committee to Halt Useless College Killings, was canceled last night because of transportation problems.

"There was a plane malfunction with her flight to Philadelphia," said Melvyn S. Klein, director of student activities. "She arrived there too late to make her connecting flight to State College."

Stevens has appeared in over 60 cities across the country and at several national fraternity conventions to speak about hazing.

Interfraternity Council President Dave Dixon said the program will be rescheduled for a later date.

"We follow her belief that fraternities are great, and they don't need useless endangerment of the lives of pledges," he said.

—Dina DeFabo

Calkins takes over as ARHS president

In an emotional goodbye, Fran Kenawell, former president of the Association of Residence Hall Students, handed the gavel and his title to Chris Calkins, ARHS's new president, last night.

"I hope Chris and Karen (new ARHS Vice President Karen Gravin) can get the same support from the council Maryann (former ARHS Vice President Maryann Deno) and I got," Kenawell said.

"We got to be a stronger organization," he said. "The time we spent here is not all for naught."

In her farewell speech, Deno said this year's ARHS council showed that the group could become cohesive.

Calkins said he and Gravin will try their best to match, if not outdo, this year's organization.

Gravin said she hopes to work with dorm contracts and coed housing and interest house proposals.

"I'd like to stress the internal working within ARHS," she said.

In other business, John Hook, director of the Residence Hall Advisory Board, said the price for use of residence hall, washing machines will increase from 35 cents to 40 cents next year.

Hook said the price is still cheap as compared to downtown, and that "students have got to do their wash. They've got no choice."

"We got to be a stronger organization," he said. "The time we spent here is not all for naught."

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—Iris Nair

Look for

The Other Side Map

in Thursday's Collegian

Catch that Spirit of THE SECOND MILE

Sunday, April 26

2 MILE FUN RUN and 10K SECOND MILE SPRINT

SECOND MILE SUNDAY is designed to provide an entertaining and informative afternoon for community members and students. In addition to the races and activities, an information booth will be available to explain the Second Mile and its programs for youth. Go that Second Mile and give a kid a second chance!

PLACES: PSU Campus-Hub Lawn
PRIZES: Over 150 prizes and trophies awarded all, including over 60 prizes in the 10K with 6 age divisions.

FEES: \$5 per individual (includes T-shirt, free Pepsi, and all participants in the Fun Run are eligible for random drawings.)

register all week in the HUB basement
The afternoon's entertainment and activities begin at 1:00, featuring the Nititty Unit, the Unicorn Club, the Frisbee Club, a Dixieland Band, the Juggling Club, live radio and more!

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