

Times change, students still voice ideas

By CINDY COX
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Though the times have changed, the issues are similar — concern about overseas military intervention, concern that the liberal student voice is not heard in government and concern about the environment.

The days of the '60s and taking over Old Main are past, but University student groups in the '80s are still mobilizing their ideas through groups like Americans for Democratic Action, Friends of Central American Liberty, the Consumer Party and Eco-Action.

"We're here to coordinate the liberal voice in State College into one liberal voice," said Steve Wengel, president of Americans for Democratic Action. "The liberal voice here has been scattered and ineffective. We hope our group can change that."

To make its voice heard, ADA will be endorsing people with liberal views for office in the local municipal council and the state legislature, Wengel said.

"Student activism should extend beyond the campus borders into town," he said. "Whenever an issue is divided between students and the community, it usually doesn't go the student's way."

On one issue, the group worked with the Consumer Party to petition to have the book *Our Bodies, Ourselves* put back on the regular bookshelf at the State College Area High School, Wengel said. The book was returned to the shelves last Monday by the State College Area School Board.

ADA is also working with Friends of Central American Liberty to help end United States military intervention in El Salvador, Wengel said.

Though El Salvador is FOCAL's main concern, the group also wants to educate people and make them aware of other problems in Central America, group member Carolyn Olney, said.

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The Consumer Party will be helping FOCAL voice its concerns by participating in a May 3 march on the Pentagon to stop United States intervention in El Salvador, said Tom Ortenberg, Consumer Party candidate in the State College mayoral race.

"We're more than just an electoral body," Ortenberg said. "We're also an educational group and want the community to know about issues like El Salvador, nuclear power and militarism."

During the first week of May, the party will sponsor a forum on militarism with speakers on the new draft and the problems it poses, Ortenberg said.

"We have tried to attract Democrats and Republicans to our party," Ortenberg said. "We thought our biggest appeal would be to people who were not inclined to vote before because no one represented their interests. We hope we can do that for them now."

Representing environmental interests, Eco-Action encourages people to live low-energy consumption lives and become aware of their consumption patterns, group member Timothy Bowser said.

"We are trying to get people to become aware of their impact on their environment and the eco-system," he said. "We're looking for alternatives to the petrochemical way of doing things."

Eco-Action members oppose the use of nuclear power for reasons of health and safety and also because they believe the power is unnecessary, Bowser said.

"We have a definite anti-nuke bias," he said. "If the consumption diet of this country would change so we wouldn't waste so much, there would be enough energy without nuclear power."

Though students are involved in groups like FOCAL and Eco-Action, Bowser said, he thinks University students are relatively not activist compared with other students at campuses of a similar size.

"I don't know if it's apathy, unawareness or just plain ignorance," he said. "We've got to pull teeth in a lot of cases to get people involved."

Olney added that students may not be activist regarding progressive causes but the El Salvador issue seems to have provoked strong feelings.

Wengel agreed and said, "El Salvador has been getting a lot of people concerned. I think Reagan woke a lot of people up and they're becoming activist again."

The Consumer Party has met with a favorable response from students, Ortenberg said.

"We've found lots of support," he said. "There has been no hostility and students have been very friendly to us."

Protests no longer a regular occurrence

By JACKIE MARTINO
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The demonstrations and political activism of the 1960s have passed us by, leaving only pictures and Beate's albums as reminders. Now, two decades later, student activism is still present — but with a marked decline in demonstrations and a questionable political awareness on the part of students.

There are many reasons given for the decline in the number of demonstrations, a major part of student activism in the '60s, said Robert O'Connor, associate professor of political science at Penn State and a former student activist at the University of North Carolina.

Many students in the '60s got what they wanted, including an end to the Vietnam war, making further demonstrations unnecessary, he said.

"You had an issue that very closely affected students," O'Connor said.

The specific issues that provoke demonstrations — not the students — have changed, he said, and if the draft is reinstated demonstrations could increase.

O'Connor said that in the early '60s demonstrations were viewed by students as a positive way to attract the general public's attention to a specific cause. By the end of the decade, however, the demonstrations themselves — not the causes and ideals they represented — became the focus of public attention, he said. Demonstrations had lost their initial purpose — a focus on a cause — and were therefore unnecessary.

"Demonstrators were, by and large, the better students," he said. "The dummies were not the demonstrators. I demonstrated and then I went home and studied. It was far from a daily occurrence."

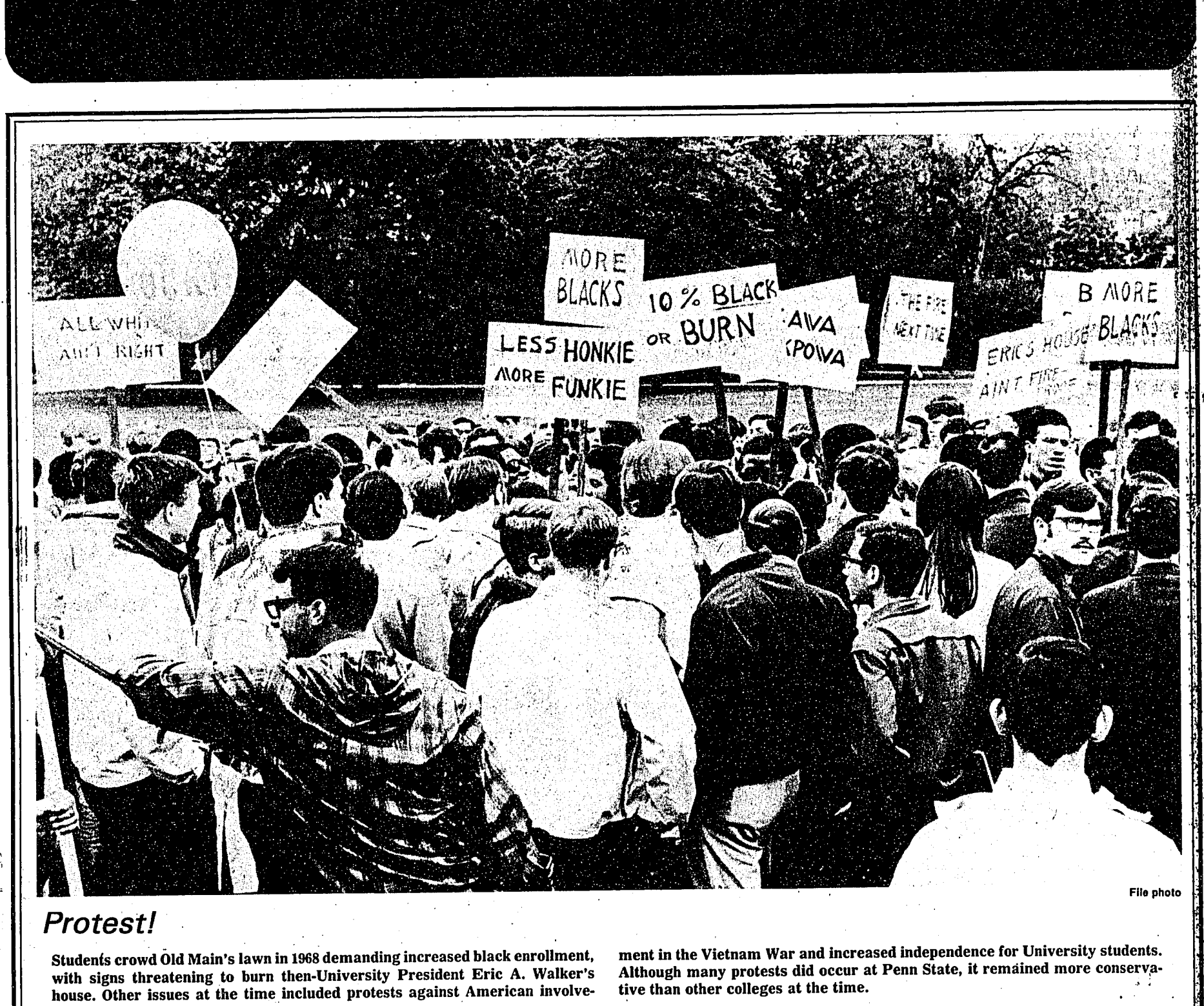
While demonstrations are a major component of student activism, a general political awareness is also a contributing factor, he said.

Today, O'Connor said, "I think students are as politically aware as they were in the '60s."

And while the Beatles were giving live performances to screaming crowds, students like Betsy Bowden, now a Penn State professor of English, were demonstrating. Bowden, a student activist in the '60s, was a demonstrator at the University of Wisconsin in 1966.

Bowden told of one incident when a group of demonstrators entered a Dow Chemical plant. When police arrived and

the daily **Closer View**



Protest! Students crowd Old Main's lawn in 1968 demanding increased black enrollment, with signs threatening to burn then-University President Eric A. Walker's house. Other issues at the time included protests against American involvement in the Vietnam War and increased independence for University students. Although many protests did occur at Penn State, it remained more conservative than other colleges at the time.

Student unrest in '60s led to protests and sit-ins

By SHARON TAYLOR
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Many students today seem to sit back and sleepily accept most University changes and decisions, almost taking for granted the inevitable annual tuition hike, paying the difference and hoping next year's increase will be 25 percent.

But students were not always this passive.

Granted, during the late '60s and early '70s Penn State was not the battle ground other universities were, but during those years students frequently picketed on the Old Main lawn, staged sit-ins at the IUH and marched through the streets of State College.

These students destroyed the "conservative" image the University was known for. They believed policies had to be changed and they did not sit back and wait for the University president or the board of trustees to realize this.

Some of the problems students faced were similar to the problems of today's students: tuition increases, the rising costs of apartments, the lack of effective communication between students and administrators. But some of the problems seemed greater than those of today.

During the late '60s, students throughout the country were in the process of changing the attitude that students, being children, should be disciplined, one University professor said.

For example, women were not permitted to live off campus, and both men and women were restricted by regulated visiting hours, Robert O'Connor, associate professor of political science, said.

Such policies put the University in a parental role, and were one reason for the student protests, O'Connor said.

Student protests at Penn State were a part of the protest of parental regulations across the nation," he said.

Students for a Democratic Society and the Steering Committee to Reform the University, organizations determined to change University

policy, were active during the late '60s. They drew up an outline calling for policy changes to give students more rights and presented it to former University President Eric A. Walker's administration. The students found their main problem was getting the administration to sit down and discuss the students' problems.

When the administration told members of these groups that the Undergraduate Student Government was the organization designed to communicate the will of the student body to it, SDS members wrote a memo stating that all 300 registered student organizations had the right to voice their opinions to the administration.

It read: "USG is only one of the 300 student organizations that has the right to go into Old Main and be told Dr. Walker's stand on vital issues of direct concern to them. USG is not and never will be the exclusive voice of the student body. If it were, the student body's voice would have a severe case of laryngitis."

The administration stood firm on its belief that USG was the voice of the student body. Meanwhile, SDS and SCR members did not abandon their goals to give the students more rights. When the administration refused to discuss the issues with them, they took over Old Main.

During the seven hour sit-in, more than 400 students demanded an answer to the nine non-negotiable demands from Walker.

But judging from Walker's comments after the incident, the communication gap seemed to have widened.

"I don't understand the reasoning of the student," he said at the time. "The only communication they will accept is a yes."

Black students were also active at the time. Black students believed they were being oppressed, the Douglass Association, the black student organization, outlined 13 demands which would provide black students with a better atmosphere at the University.

When members found the communication gap also limited their right to discuss their demands

with the administration and that the administration had made little progress making new policies concerning these demands, they built a brick wall in front of Old Main, symbolizing the communication gap between students and the administration.

The administration also reacted to an underground student newspaper, sparking the activists' flame. After printing a photo of John Lennon and Yoko Ono naked on the front page of *The Garfield Thomas Water Tunnel*, four students were arrested.

After the arrests, student activists rallied for their freedom of expression in front of the State College Municipal Building.

Some of the problems students faced were similar to the problems of today's students: tuition increases, the rising costs of apartments, the lack of effective communication between students and administrators.

Through these demonstrations, University officials became aware of student concerns and took steps to change University policy when possible.

Students were no longer restricted by regulated visiting hours, and Black Study courses were established.

But the administration did not permit students to build a student-operated bookstore, nor did it change Faculty Senate membership so that a third of the voting members were students. Students did not get everything they wanted — but progress was made.

After that time, student demonstrations concerning University policy were few because students were treated as adults, O'Connor said.

"The students had won — there was little after that time because the students got what they wanted," he said.

During the late '60s, students also protested against the Vietnam War. But, besides protesting the war itself, students protested military programs which the University housed. Members of SDS and Coalition for Peace aimed fire at the Institute for Analysis and RYOX programs, arguing that the University, as an educational institution, had no business housing these "destructive" programs. The IDA, a federal program on many university campuses, provided the federal government with research and scientific information concerning the military.

James Crugan, an SDS member, explained that the group focused on IDA to awaken students to the fact that these programs existed at the University.

"IDA was a focus point to awaken more students to the imperialist government policies and militarism engendered by such organizations as IDA," he said.

The demonstrations at campuses like Columbia University in 1969 became so extensive that the federal government moved the IDA programs off university campuses.

Though he did not know how great a factor the demonstrations at Penn State were in the government's decision to remove the IDA program, Melvyn S. Klein, director of student activities, said there was unrest among students at the time.

"There was a modest amount of student protest — a general feeling of unrest in regard to

Abortion to be debate topic

Women's Collective members are sponsoring a debate, "The Pros and Cons of the Legality of Abortion" at 7:30 tonight in HUB Assembly Room.

Since Congress is voting on the Human Life Amendment, women should be aware of the abortion issue, said Robin Wien, Women's Collective public relations director.

"We think this is an important event — we hope to raise awareness about an abortion bill — the Human Life Amendment," she said.

The debate will also give both groups a chance to present their perspectives on the abortion question, she said.

The pro-life argument will be given by Suzanne Glasgow, president of the Centre County chapter of the statewide organization Citizens Concerned for Human Life, and Sherry Bodle, a pro-life activist.

Colina Jordan and Carol Kafer, members of the Centre County Chapter of the National Organization for Women will present the pro-choice argument.

—by Sharon Taylor



PAWS member Cheryll Haywood holds one of three shepherd-hound puppies abandoned with her mother in Lemont. The mother was adopted but the puppies still need homes.

PAWS shelters animals

Abandoned animals, overpopulation problems

By AMANDA KNELL
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Daphne, a 5-year-old Siamese cat, was left on the doorstep with a pile of kitty litter when her owners moved away, abandoned one week before she gave birth to three kittens.

This case is just one of thousands concerning animals abandoned or abused in Centre County, said Suzanne Downs, a member of the Association for the Preservation of Animals' Welfare and Safety (PAWS).

However, Daphne's story is happier than some.

A PAWS member gave Daphne a home until she had her kittens. PAWS has since found a permanent home for the cat and is still trying to place the kittens.

Downs said State College residents concerned about the excessive overpopulation and dumping of animals in this area created PAWS four months ago.

"Immediately, we found that the biggest problem around here was the overpopulation of cats and dogs and the irresponsible way some people treated them," Downs said.

Nancy Miller, PAWS president, said the organization hopes to deal with the overpopulation problem by developing an educational program to show student and other area pet-owners the consequences of overpopulation and encourage them to neuter their pets.

PAWS, however, is not the only local organization that sees overpopulation as a severe problem.

Charles Sebott, head of the Centre Hall shelter of the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said some weeks hundreds of animals are brought into the shelter.

"Immediately, we found that the biggest problem around here was the overpopulation of cats and dogs and the irresponsible way some people treated them," — Suzanne Downs

"We try to place the animals," he said, "but for as many as we get in we can only find room for a small number."

He said because of the overpopulation problem the shelter is forced to destroy thousands of animals each year.

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