the daily collegian

opinions

editorial opinion

Hit the road

Some dorm residents unfairly displaced if roommate bags school

Two terms of endless partying and no studying finally take their toll, and carefree students are ejected from the University, much to the delight of their roommates.

The roommates suddenly find themselves with a single room, a rare haven of privacy in a busy dormitory.

Unfortunately, the University presents two options to students who accidentally obtain a single because their roommate leaves — pay up or move.

These students are punished by having to move within their dorm or pay extra for a single room because their roommate chose to transfer to the University of Hawaii, ran out of money or spent finals week in the bars.

They are sent letters listing all the other residents in their dormitory in the same situation. This way, students are allowed the luxury of choosing whom they want to room with or where they want to move.

For students who have lived in the same dorm house for three years and want to stay there, too bad. If they can't or won't pay extra for their room and there are other singles in their dorm, they must move or be moved by the University.

Fortunately, if a student ends up with the only single in a dorm, the University will not move that student out of the dorm or ask for extra payment.

But this is small consolation for the students who must relocate or cough up the extra room and board due to circumstances beyond their control.

Special consideration should be given to those students who do not want to be moved out of their dorm house.

Although it is not fair that they pay less than other students with single rooms, perhaps a reduced rate could be arranged.

The current rate is $50 more a term — $5 extra a week — for a regular double room that has become a single. Payment of half of this rate would be a reasonable compromise.

The University would not ask students to pay part of their roommate's share of room and board. In the same way, it is unreasonable to ask students to pick up the tab for extra room and board costs inflicted on them by transitory roommates.

Students should not suffer because of the mistakes and actions of others — or have to pay for something they did not request.

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

Suffering in Ireland continues to grow

By SEAN de HORA
graduate-history

Margaret Thatcher's government faces a crisis. Not that crises are new to British government or Mrs. Thatcher, but this one has a peculiar turn to it: a member of the British Parliament is starving to death in an Irish jail.

The peculiar turn becomes a bizarre twist when one learns that Bobby Sands was not a member of parliament when he began his hunger strike in an Irish prison over six weeks ago.

Granted, a hunger strike is not the most genteel or rewarding method of calling attention to your cause, but for the Irish it has proven effective over the past two hundred years.

forum

If the Western media considers your cause fashionable, a political prisoner cannot break wind without the major networks finding it sufficient reason for a half hour special.

However, if your cause is considered the white socks or zoot suit of the world political scene, you could die before you get any recognition — which is exactly what is happening here.

Bobby Sands was riding in a car with two other men. The car was stopped and searched by the northern Irish police force: the Royal Ulster Constabulary. One of the other men had a gun, and for this, all three men were sentenced to 14 years in prison.

Bobby Sands began serving an inconspicuous sentence; however, last December several Irish Republican Army prisoners went on a hunger strike to protest conditions in Long Kesh Concentration Camp. Mrs. Thatcher announced that they could all starve to death before she negotiated with them.

The men seemed to be calmly starving to death with the Iron Lady standing on her words. Then at the last minute, Mrs. Thatcher got tired of standing and decided to eat those words instead; Bobby Sands was then asked to negotiate a settlement between the strikers and the British government.

Sands did what many considered the impossible: he convinced the IRA to start eating and the British to meet most of their demands before anyone had starved to death.

The crisis appeared to be over: The IRA was happy; Sands looked like a hero, and the British had avoided an unpleasant mess. However, as soon as the strikers were in good health, the British reneged on their part of the agreement, and now, the IRA was furious, Sands looked like an idiot, and the British had the last laugh — or so it seemed.

Illustration by Scott Smith

Sands promptly told Mrs. Thatcher and her stooges that if they did not abide by their half of the agreement, he would go on a hunger strike until they did.

It looked as if Bobby and Meg were settling down for a test of wills, then in March the parliamentary representative for Fermanagh-South Tyrone died. When an election was scheduled to fill this seat, Sinn Fein, the political party of the IRA, stunned everyone by saying that they would run Bobby Sands.

The IRA does not recognize British rule in Ireland; therefore, they do not usually run candidates for Parliament. In this case, they decided to break that rule in order to show the world that they enjoyed the support of the Irish people.

The campaign, which would have been an atrocity by American standards, was normal for British ruled Ireland: English soldiers destroyed Sands' campaign literature; the police detained and harassed his workers, and the radio and television stations warned Catholics that if they were seen at the polls, they would be reported as IRA sympathizers.

In the face of this sort of opposition, Sands' realistic supporters would have been satisfied with 5,000 votes; the naive faction of his camp were hoping for 10,000, and a few crackpots were predicting 20,000.

When the returns were counted, Sands had over 30,000 votes and a majority over his Unionist opponent, Harry West. The results surprised everyone, even Meg Thatcher, whose spokesman announced that the British might reject the election. The IRA then claimed that this only reinforced their point: the British continually reject the will of the Irish people.

Margaret Thatcher could rise above petty differences. She could seek a pardon for Bobby Sands and then ask him to end his hunger strike and work with her in Parliament for a peaceful and harmonious solution to the Irish problem. But she will not. On Good Friday, a priest administered the Last Rites to Bobby Sands, and every night for the past two weeks there have been major riots in Derry and Belfast. The pain and suffering continue.

the daily Collegian

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Paula Froke, Editor
Debby Vinokur, Business Manager

The black woman

By RICKY BURGESS
graduate-speech communications

In Greek mythology, the goddess Diana is equally desirable and unattainable, sensous but forever chaste. In our society, the professional black female is placed in the same dubious position.

Historically ebony women have been the living inculcation of sensuality. Great men, such as Julius Ceasar, Solomon, Shakespeare and Thomas Jefferson, have gravitated toward exotic dark ladies. Recently, education, talent, intelligence and ambition have propelled many black women into the upper echelon of the business world. At the same time her status and success has alienated her from both peers and associates. The professional black woman is one of the most marketable items in the business world, yet her unique experiences have divided her from her unsuccessful male contemporaries — a modern Diana.

Part of the problem is the successful black man's tendency to marry outside his race. This Othello complex has left the educated black women without acceptable male suitors. No one is arguing against mixed marriage, but they do reduce the already short supply of professional black men. Hence, more black men must be successful, not only to keep abreast of our females, but to insure the survival of the race.

Across the country, the black family is in dire straits. The matriarch myth has perpetrated the image of the black female as a castrating tyrant. This illusion is not only an insult, but dangerous, causing black women to be treated with disrespect and contempt. Today's female, as both bread-winner and child-bearer, deserves recognition. The professional black woman successfully juggles these dual roles while being a double minority. This feat demands men's appreciation, admiration and awe. Hence, if the black family is to resurge, its nucleus must be the professional black woman.

There has been a tendency among black men to treat women as objects of lust and possession. The street macho myth encourages one to treat all females as harlots and heathens. In particular, black men have too often illustrated their masculinity by duping and misusing black females instead of achieving academic and social excellence. Intelligent black ladies have been avoided because of their resistence to mistreatment. As a responsible black man, I believe we can no longer allow anyone to abuse the pride of our race, especially our peers. The new image of the black man must be that of an intelligent, successful, sympathetic male, ready to share partnership with an equally productive spouse; scholarship, financial independence and compassion must be promoted in all the people of color.

Until the ideal is reached, black women must continue their search for upward mobility. Ebony females must be patient and continue to act as catalyst and role models for our people. Although your burden and subsequent isolation goes unnoticed, the professional black female's role is pivotal in the success of America's dark tenth. Here in "Happy Valley" it is easy to become disillusioned, but you must strive for academic excellence. By attaining an education, black women do a service to themselves and their race. Anthropologists and psychologists have linked the intelligence and motivation of a child with the productivity of its parents. Black professional women from your loins, the talented children of our future will spring.

Today, the black female professional must not resemble the legendary Greek goddess. Rather, let her be the delight Langston Hughes envisioned and the strength inherent in Nikki Giovanni's verse. The black female professional, together with her enlightened male counterpart, can fulfill the great destiny of black people, for ebony women are black roses, strong, delicate, picturesque and all-inspiring.

Poland's Solidarity: 'a fight for human dignity'

Solidarity.

What does it mean to Americans, or more specifically, University students, faculty and employees? Poland is far away. Solidarity of Polish workers is remote, and, frankly, unimportant to Americans.

Wrong.

Solidarity means everything to people who cherish basic human rights and freedoms. Solidarity means a coordinated, mass response to brutal, frightful oppression. Solidarity means democratic reforms.

Essentially, Solidarity is a fight for human dignity.

Paul Boynton

Solidarity, a federation of free trade unions in Poland, has the support of the AFL-CIO, which has established a Polish Workers Aid Fund. Frontlash, the student arm of the AFL-CIO, is organizing fund-raising drives on various campuses.

Thus far, the Penn State Frontlash chapter has raised more money than any other campus Solidarity chapter.

Recently, representatives from the campuses that have established Solidarity fund raisers gathered at the expense of Frontlash at a rural Virginia mountain retreat as a reward for past efforts. More importantly, the session was called to encourage further efforts to whip up public sympathy for Solidarity.

The 30 students at the seminar came from Penn State, Georgetown University, George Washington University, American University, Barnard College, Columbia University, Harvard University, St. Vincent College, Seton Hill College, Southern Connecticut College, St. Johns of Annapolis, Rutgers University, University of Virginia and University of Maryland.

Speakers at the seminar stressed that Solidarity is a vital force that can weaken communist brutality and oppression.

Solidarity, if it survives, could shape a new system of government — Marxism with human liberties.

This was made clear by Tom Kahn, one of eight seminar speakers. Kahn is an assistant to Lane Kirkland, who is president of the AFL-CIO.

Kahn is scheduled to speak at the Student Trade Union Conference at 1 p.m. today in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center in Walnut Building.

Kahn said no distinction exists between human rights and free trade unions. The new Polish free trade unions refute the notion that Communist Party unions represent workers; the party unions are merely extensions of the state, another club to brutalize workers. Another deception in a string of Communist party deceptions.

Arch Puddington, executive director of the League for Industrial Democracy, described Communist means of imposing control of the work force at the seminar. The workplace coercion devised by Lenin is used to divide intellectuals from workers and workers from workers; disunity is weakness in the face of state control.

The Polish free trade unions are establishing the freedom to form a countervailing power to resist absolute exploitation by authoritarian regimes. If Solidarity develops and is not crushed by the Soviet military machine, Marxism will evolve into a political and economic system with morality, surely a fascinating phenomena. Karl Marx thought values and beliefs were irrelevant when describing history; all social change is rooted in economic change — historical stages are defined by who owns the means of production.

Solidarity is not a call to overthrow communism in Poland. It is not a question of capitalism versus communism.

Solidarity is much more than an economic argument. It is a fascinating fight to create an egalitarian society within a totalitarian state. The Polish workers' movement is extremely courageous in face of the ever-present military and police threat.

Eve Morawaski, an economics major from Rutgers University, was in Warsaw last August working in the U.S. Embassy when the labor strikes began to unfold. Her most vivid memory was a Soviet tank rumbling down a Warsaw street: a token reminder of the Soviet club that would punish worker revolt if it got out of control. One tank was enough to scare the hell out of Eve.

When she got back to the United States, Eve said she was ready to wave a flag; God bless democratic liberties.

Don Slaiman, deputy director of the Organizational and Field Service department of the AFL-CIO, stressed the fact that international events directly affect national affairs. He said Poland is setting a precedent in that free trade unions are surviving in a totalitarian system. And free trade unions imply democratic reforms.

We espouse democracy, yet we seem to accept brutal governments as inevitable. It exists elsewhere, but brutal government repression will not happen here. It just can't.

This provincial attitude is frightening. We hide behind our liberties, but that is not enough. We must vigorously support democratic movements around the globe. We can not just allow democracy to survive in our country and then make deals with police states — either for business purposes or for foreign policy objectives.

Bob Likens, representing the National Strategy Information Center, emphasized that Soviet literature continues to stress quick military strikes of a blitzkrieg nature. The Soviets also believe they can win a nuclear war, counter to our belief that no one can win a nuclear war. Likens said the Western Alliance does not have the luxury of choosing allies, but that all countries threatened by Soviet aspirations are necessarily allies in a collective defense.

Jan Karski, political science professor at Georgetown University and of Polish descent, spoke of traditional Polish resistance to outside aggressors at the seminar. Poland has a heritage of nobility and its people are proud of Poland's past. Poland is now a nation of proud workers rather than noblemen, but that pride still is strong.

Karski said the Poles will fight a Soviet invasion: "If it takes 85,000 troops in Afghanistan, then you figure out how many it will take in Poland . . . a large country of 36 million."

Remember, Solidarity is not questioning the communist economic structure. Rather it questions the terrifying, repressive government control of society. Solidarity maintains that democratic rights can exist in a socialistic framework.

The Pravda propaganda machine asserts that the Soviet and Polish bureaucracies are fighting "anti-socialist" elements in Soldarity.

Wrong.

The bureaucrats are fighting to keep their elite privileges.

Paul Boynton is a 9th-term journalism and labor studies major and staff writer for The Daily Collegian.

reader opinion

Time warp

Like many other business administration students, I have decided to stay at Penn State this summer. Great! I've got a cheap sublet, and I'd like to take a full credit load.

Well, when I picked up the summer schedule of classes I was less than pleased. Seems that Penn State is willing to offer a lot of classes — it all looks good — but most of the classes are offered during the same time slots. Always a catch, I suppose.

This summer, from the selection of classes applicable to my curriculum, I have found that I can take any of these courses:

Business Law 244
Business Logistics 102
Insurance 100
Labor Studies 100

and from earlier class requirements, still being completed by some sophmores, and being taken now by freshmen electing to stay this summer are:

Economics 2
Quantative Business Analysis 101
Accounting 101

and other "core" requirements of arts and humanities and sciences:

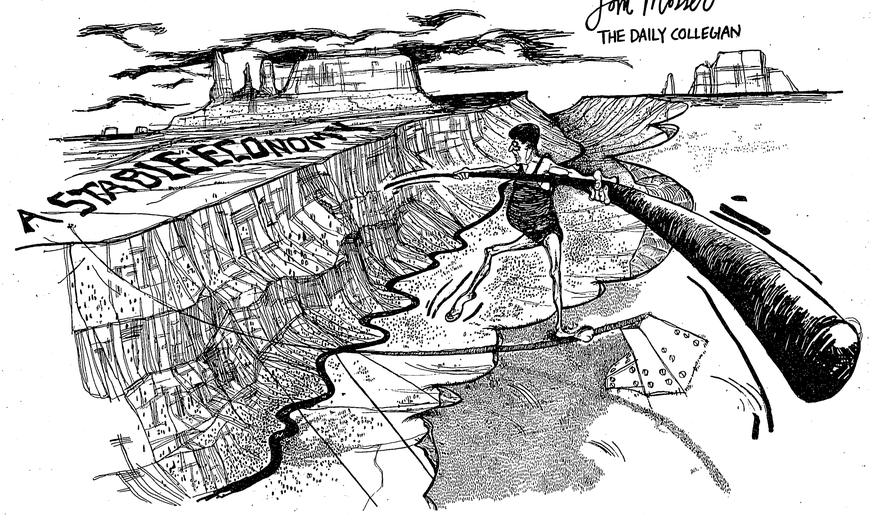
Arts 100
Religous Studies 1
Astronomy 1
Chemistry 11

What do all these classes have in common? Surprise! They are all offered *2nd period*. But, let's give credit where credit is due. Penn State also has a few other key classes lined up for summer. These include for the sophomore:

Sociology 1
Music 5
Geological Sciences 20
Biological Sciences 1

Congratulations Penn State! These classes are all *3rd period*. Maybe I am being too hard on the school. I mean it isn't all bad. This summer, even though they again don't have Computer Science 203, a student can schedule Comp. Sci. 101 either 2nd or 3rd period!

Kathy Johnson, 6th-business administration
April 19



Beauty

On Saturday April 11, I was a participant in a world-premier performance of a work written by a Pulitzer prize-winning composer expressly for the University's own Penn State Singers. We sang with heart-felt emotion about the fleshly transience of beauty, a beauty that nonetheless triumphs over obscurity through the collective memory of those involved in its creation and existence. In ways too similar to be coincidence, we found ourselves living out the fate of the beauty about which we sang, in that our existence as an integrated whole is threatened with its own imminent extinction.

By September of this year, the sound of the Penn State Singers will be recorded only as a memory; the collective memory of those of us who have been fortunate emough to have experienced membership in the group.

I cannot begin to express the gamut of emotions that overwhelmed me on Saturday evening, when suddenly this poem of Wallace Stevens which we sang revealed intimate and inescapable truths and furthermore took on new meaning in the light of our own situation:

Beauty is momentary in the mind —
The fitful tracing of a portal;
But in the flesh it is immortal.

Mr. Stevens has expressed an eternal truth; it seems that momentary beauties are indeed eternally recorded only as memories. I can only hope that the memory of our act-of-creation will have made so deep an impression upon those who witnessed it that the moment is not forgotten. Certainly we Singers can never forget.

My deepest regret is that students of the future will not have the opportunity to experience what I have known through my association with the Singers. For many of us whose majors are far removed from the arts and humanities, participation in the Singers is our only means of maintaining contact with those purely subjective foundations of human expression. Indeed the entire philosophy of the University Choirs, that of unyielding commitment to nothing less the best of each of our individual abilities, is a rare and welcomed challenge in these days of grade-inflation and rising illiteracy rates. Yet above even this noble philosophy is the music itself — the music, which conveys innate human thoughts and ancestral intuitions in ways that no language can.

I know now that those subtle things — both technical and philosophical — that rendered the Penn State Singers unique among musical groups, will never be duplicated anywhere. The existence of the Penn State Singers may be reduced to mere memories, yet in my own thoughts, in the thoughts of all the other Singers, and even in the thoughts of the audience that experienced our performance, I am sure that it will be *living* memory, one that simply *cannot* be forgotten.

I am above all, very proud to have been a Penn State Singer.

Dianne M. Mattson, 12th-biology
April 20

Quota quaziness

Once again, we are hit with desegregation quotas and goals. Why should that be? The purpose of a university is not to give certain races of people an unfair advantage over others, but to educate its students. Students should be chosen only on the basis of ability.

Reverse discrimination? There is no such thing. There is descrimination against one group, and discrimination against another group. If 96.3 percent of the most qualified applicants are white males, then the university should be 96.3 percent white male. If 96.3 percent of the most qualified applicants are black females, then the university population should be 96.3 percent black female. Quotas are unfair to the minorities and the majority. No one, including the university or the government, has the right to force a school or employer to hire a certain amount of people due to race, creed or color, since discrimination of this sort is outlawed by the Constitution. Discrimination against majorities is still discrimination and nothing more. It is wrong.

Pure equality has been achieved only when people are chosen for specific positions solely on the basis of ability. Equality has not been achieved at Penn State. The other day, a Miss Black Penn State was chosen. I do not begrudge the winner, she is a very beautiful and talented woman. But, wouldn't there have been complaints and racist accusations if we had a Miss White Penn State Contest?

Micki Zucker, 4th-Science
April 18

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8 a.m.-9 p.m.
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Others are also welcome!

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U-104

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