

the daily collegian **opinions**

editorial opinion

No say

Apparently students don't want CATA vote

Students are about to lose their vote on the Centre Area Transportation Authority board. They deserve it.

When the Centre Regional Council of Governments meets this month, it will consider a proposal that would eliminate the student seat on the CATA board. Instead, students would have two seats on an advisory board, along with representatives from the senior citizens, handicapped people and riders-at-large.

The advisory board would have no policymaking power, but would suggest policy to the new CATA board, which would contain representatives from each of the municipalities served by the bus service.

Should students have their vote taken away? In principle, the answer should be an emphatic no. Students compose more than half of Centre Line's ridership, and many off-campus students depend on the buses to get them to and from classes. Also, both off- and on-campus students rely on CATA to get around to places like the Nittany Mall.

But in reality, apathy has prevented students from being effectively represented on the CATA board.

Linda Roosa, the student representative last year, said last year that students never gave her suggestions or criticisms.

Furthermore, the student CATA seat has been empty for months while the Undergraduate Student Government tried to find students

to fill it. Vicki Sandoe left the seat after Spring Term 1980 and Roosa was not appointed to fill the seat until Winter Term. Roosa graduated last spring and the seat has remained vacant since then. USG President Bill Cluck said he has wanted to fill the seat pending the CATA reorganization.

In principle, students should have a vote. But in reality, no one deserves a vote who doesn't use it.

Now is not the time to berate students for their apathy; however, this is a good example of what happens to power when it isn't used.

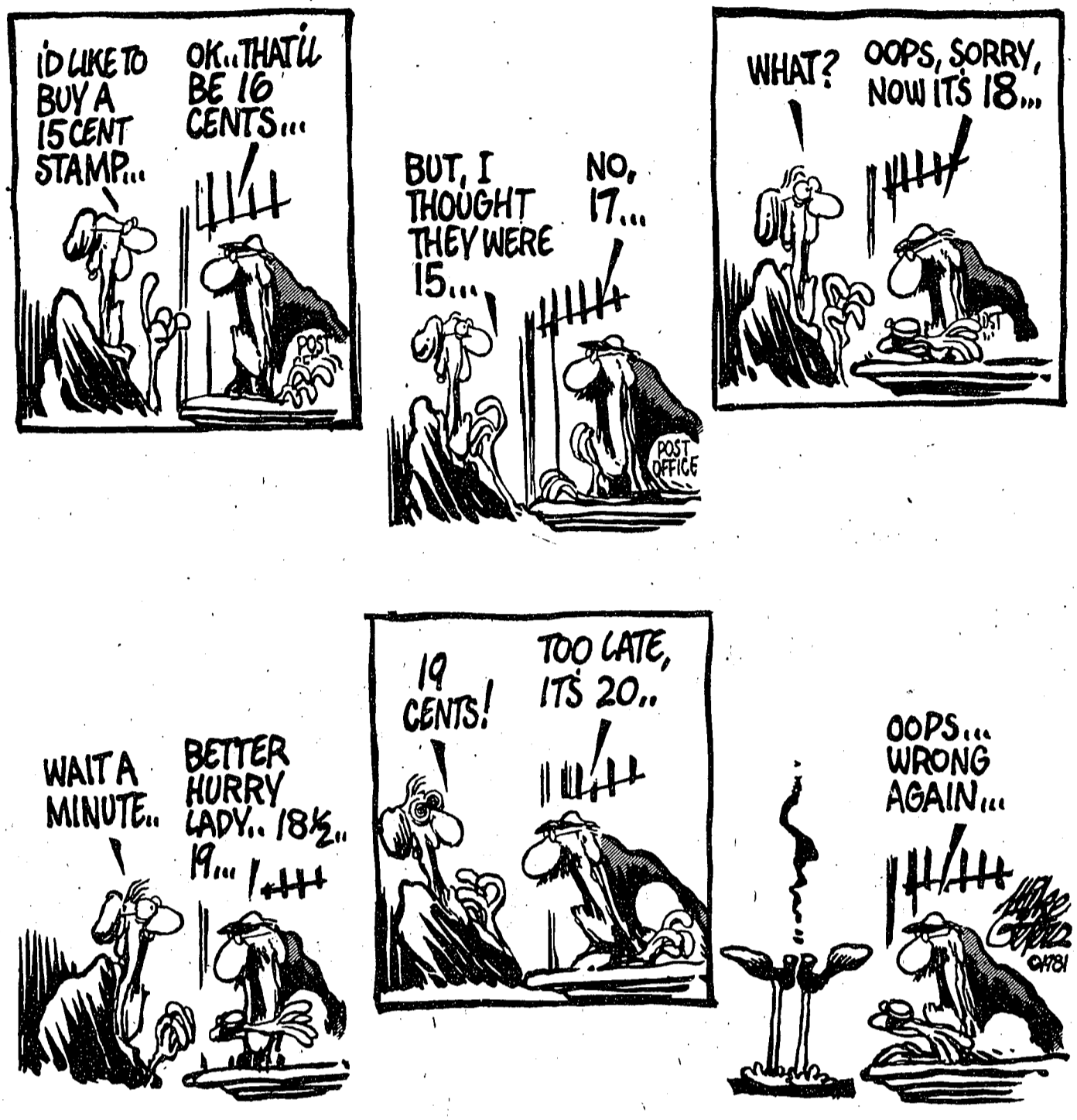
A student representative of any type who receives little input, and who only serves for short, erratic terms, cannot be effective. Representation is a privilege that cannot be taken for granted.

Provided that the CATA board is responsive to the transit authority advisory committee, students will still have an avenue to present their problems and suggestions to CATA — if they choose to.

In principle, students should have a position on the CATA board, where they can affect policies with a vote. In reality, if just doesn't work that way.

In this case it's best to heed reality.

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



Britain used Catholic Church against IRA

Last week, the IRA hunger strike went down like a sinking ship. For some time the relatives of hunger strikers had been throwing them life preservers by asking prison officials to provide inebriated feeding, and last week the Irish National Liberation Army announced that it was abandoning ship and would provide no more strikers. Finally the IRA put its last six protesters in a life boat and bailed out too.

In the wake of the disaster, the prime ministers of Britain and Ireland were sitting high and dry like two rescued lovers, while Irish Republican spokesmen thrashed around in the water like deranged Ahabs looking for a great white whale to blame for the debacle. When they found their prey, it was none other than that treacherous spawn of Rome: the Catholic Church.

Ian Paisley could not have written a better script. Meg Thatcher and Garrett Fitz slip gracefully out of the picture, while the two most powerful institutions in Ireland, nationalism and Catholicism, prepare to do battle.

It was not always this way. At one time, Catholic priests, trained in Ireland because seminaries were illegal in Europe, served as the nucleus of Irish nationalism. But after Father John Murphy laid down his breviary in 1938 and nearly chased the English into the sea with an army of peasants, the Irish government decided it would be better to train Irish priests at home

where they could keep an eye on them.

Shortly afterwards, the British built the semi-martyr since the Lord Mayor of Cork, Terence McSwiney, starved himself to death sixty years ago. The status of the IRA soared, and the hunger strikers became folk heroes, the government collapsed, and two IRA prisoners surprised everyone by getting elected to the Irish parliament.

A wave of popular sentiment was threatening to engulf the entire country and unite it behind the hunger strikers. If the Catholic clergy were

caught in the swelling tide of nationalism, the British would be faced with a situation similar to the one confronting the Russians in Poland. The British needed a wedge to drive between the hunger strikers and the clergy, and they found it in the families of the hunger strikers.

From the beginning, Margaret Thatcher's hard line policy ruled out any attempt to prevent the men from starving themselves to death. But prison officials told the relatives of the dying men that they would save the life of an unconscious hunger striker only if his family requested them to do so. This way, when an inmate went into a coma, his decision to die slipped through his hands and fell into his mother's lap.

At first the families resisted this unnatural pressure, but as time went on more and more relatives succumbed and asked the officials to take their sons off the strike involuntarily.

Commenting on this in Belfast, a Republican spokesman, Richard McAuley, claimed that the British never could have broken the strike without the help of the Catholic clergy.

McAuley said that after an unsuccessful attempt to soften the British authorities in July, the Catholic hierarchy was faced with a choice of either denouncing the British publicly or breaking the strike, and they chose the easier of the two. He claimed that pressure was then put on the families by clergymen such as Bishop Daly of

Derry and Father Denis Paul, the Long Kesh prison chaplain who three times tried to persuade the father of Irish MP Kieran Donohoe to intervene on behalf of his son.

In order to emphasize the enormous power which the Irish clergy has, McAuley pointed out that when Mother Theresa of Calcutta tried to open a convent in Belfast, an Irish bishop had to close because he objected to having a foreign order of nuns in his diocese.

No doubt the clergy will soon come up with a few rounds of rhetorical shrapnel of its own to fire at the Republicans, and the fight will go on.

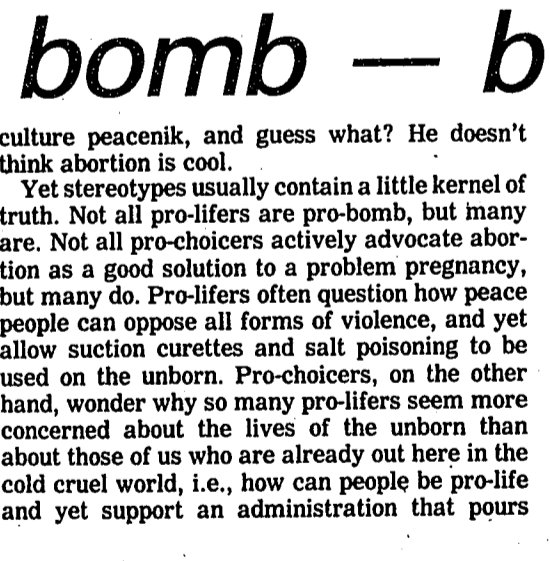
Both sides have their virtues: the Republicans are addressing legitimate social grievances, and priests must not counsel distraught mothers in the same manner as they do freedom fighters who are hell-bent on martyrdom.

On the other hand, driving a Nobel Peace Prize winner out of Belfast is like driving a blood donor from a hemophilia ward, and by blaming its defeat on the clergy, the IRA is diverting attention from the real villain: the British government. Whether it be sponsoring the Bloodmobile on campus every term, or visiting the residents of Centre Crest and other nursing homes, or even helping out other campus organizations — we're in the strike, and they choose the easier of the two. Our goal is service to others and to pick up where the VSC left off.

Presently, Alpha Phi Omega and Gamma Sigma Sigma are located in 211 HUB, but at the beginning of Winter Term the three service organizations will be moving to a new office in 208 HUB. By sharing the office we feel that we may better coordinate our services and more effectively help others.

So for those of you who appreciated the activities of the VSC, it still exists but in a different form of organizations. Anyone is welcome to join us and use your excess energy productively — remember, you can only make someone happy.

Barbara Gawronski, 10th-speech communication President, Alpha Phi Omega national service fraternity Oct. 7



Sean de Hora is a graduate student in history.

Diffuse the bomb — but don't abort babies

By Vicki Markley-Sairs
Graduate-Spanish

"Normally I'd spit in the face of anyone making the arguments you're making. But you two are very dear to me..."

So ran a conversation that my husband and I had with a good friend who'd just discovered we're pro-life. He's a compassionate person and a committed Marxist; we're Christians.

culture peacenik, and guess what? He doesn't think abortion is cool.

Yet stereotypes usually contain a little kernel of truth. Not all pro-lifers are pro-bomb, but many are. Not all pro-choiceers actively advocate abortion as a good solution to a problem pregnancy, but many do. Pro-lifers often question how peace people can support all forms of violence, and yet allow suction curettes and salt poisoning to be used on the unborn. Pro-choiceers, on the other hand, wonder why so many pro-lifers seem more concerned about the lives of the unborn than about those of us who are already out here in the cold cruel world, i.e., how can people be pro-life and yet support an administration that pours

billions into the war machine while cutting back on health care for pregnant women and infants?

There seems to be some inconsistency on both sides, but the fact remains that both groups are made up of human beings who are, in their diverse ways, trying to protect the whole. They have something in common, in spite of the incredibly hostile rhetoric that often flies back and forth between them. They even have something to learn from each other, if they will only drop the stereotypes long enough to see the human face of their opponents.

In a sense, this dehumanization of the "enemy" is symptomatic of the same disease that has brought us to the point where one-half of our national budget goes toward paying for war and one-third of all pregnancies end in abortion.

Dehumanization is in part a result of cheapening of the value of all life. All societies have deemed some forms of life more or less valuable than others. When one form of expendable life also happens to be human, it's easier to dispose of if it "you blind yourself to its humanity."

This is what happened in Vietnam when we heard about "body counts" instead of dead men, women and children. This is what is happening now when we hear about the "products of conception" when what we're actually talking about is an eight-week-old being with eyes, ears, nose, mouth, fingers, toes, a heart that beats, a brain that functions, and a body that can feel pain.

This is what is happening when an expert on nuclear war such as Herman Kahn can say the following without flinching: "Embryonic deaths are of limited significance. These are conceptions which would have been successful had it not been for radiation that damaged the germ cell. ... There will probably be 100 million of these in the future generations (after a limited nuclear war)." On the whole, the human race is so fecund that a small reduction in fecundity should not be a serious matter even to individuals."

In a society where 100 million deaths can be considered to be of "minor significance," it's no surprise that people have become adept at ignor-

ing the humanity of their opponents and are willing to settle for shallow stereotypes.

However, a fairly recent and very happy phenomenon in the abortion controversy does offer some hope for those who are sick of the name-calling and hysteria that have plagued the whole discussion. Individuals from both camps are starting to speak up and break down the old barriers. Closest pro-lifers are emerging on the left, and closest peaceniks are coming out on the pro-life movement.

The Progressive ran a pro-life article by Mary Meehan in September 1980. The editors expected a flood of cancelled subscriptions, but what they got instead was a mountain of mail split 50-50 on the issue.

A longtime peace activist named Juli Loesch, who came to oppose abortion through her work in the anti-nuclear movement, is working to bring people together from both ends of the political spectrum on the issues of abortion and nuclear arms. Teaching about the effects of Plutonium 239 and X-ray and gamma radiation on the unborn led her to the inevitable question, "How can it be wrong — 'corporate crime' — for little babies to be hurt accidentally or collaterally, if it's OK to poison them or tear them to pieces deliberately?"

So in 1979 she gathered together a small band of like-minded oddballs who christened themselves Pro-lifers for Survival (P.S.), and began working to promote dialogue between the peace and pro-life movements. P.S. does not, as a group, work to change laws, but focuses instead on trying to change people's minds.

I met Juli Loesch at the March 28 demonstration in Harrisburg, and since then some friends and I have started a local P.S. chapter. I was a little scared at first ("Oh, no, everybody's going to think I'm a fascist!") but actually we're found a great deal of positive response to what we're saying. This forum is an invitation to discussion, and a good place for the dialogue to start might be Juli's talk tomorrow night in the HUB main lounge. Everybody's welcome — right, left, center and politically schizophrenic!

forum

We're obviously very different, and yet our love and respect for each other as human beings enabled us to sit in the diner for three hours and discuss a topic that can bring normally sedate people to blows.

What is it about abortion that arouses such tension and hostility? Part of the reason must be view each other as somewhat less than human. Many leftists, feminists, peace activists and anti-nuclearers automatically link a pro-life position with reactionary right-wing politics, and their idea of a typical pro-lifer is someone who's suspiciously clean-cut, has actively campaigned for Reagan, fans it in for the poor and the blacks and will only make love with pajamas on.

On the other side of the fence we have many pro-lifers who are convinced that pro-choice people are moral misfits, man-hating feminists and other assorted misfits who are hell-bent on perverting the American way of life.

Fortunately, real people are more complex than the stereotypes we insist on manufacturing for them. A good friend of mine is a pillar of the local pro-life movement. She also verges on being a total pacifist, is a fervent Catholic, won't touch meat, is anti-nuke and gets the National Review. What category can we squeeze her into?

Another friend of mine is an original dumpster rat, an old-time eco-freak and all-around counter-



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Paula Froke Editor
Debby Vinoker Business Manager

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GSA task force still 'hoped for'

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"I thought it came across that we were going to work with GSA to get a task force formed, and that it is only a 'hoped for' thing."

Gross said GSA is working on the taxation problem and is "making recommendations to the appropriate places and the administration."

"When we have something more concrete and definite, we'd love for it to be reported," Gross said. "Everything is so tenuous we don't think it's proper at this time to report it."

"GSA may feel it may compromise our position — it may be a violation of trust if we report through the Collegian things which are really in the proposal stages with the administration."

Gross also said that it was inaccurately reported in last week's article that the annual GSA tax handbook would be issued this month.

The handbook, which provides graduate students with tax advice, will be issued in January, he said. It is now in rough draft form, he said.

However, Gross said there is an informational note in the GSA newsletter this month concerning the tax situation.

Commoner objects to Reagan's policy

Continued from Page 1.

"I think Watt is a kind of political joke. He's a cartoon. (By the way, Commoner said he reads "Doonesbury" about once a week.) You think of somebody who does everything wrong and he manages to do it. He's a good example of Reagan's subversive policy."

Mainstream American political thought is having disastrous effects on our country, Commoner said. Even liberalism — which is a lot closer than conservatism to Commoner's ideology — has completely failed, he said. As he puts it, liberalism "gets to the root, but of the wrong plant."

"We present solutions that make sense, instead of cosmetic nonsense. What we propose is a radical, workable alternative to both the conservative and the liberal approach."

And why does he want to publicize the party? Why is this so important to Barry Commoner?

Chalk it up to radicalism.

Commission to set priorities

Women's group will serve as umbrella organization

Continued from Page 1.

"We will let people know of outstanding contributions women are making at University Park and all over the University," McCormick said. "I expect we will be hearing from a lot of the women and we will be reaching out to them."

Commission member Kathryn Johnson, co-chairwoman of the Undergraduate Student Government department of women's services, said the commission will provide a sense of organization between the different women's groups at the University.

"The commission will serve as an umbrella over all the other women's groups on campus and groups that deal with women's concerns," she said. "We could have access to these groups and serve as an informational board for them; we could give students access to different information and programs."

McCormick said the commission has had one meeting so far and is beginning to set priorities and decide what some of the issues are.

Commission member Wendy Oakes, president of the Panhellenic Council, said it is important that both men and women students contact the commission about information and ideas.

"The commission will provide a place for students to come and we can find out their concerns and we can try and come up with viable answers," she said.

Several commission members said the University is behind in women's services compared to other schools and that the commission may help bring these services up to date.

A women's center could provide a central area to distribute and collect information and ideas from women at the University, Johnson said.

A concern for the job opportunities for both a husband and wife at the University was expressed by commission member Carol A. Cartwright, professor of education and acting associate dean of the Commonwealth Educational System.

"The University often loses people because the spouse of an employee is not able to find a job," she said. "Because we are sensitive and creative to this situation..."

Members of the University Commission for Women are: Maureen A. Carr, professor and director of the school of music; Patricia Farrell, associate professor of the school of music and recreation; June Gamble, president of the Faculty Women's Club; and Barbara Kautz, research associate and technical editor of the computation center.

Also, Nancy Lyday, vice president of the Graduate Student Association; McCormick; Melanie Miller, president of the Society of Women Engineers; Kathryn M. Moore, associate professor and research associate of the Center for the Study of Higher Education; and Rosanne Oswald, director of the University House.

Also, Audrey Rodgers, associate professor of English and coordinator of the women's studies program; Louise Sandmyer, assistant director for career counseling and planning; Jacqueline L. Schoch, director of the Dufoss campus; Rosemary Schreier, associate provost and professor of biochemistry; Joan Thomson, assistant professor and coordinator of staff development, Agricultural Extension Service; and Nancy Tischler, professor of English and humanities at the Capitol campus.

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