

the daily collegian opinions

editorial opinion

Spineless

USG senate apparently fears controversy

If recent action by the Undergraduate Student Government Senate is any indication, students shouldn't be concerned about anything more controversial than what to wear to a job interview.

They shouldn't be exposed to anything that may be educational. Or, perish the thought, political.

In the past, the senate has seen fit to spend money on events like fashion shows and a "Dress for Success" program.

But at the USG Senate meeting last week, senators voted not to allocate \$280.32 to the Caravan for Human Survival for speakers, films and publicity because some senators believed it was "too political."

Surprisingly, this was a reversal of a position taken at a September senate meeting. Then, the senators had agreed to ideologically support the Caravan, which is supported by Eco-Action and seeks an end to the nuclear arms buildup.

But, one senator argued last week, "When we voted to endorse the Caravan for Human Survival, we did not endorse this program. If everyone is against nuclear war, why scare them?"

Why indeed?

Why provide an exchange of ideas at a university?

Why discuss a controversial subject? Why promote anything that might give students more information on an important issue?

The senate, at least in this action,

apparently has decided that being a bland, formless bunch afraid to be associated with anything potentially controversial is preferable to taking an active role in promoting debate and providing information.

Some senators seem to think they will be branded peaceniks if they provide funding for a forum on nuclear disarmament. That's like saying Colloquy agrees wholeheartedly with the reactionary ravings of Sen. Strom Thurmond and the radical testimonies of Dick Gregory, both of whom have earned hefty speakers' fees from Colloquy.

A senator who objected to funding the Caravan said, "I don't know if we're here to decide political issues."

Refusing to support a forum because it is "too political" is an unattractive position to be taken by a senate at the same meeting voted to support Title IX Week, sponsored by the National Women's Students Coalition.

It's hard to see how the issue of equal rights is any less "political" than the issue of nuclear weapons.

As representatives of students, senators should be promoting educational programs. At a University that advocates the exchange of ideas, they instead are taking a narrow-minded approach that is frightening.

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

reader opinion

Erotic show

To Tom Verducci:

I appreciated your column on our "Blue Blood Fans," and I agree that something needs to be done to awaken them.

The movement of a team of cheerleaders throughout the stands is a start in the right direction. However, these fans need more than that to come alive.

I suggest we need something in the field to "capture the spirit of the crowd. Why not a well-oiled routine "Frisky Cat" in skimpily garb to play off against the good old Nitany?

Penn State's Blue band is tops in the nation as far as I am concerned, but it tends toward dignity and precision. The cheerleaders and majorettes or flag wavers seem to reflect this wholesome, staid and conservative behavior. In other words, I think they are "too straight."

These are fine attributes, but they are not conducive to wild enthusiasm on th part of the fans. I think we should concentrate less on the

Football pizzazz

This letter is in response to Tom Verducci's column regarding fan enthusiasm; it is certainly not a criticism of Joe Paterno and his coaching staff. The coaching staff is paid to give us a winner, and they do that year after year. If there are criticisms in his letter, they are meant to be constructive and not aimed at the coaches.

First of all, whenever you play Cincinnati and Temple, you immediately have a no-win situation. Everyone expects Penn State to win convincingly and enthusiasm decreases. Should these lower-level teams produce an upset, you then have super-critical fans.

Secondly, it is unfair to call Penn State fans



PERSONALLY...I THOUGHT IT WAS A LOT CUTER THE WAY THEY BEGGED BEFORE WATT TOOK OVER...

horrible. Remember, each season ticket holder paid \$144 for a pair of tickets plus their "contribution" to the Levi Lamb Fund. These fans are begging to be entertained or excited. Therefore, rather than solving the problem by dressing in the style of Nebraska fans, I would recommend one double reverse, one flea flicker, perhaps even an option pass. Let's face it, the two yards-and-a-cloud-of-dust football does not generate fan enthusiasm. It often becomes reminiscent of the Bobby Lane days in Pittsburgh. How about three plays without a huddle? A little pizzazz combined with a decent option will solve the problem.

Richard J. Barbour, 1970 graduate in business administration Oct. 9

Fans defended

To Tom Verducci:

In regards to your column in Thursday's Collegian, we are appalled with your vicious snip at Penn State fans. Unenthusiastic? Where do you sit during the game? Behind your typewriter, locked in your room? It sounds pretty good from where we sit. An informal survey in Shunk Hall resulted in an overwhelming number of guys thinking Beaver Stadium is definitely son-of-a-bitch. Sure, we don't yell and scream for 60 minutes. We fans would rather place our attention on the game rather than some cheerleading clown telling us to yell.

How do you get off calling Penn State fans horrible? Tell us, Tom, can you remember the last time Penn State football did not sell out? We don't.

Maybe we're no Nebraska, but we're no morgue either. By the way, do you really expect

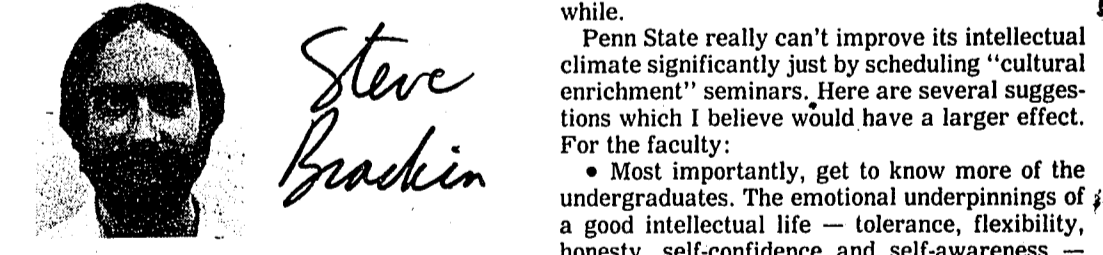
'Life of the mind' is stifled by fear, intolerance, apathy

"The Life of the Mind at Penn State: Does It Exist?" This was the question raised by a discussion session I participated in during Edcamp 1981. The answer, of course, is "Of course." Case closed.

Or is it? Is the life of the mind here all it could be, or all it should be? Does it play a large part in everyone's life as it ought to? Is it healthy and energetic? I would answer "No, no, no, and no."

I don't believe these are unescapable facts. On the contrary, I suspect that they're all unnecessary.

The life of the mind isn't some rarefied, "high-brow" thing. It's solving problems and making decisions, fighting for what's right and against what's wrong — as you judge what's right and wrong — and being honestly curious and appreciative. All a person has to have to contribute to it is something interesting to say.



In many of its forms, the life of the mind is based on conflict — conflict between explanations, options or strategies; conflict between political choices, moral choices, or values; conflict among desires, or between desires and fears. Paradoxically, though, the life of the mind, when shared, is also based on trust. People engaged in an honest argument allow that argument to affect their decisions, their beliefs and their opinions of themselves; they have to trust each other.

An honest argument about an issue that's at all personal, and most issues are, frequently becomes a subtle thing that requires sensitivity, kindness and self-awareness. If it's carried out with humor and a determined attempt to avoid all that's dull and predictable, it can be joyous.

It's no accident that romantic comedies often begin with a man and woman who disagree; they fall in love because of their arguments, not in spite of them.

The life of the mind is richest where there's curiosity, diversity and conflict, yet where there's also a strong foundation of trust, respect and tolerance. It is that foundation which is weak at Penn State.

Fear, conformity, intolerance and a feeling of powerlessness, along with the apathy and cynicism they inspire, are deadly to the life of the mind. They're all too common here.

A professor, across the administration of using students, through student evaluations, simply to have power over the faculty. A student

Disillusioned

Can't men be civil to women on a Saturday night?

Editor's Note: The name of the author has been withheld by request.

Saturday night one of my roommates and I were in a very good mood. This mood was partly caused by our experience at the Bright Morning Star, Betsy Rose and Cathy Winter concert. Friday night we listened to seven people sing their hearts out for 3 1/2 hours and I took ourselves downtown with happy hearts and friendly smiles.

At this part of the story I must tell you that we are female. You may think that that is not important; neither did we, until last night. Our first stop was in a local bar. We were crowded into a bar that was wall-to-wall sweaty drunk people who wore dangerous smiles. After being patted on the ass and touched by people we didn't even know, my roommate and I left and kindly asked for our money back, which was politely returned. (Thank you.)



forum

We decided to try a bar that would be less crowded. We stopped into one of the local basements and listened to the Rolling Stones and laughed. It is a shame that we left there because we had a good friend there and we did have a little niche to occupy.

We walked along Beaver Avenue and shuffled through the litter left by all the parading people. I had to go to the bathroom and since all the bars were crowded we decided to stop into a friendly looking fraternity.

We entered the frat and asked to use the bathroom. As I waited in line I wasn't very surprised to see 15 pledges run through the house nude. Oh well, that is the great life.

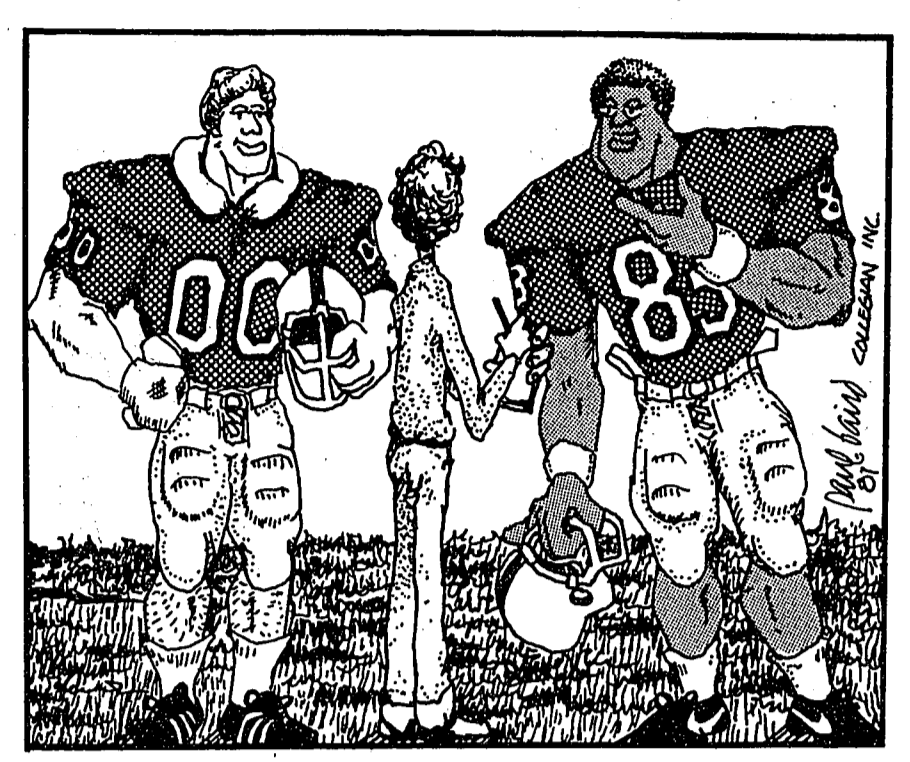
After going to the bathroom we went downstairs for a beer. The "boys" at the bar were nice at first but their tone became more offensive even though I could not hear what they were saying. I am a nice person and so is my roommate. We never intentionally hurt anyone and believe that most people are the same. So, when we see a boy not treating us properly we leave. We don't want to cause trouble.

On the way up the stairs another boy was behind us and heard our conversation. "It is funny how friendly conversations can suddenly turn into a shouting match." He agreed that "guys" from frats were rude and the usual garbage. (He probably lived in the frat.) Well, once upstairs he said loudly, "Hey, these girls are looking for a good time — 50 bucks!"

At that moment all that I had ever believed rushed through my mind. I thought of Friday night's concert and all those positive feelings. I thought of how badly we had been treated and how we were being treated by the boys in this town can not respect a lady. (Sorry, men — not all are like that.) Well, I threw my beer onto this boy and he chased me down the stairs with his two beers and drenched my whole right side.

I was cold and wet and sad. I was disappointed and angry. I was sorry too, not sorry that I had ventured out on a homecoming weekend but sorry that no matter how hard I will try I will not be able to have too much respect for the boys in that frat and sorry that I will carry those feelings around in my heart for a really long time.

opinions



At least she cared to ask about Sadat

By ANDY WEINTRAUB

"Do you really think Sadat's death will change anything?"

A fellow student I know asked me that in the HUB. I smiled and said, "Yes, when one of the most influential world leaders of our time is brutally murdered in possibly the most explosive area in the world, things will change."

I can excuse this pathetic lack of understanding and political knowledge. She probably had many important things on her mind: how much money should she ask dad for, will she get asked to a Homecoming formal, what time does happy hours start tonight? But that wasn't the end of it. She then asked, "Do you think it will change for the better or the worse?"

Someone at Penn State, alive and aware, in 1981, did not know if the assassination of a brilliant man, keeping peace in a torn up part of the world, is for the better or for the worse.

I should not pick on her. If she reads this letter, I will lose a friend. More importantly, she actually stood out as one of the better examples. Most students did not care to ask or to think about it. I asked several others if they had heard the news. Most answered,

An outsider's journey into the press box

The two players joke with each other as the writers test questions at their yellow legal pads and steno books. After all, the young men they're interviewing are just college students who happen to play football on Saturdays. Their words are not so significant that they need appear in the newspapers.

But this initial impression does not last long. One walks out of the interview area, down a short corridor lined with shoulder pads, through a set of doors and into the locker room. Here he gets the whole picture. The realization that these young men are in many ways different from other college students quickly sets in. When they are out of their protective pads and all together in the same room the players bear testament to the specialization required of a winning football team. It is as if their bodies were sculpted to the proportions that allow them to play the game so well.

The huge linemen. Tall: more than six feet. Heavy: the 250-pound range. And muscular: the agonizing hours spent on the weight machines so obvious.

The quick running backs and linebackers. More compact than the linemen who work in front of them. Their bodies reflect the perfect balance between speed, strength and durability.

And the receivers and defensive backs. Conditioned like middleweight boxers. Trim, muscular and, above all, fast.

No, these are not just college students. Any fool can see that. But they are not yet the jaded businessmen that many of today's professional athletes are. These football players still possess a fresh, human quality. Something one can't pick up from the bleachers or the press box.

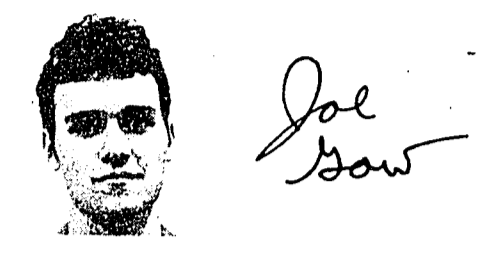
In the press box one cannot hear the grunts and pops that come with the impact of the players slamming into one another. One cannot see the blood and sweat that flow out of such a violent sport.

So the sportswriters take the elevator down from the press box and squeeze into a campus loop bus that takes them to the locker room in the athletic complex. In the locker room they have a chance to meet the young men behind the statistics; to ask some questions.

And the good writers ask the right questions. They gain insight into the pain and the pressure. Their stories cause us to identify with the players, who at the same time are so much different from and so much similar to the fans. We somehow feel a part of what goes down each Saturday in the fall.

It is the only known cure for the Pimptonian desire to suit up and go into the game.

Joe Saw is a 10th-term journalism major and a staff writer for The Daily Collegian. His column usually appears on Fridays.



forum

Reagan, even if it had been successful? I am not saying that one is more great than the other. Let's just look at the facts.

Ronald Reagan governs one of the strongest, internally and externally, countries in the world. The country and its constitutional system is time-tested. We have had four presidents assassinated. We have survived military defeats, depressions, labor uprisings, business monopolies, and Watergate. We have adapted to crises and change.

Now let's look at the assassination of President Sadat. He single-handedly changed a war-torn area into a place to live without fear, a place of hope. He had no great machine to do it with. He had only courage and a vision. Without him, we can only pray that others will carry on for him. Without him, the Middle East could be ripped apart by savage wars again. Who is to say that the peace process will continue? Who is to say that there won't be turmoil in Cairo like there is in Tehran? Who is to say that Americans won't be dying on foreign shores again?

And I think about that young woman in the HUB again. At least she cared enough to ask.

WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO START WWII?

JUST FOR THE HELL OF IT!

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Hat Trick
Clear Black
Partners in Crime
Kikkin Inn
Red Rose Cotillion

in

Battle of the Bands

Sunday, October 18
7 - 12 p.m.
HUB Ballroom

You Help Decide Outcome!
(\$500 prize)
while supporting:

PEPSI

PA SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Tickets: \$2.50 in advance
\$3.00 at the door
Available Oct. 13-16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. HUB Ground Floor
Oct. 13-16, 4-6:30 p.m. at the FUB

sponsored by: The Penn State Students for Life
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AL JARREAU

Tuesday, October 13, 1981
Eisenhower Auditorium
8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$5.67

Tickets available Tuesday, Oct. 13, 9am - 4pm
HUB desk and prior to concert at
Eisenhower box office.