# daily collegian Opinions

-editorial opinion-

### Foolish pride

In the land of No.1, academics take a back seat to football

game and tumble from the top of the heap. So what. It's only a game.

But it's more than a game. It's a game that makes enough money to support each of the 30 other intercollegiate sports programs at Penn State.

It's a game that paid for expansion of Beaver Stadium, construction of the indoor sports complex, resurfacing of University tennis courts and upkeep of the University golf courses — which are used by everyone, not just the athletic department.

It's a game that draws thousands of people into State College every football weekend —

It's more than a game. It's an identity. Football is Penn State.

But should it be? This is a University, after all, and it ought to be known for academics. That is why we're here — isn't it?

Ask anvone on the street who has the No.1 architectural engineering program in the country and you'll probably get laughed at.

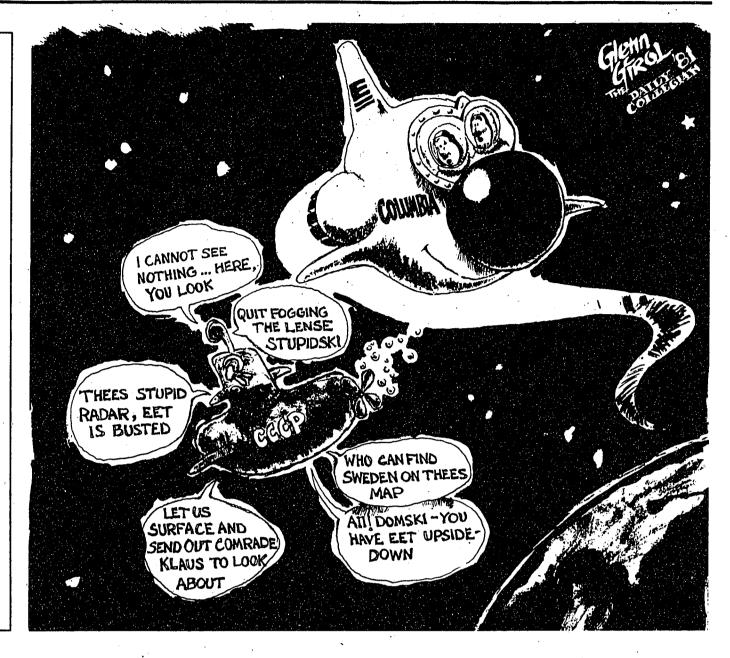
The football team lost. We're not No.1. We're (For your information, Penn State had the No.6 — the fifth No.1 team this season to lose a No.1 architectural engineering program, according to the most recent Gourman Report, rating undergraduate programs.)

> But ask whose football team was ranked No.1 in football last week, and you'll probably be asked if you've been dozing in Siberia for a

College libraries, too, are ranked. But the fact that Penn State's library system dropped from 54th to 59th in one ranking last year has few people outside Pattee crying over their beer. (Notre Dame dropped in the ratings last year, too, and their fans don't seem to care either). Libraries iust aren't as exciting as football: the Associated Press doesn't put out and thousands of dollars into the State College weekly library rankings; and 85,000 people don't turn out every weekend to sit in the stacks. Yes, football is what makes us "Penn State

If we didn't have football, we'd be apathetic about everything.

The Daily Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by its



### =reader opinion=

#### Treat for children

They came skipping up on the porch, laughing and yelling, "Trick or treat!" at the top of their lungs. Then, smiling broadly, they held open their bags secure in the knowledge that the

Living in a private home downtown, I was privy to the onslaught of Halloweeners Saturday evening. All the traditional costumes (ghosts witches, vampires) came out as well as some new age outfits (Darth Vadar was popular). I was especially intrigued by the bizarre, often unrecognizable creations. A young boy wearing a red suit and a bright blue afro wig informed m that he was a punk rocker, although he admitted his hair was "my stepmother's disco wig." I wonder if his contrasting styles were intentional Many costumes were highly imaginative. Elaborate facial makeup attested to a flair for the dramatic. One well-read prankster called herself "the woman of the Dark Sonnet, from Shakespeare." Then too, some were very downto-earth. A little girl in a dress and makeup

simply said, ''I'm a lady.'' Overall, the scene was the same as I've always emembered it, a chilly autumn night, complete with wild disguises and take-home candy Tricks, on the other hand, are also a part of the estivities. In my neighborhood we rarely resorted to trickery. But when the Halloween spirit moved us, we were very proficient at the tradi-

tional dastardly deeds. Children in masks, going door to door for candy may seem far removed from Penn State's weekend Halloween celebrations, but the children seemed to be enjoying themselves as much as any of us Saturday night.

#### Inconsiderate

The answer to the article, "Can't They Read," s obviously NO. Upon walking into Waring Dining Hall today, we noticed that we have some inconsiderate supervisors. Up until today, the dining hall had an equal number of tables in the no-smoking and smoking sections. Today, however, the ratio changed in favor of the smoking

Miss D. Sublusky (assistant dining hall supervisor), moved the no-smoking sign to include their favorite tables. Why can these supervisors be so nconsiderate and privileged? We did respect them until their show of sarcasm. We get more respect from the custodians of West Halls, whom we have the utmost respect for.

not dinnerware? We personally don't enjoy the thought of eating food out of old ashtrays. How would you like to drink out of a glass we spit chewing tobacco in? We're sure they wouldn't

and obeying signs. We feel it would benefit us all. As Rodney Dangerfield would say, we "don't

Rodney M. Moyer, 7th-economics Brian J. Rhoads, 10th-ceramic science and engi-

#### Right to know

senatorial passage of the AWACS deal. Not necessarily because of the factors involved in AWACS, but rather because it raises some doubt over American democracy. The event was called a Reagan victory. To me, it looks more like a confirmation that undemocratic forces are having an influential impact on the American politi-

Our government is of the people, by the people, and for the people, according to our Founding Fathers. Congress was created to represent effectively - and, most important, democratically — all American citizens. The AWACS vote eems to be but a rebuttal of this basic American

For as we knew two weeks before the actual nate vote that most senators disfavored the deal. Then we observed how President Reagan contacted his opponents and uncommitted ones attempting to make them (the representatives of the people!) aware of his "rationale" for selling the arms to the Saudis.

We then heard the news: Reagan got what he wanted, again. Doesn't it make you wonder what means he used to convince his opponents — some of them totally opposed to the deal? What did Reagan do to persuade them? Doesn't this deserve great attention? Shouldn't the public

Did our congressmen sacrifice their views assumed to be the voice of their constituents against simply going along with President Reagan's personal view? Do they fear opposing him, en though opposition might be a constructive act of representing the people of the constituency? For our sake as Americans in a great democracy, let us find the answers to these

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We have a right to know.

### Useless?

## the Colegian

Paula Froke **Debby Vinokur Business Manager** BOARD OF EDITORS: Managing Editor, Phil Gutis; Editorial Editor, Tom Boyer; Assistant Editorial Edi-tor, Becky Jones; News Editors, Cindy Deskins, Dave Medzerian; Sports Editor, Mike Poorman; Assistant Sports Editors, Sharon Fink, Ron Gardner; Arts Editor, Elaine Wetmore; Assistant Arts Editor, Judd Blouch; Photo Editor, Stelios Varias; Assistant Photo Editors,

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#### Seniors screwed

We are greatly disturbed by an incident that occurred at the PSU-WVU football game. Upon entering the senior section we found that 150 seats in the front area were reserved for the and sorority participating in the Balloon Derby. It has been our understanding fron ublicized ticket information in the Collegian hat there are no reserved seats in the student sections, especially the senior section which already can't accommodate all of the senior

We were appalled at the behavior displayed by participating members of the Balloon Derby. We noticed the total lack of consideration for fellow students who had been in the stadium since the gates had opened. The abusive language and actions of the members disturbed the students and alumni seated nearby who had paid their noney to watch the Nittany Lions, not other fans! Unfortunately everyone was distracted through the second quarter. Those of us who noose seats in the front are there for a specific ourpose — to watch the performance of our No. 1 potball team, not to drink or party in the stadium. We do our drinking at the tailgates!. The police were summoned to the area, not to confiscate the alcohol, but to remove seniors who

had legitimately entered the stadium by showing their tickets and IDs to the guards. The senior ticket holders singled out as examples were five black women seated in the area. Blatant racism is inexcuseable. We find it hypocritical for the tudents who cheer enthusiastically for our talented black athletes on the field to be the same people who made racist comments to those

vomen who were told to leave. made. We know that all the greeks were not seniors and not all of them necessarily had game ickets. There is no guaranteed student seating

at PSU, we realize that the actions of a few don't represent the philosophy of the entire group nfortunately, alumni and other students wil probably only remember the actions of a few obnoxious members. That type of rude behavior counteracted the good intentions of their philan-

Nina M. Llorens, 10th-sociology

Photo Editor, Stellos Varias; Assistant Photo Editors, Janis Burger, Renee Jacobs; Graphics Editor, Lynda Cloud; Wire Editor, Maryann Hakowski; Copy Editors, Cindy Cox, Karen Konski, Jackie Martino, Iris Naar, Lynda Robinson, Leslie Zuck; Campus Editor, Joyce Venezia; Assistant Campus Editor, Chuck Hall; Town Editor, Rosa Eberly; Assistant Town Editor, Margaret Ann Walsh; Features Editor, Scott McCleary; Weekly Collegian Editor, Neil Axe.

fessor Landes's testimony points out, this

#### by Bro Cope during one of his routine sermons at

Commenting on the sinfulness of college students, Cope said, "That's it. Go to class, fill your head with useless knowledge, go home, get drunk, go to bed with your girlfriend, die, and go

Besides the obvious stupidity of this remark, there is one additional discrepancy which I would like to point out. How can Bro Cope, a devoted Christian, call knowledge useless? Ever e should be able to see that the two terms are ncongruous. There is no such thing as "useless mowledge." From a Christian point of view, this

Just how does Cope think churches are built? Do they just appear out of thin air? Or by some act of God? No. They are the products of many hours of scrupulous labor by engineers, ar chitects, builders, and may other professionals who studied years to learn their trades

Furthermore, it was through their knowledge of astronomy that the three wise men were able to locate the baby Jesus. It is no easy task to follow the North Star halfway around the world.

Finally, if it weren't for the ancient scholars, the Bible as it exists today would never have een transcribed. Without their efforts, it is doubtful that the "word of God" would have remained intact over the centuries

As a Christian, Bro Cope should realize that knowledge is truth, and only by knowing the

So, Bro Cope, the next time you pick up your Bible, or enter a church, take a minute to thank the people who made it possible. And the next time you get the urge to call knowledge "useless," remember that without knowledge, you wouldn't have any scriptures to spout off.

Lisa Miller, 4th-aerospace engineering

### PLO hasn't given world reason to be recognized

According to the poll, 6 out of 10 Americans believe the United States should not formally

recognize and directly negotiate with the be no real peace in the Middle East without that the PLO is one of the major impediments

There are a number of myths concerning the PLO. The first myth is that the PLO has, in recent years, become a moderate group promoting peace in the place of their old terrorist actions. The PLO has never been, and is not now, moderate group. Time and again, PLO members have refused to alter the Palestinian

Covenant, which spells out exactly what they



According to Harvard professor David Landes, that covenant provides that a Palestinian State would consist of the boundaries that existed during the British mandate. Landes said the covenant provides that, "Jews who were living permanently in Paleswill be considered Palestinians." This date was originally fixed at 1947 but was later changed to 1917. As a result, Landes said, 90 percent of the Jews living within those boundaries could be expelled from their homes by Another myth about the PLO is that it would

position has never been accepted by the PLO. The calls by Arab leaders to establish a

table, few if any step foward. This mistake

be satisfied with an independent Palestinian State on the "occupied" West Bank. As Pro-

reject the Palestine Liberation Organization's was captured by Israel? It seems most Arab efforts to project itself as a legitimate repleaders are concerned more with making the and Arab soil once again than with the moral injustice suffered by the Palestinians.

tice. Many of them who live in refugee camps However, while much of the world has put sole blame for the conditions of the Palestinians on the PLO's participation. However, the truth is the policies of Israel, many of the Arab countries must share in the blame for their

Israel is guilty itself of helping the PLO gain he stature it has among the Palestinians. If (srael had been willing in the past to negotiate with moderate Palestinians, the PLO would not be as strong as it is today. Instead, Israel gnored the Palestinian problem, allowing the PLO to rally Palestinians around it by saying that Israel was not interested in negotiation. Israel made a mistake. Today when it looks for non-PLO Palestinians to come to the peace

may be the result of a unique position that Israel finds itself in. Every day the citizens of that tiny country live with the thought in the back of their mind that they are very vulnerable to possible attack by hostile neighbors. A well-coordinated, unified assault could destroy Israel. This reality sometimes causes Israel to act in extremes. A cat with its back to the wall expected to put itself in a position of weakened security because of past mistakes? Accepting

to a lasting peace in the Middle East. Negotiamate parties that are affected by the problem. and should therefore not be included. Yasser Arafat stated the PLO position clearly when he made a visit to the United Nations several years ago. Carrying a weapon, in violation of the U.N. charter, Arafat said that peace in the Middle East would be decided by the gun. Such an attitude does not

velopment major. His column usually ap-Palestinian State bring up an interesting pears on Tuesdays.

### =reader opinion=

#### Unfounded slurs

Ordinarily, I would not dignify with a reply the Oct. 27 letter written by "Concerned but suspended." However, I'll make an exception in this case, because of the totally unfounded slurs and inaccurate charges she makes against the Penn State Equestrian Team, (affectionately known as PSET). Actually, my first reaction to the letter was a desire to correct it in red ink for grammar, structure and content and return it for a rewrite, but that action could be construed as

Having coached the PSET since its inception

some 10 years ago, and watched it change gradually from a serious club status to a serious eam status. I feel qualified to explain how the situation has been misrepresented. In the 1980-81 season, many of the shows in our region were limited in the number of riders they could accept, and according to PSET policy, the

Given that enforcement of the University's

alcohol policy at Beaver Stadium has, at times

given rise to some gross injustices, I would

further argue that unfairness is contained in

policy: inequity (not to mention stupidity) lies in

injured. The reasoning is straightforward enough.

But this is the type of argument through which

the policy-makers justify their decisions. Shoddy

injury to innocent bystanders.

It seems to me that the ultimate purpose of this

much more than the mere enforcement of that

compete, the primary requisite being skill. This situation evolved into a new team policy. By majority vote of members, it was decided to select a varsity status squad to compete at all shows, and a J.V. or reserve squad to compete at shows which had no limitations on the number of riders. Everyone contemplating PSET membership was apprised of this policy, former members and prospective members. Since the policy was adopted Spring Term, effective Fall, Ms. C-B-S had sufficient time and opportunity to

dispute it and institute a change. I find it interesting that she did not do so until mmediately after her suspension from the PSET. That action was taken in accordance with a long-standing and wise rule in the PSET constitution, which is filed with and approved by the powers-that-be, regarding conduct which is potentially hazardous to oneself, one's horse, other drivers of cars and assorted bystanders. She is, incidentally, the first PSET member to ever be suspended from the team, for any

while the other is not. I would argue that the

iorum

standing outside Beaver Stadium drinking a

is still not encroaching upon any of my rights

(unless, of course, he/she happens to be in my

seat). No real problem arises until a person,

they effectively deny some people of a certain the safety of those around him/her. Only at this attacks the problem in a roundabout manner

right of some other people (the right to attend a that drinkers get drunk and drunks are more viated by means of a more direct approach to the

public football game without the threat of physi- liable to cause trouble than sober people, and matter wherein only the troublemakers need be

cal injury). C'mon, take away one person's right therefore drinking should be prohibited. Would dealt with (possibly severely). In this way those

to protect that of another? This is an ongoing that same person also argue that people who who can drink and subsequently handle them-

trend around the University, as well as through- carry pieces of paper are more liable to litter than selves in an orderly fashion would not be prevent-

In response to your editorial of Oct. 23, titled problem of drinking at football games does not

policy is to prevent innocent by standers attending the foundations of the existing policy, I feel

football games from being injured by people obliged to produce an alternative. In this propo-

(students? - horror of horrors!) who prefer to sal, I recommend waging an attack on what I

get a little blitzed prior to the games. The logic believe to be the real problem — disorderly

behind the policy is as follows: 1) drinking causes conduct and threat of injury to others. The mat-

drunkenness, 2) drunkenness causes injury to ters of drinking and drunkenness should not even

innocent (sober) bystanders and 3) if drinking is be of concern to the University administration.

stopped, then innocent bystanders will not be Why should I, or anyone else, care if someone is

It's just too bad that the premises aren't entirely beer? That person is not infringing upon any of

true. Drinking does not always cause drunken- my rights. Even if that person gets plastered,

ness, and drunkenness does not always cause enters the stadium, and quietly passes out, he/she

isn't it. What's even worse is that in their decision drunk or sober, becomes disorderly and threatens

right (the right to consume alcoholic beverages time should action be taken by the authorities.

prior to games) in order to protect a particular One may argue that it is a well known "fact"

"Drunken Justice," I would like to express my have to culminate in the present dilemma.

As to the personal charges against me for unconcern, cowardice, and absences, my only reply is that I am neither University-employed nor -affiliated, only -approved, and that the PSET is not the mainstay of my livelihood. Because of business commitments, I've never been able to attend all the shows or meetings, to my chagrin. After working with the team during the week. I like to watch and am rather proud o the members competing and putting into practice what they are learning and perfecting. And they're doing a damn fine job of it, too.

Jane R. Flynn, Bellefonte

#### Just have fun On the subject of eligible males at Penn State.

and females, for that matter, I think the basic dea is to have fun, enjoying and not worry about Booze law trades one right for another

idea is to prevent injury to innocent bystanders. I

goal. The ancient Mayan Indian knew that if he

was found guilty of stealing a loaf of bread, he

would be bricked-up in a wall and left to starve.

This may seem to us a "cruel and unusual

punishment." But the Mayas didn't have much of

a problem with thievery. Could we learn some-

Let's say that a person attending a football

game knew that if he/she was found guilty of

causing a disturbance, hitting someone with a

chicken leg or otherwise endangering the well-

being of others, he/she would lose all athletic

privileges, be expelled from the University or be

harshly punished in other respects. Would any-

body in their right mind risk possible expulsion

from college in exchange for the thrill of throwing

a chicken leg? I think not. And, of course, if a

person was not in his/her right mind, they would

The case made is really quite simple. The

current policy regarding alcohol at the stadium

does not directly address the true concern. It

whereby certain persons' rights (to drink) are

ve to be dealt with by the authorities.

thing from such savage folks? I think so.

action after harm has been done to a person? The coach. This is pure garbage! would answer that prevention is an attainable

the thousands of single people here, EVERY-ONE of them is right for someone. But there are only a few people that YOU will probably feel that you are compatible with. After all, you are different from anyone else on this earth; you can't expect to find a perfect fit that easily! Life is too short to spend it with someone who doesn't fit with your lifestyle and goals. So, sit back and relax; be happy; if you enjoy life while you can. everything else will fall into place too!

Nancy Moyer, 11th-microbiology

#### Misrepresented

A "concerned member now suspended" from the Penn State Equestrian Team recently complained in the Collegian that "Winning is a fine goal, but when it causes a member to change their riding to win . . . " She made it sound as if this pressure to win was the reason for her suspension. She was suspended for drinking while at an Intercollegiate Horse Show, not because she didn't win. The desire to win usually inspires an athlete to perform better, not to get drunk prior to competing. "Concerned but suspended" also complained

about the lack of caring on the part of the PSET The PSET is fortunate to have one of the most talented and respected coaches within the Interis not a faculty member and is not paid for the time that she spends coaching the team at horse shows. The team members pay her for theirindividual practice sessions each week and that is all. The rest of the time she spends instructing the team at intercollegiate competitions and weekly team meetings is purely her donation. Furthermore, the PSET coach serves on many National IHSA committees and has played a fundamental role in improving and promoting the IHSA. In the four years that I was a member of the team, she also alllowed us to use her horses and facilities to host two Regional and a National IHSA show. Hardly signs of lack of

LETTERS POLICY: The Daily Collegian encourage comments on news coverage, editorial policy and University affairs. Letters should be typewritten, dou-ble-spaced, signed by no more than two people and not term, major and campus of the writer. Letters from alumni should include the major and year of graduation and phone number for verification of the letter. The editorial editor reserves the right to edit letters, onform to standards of good taste. Opinions expressed in columns, cartoons or letters to the editor are those of the writer and artist and not necessarily the opinion of the paper.

Mail letters to: The Daily Collegian; 126 Carnegie

Building; University Park, Pa. 16802. Names may be withheld on request. Letters may also be selected for

nublication in The Weekly Collegian.

Kathy Johnston, 13th-chemical engineering

caring if you ask me!

I WANT YOU TO FIT IN HERE -THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM FOR EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO COME IN



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ed from so doing, while at the same time others

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possession of paper should be outlawed? I should would not have to fear for their personal well-

hope not! Littering is the problem, not the possesbeing. It doesn't have to be a zero-sum game.

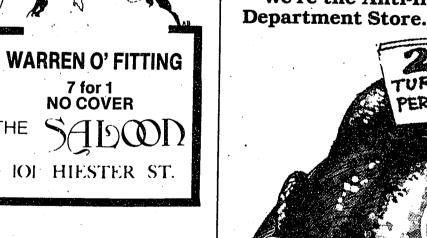


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