

the daily collegian opinions

editorial opinion

Topics

Student participation made to look easy

Without mass demonstrations, letter-writing campaigns or any other pressure tactics, the Interfraternity Council put itself on the winning end of a decision by the State College Municipal Council this week.

The council decided on Monday to concur with a State College Planning Commission recommendation that rezoning the Hill Foundation property to allow for a parking lot was not a good idea. And some well-informed, carefully planned and tactfully worded input from IFC members—who didn't want part of their fraternity district re-zoned—helped the commission and the council reach that conclusion.

Fraternity members didn't want the re-zoning for several reasons: The parking lot would set a bad precedent, perhaps paving the way for commercial development among fraternity houses; it would increase traffic in the area and perhaps cause safety problems for pedestrians; and building the lot would involve cutting down quite a few gorgeous pine trees—which the municipality has an historical penchant for wanting to save.

So IFC community action chairman Luke Taiclet, who had read the couple-inch-thick zoning manual and knew the law, contacted planning commission members individually and voiced his concern.

He then brought IFC's case to the Oct. 15 planning commission meeting and explained everything again for the record.

"We went down as citizens and part of the community and said, 'Look, did you see it this way?'" Taiclet said. IFC pointed out that the intent of the borough zoning regulations is to preserve the "aesthetic integrity" of borough neighborhoods such as the fraternity district, and to discourage proposals like the Hill re-zoning.

IFC also showed that the Hill case constituted "spot zoning," zoning for individual properties and not for the interests of a community area.

The planning commission and municipal council agreed with those arguments—and will look for other sites for the seemingly inevitable parking lot.

"People I worked with were really receptive, and if they weren't, I'd be the first one to scream and yell," Taiclet said.

But, as IFC's experience shows, screaming and yelling often aren't necessary to get things accomplished—outside University boundaries, at least.

Draft update

The Selective Service said this week it is undaunted by

figures indicating that nearly one-fourth of the nation's 18-year-old men—about 300,000 in all—have failed to register for the draft this year.

Steps already have been taken toward putting more pressure on the 800,000 men born in 1960-63 who have not yet registered.

They face huge fines and a 5-year prison term if convicted, and the names of 183 registration-resisters have been forwarded to the Justice Department for possible prosecution.

Ten months into his presidency, President Reagan has not taken a position on the draft, though he said during his campaign he was opposed to a "peacetime" registration and draft—whatever he meant by "peacetime."

The Washington Post reported that Selective Service officials expect a statement from Reagan perhaps as soon as next month, after Reagan reviews a report from his Task Force on Military Manpower.

One local draft counselor, however, may have predicted Reagan's position quite accurately by pointing out that when the Reagan administration finishes buying about \$1 billion in new military hardware, somebody's going to have to man the equipment.

Incidentally, if Reagan disregards his campaign rhetoric and endorses compulsory registration, he may actually help his political standing. A Sept. 24 Harris Survey showed that 83 percent of the American public favors registration for the draft.

A germ to live in infamy

Some time ago, public image-conscious members of the American Legion tried in vain to change the name of Legionnaires' disease—which was christened such after several Legionnaires died from the mysterious pneumonia-like illness after attending a conference in Philadelphia.

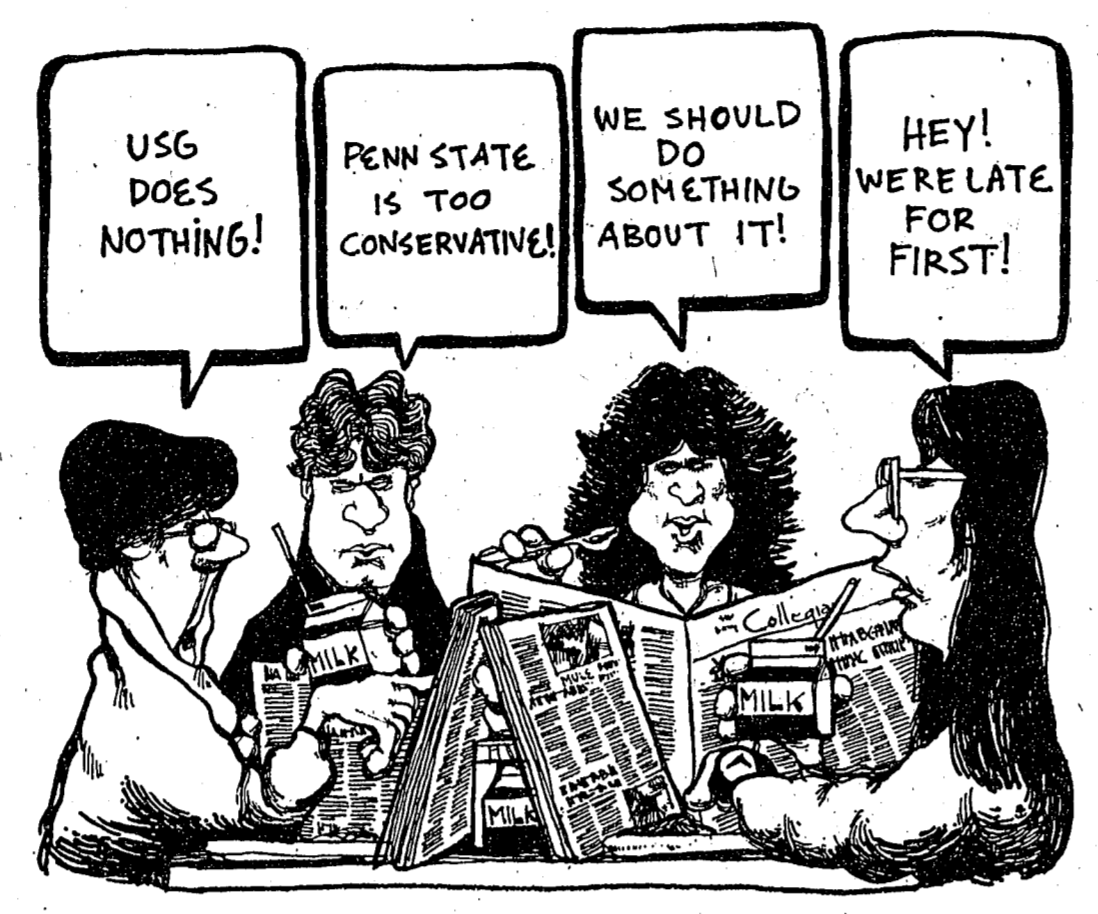
Well, the American Legion's PR department has lost again. Scientists at the National Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta said this week they have isolated bacteria that appear to cause the disease.

The bacteria's name? Legionella pneumophila.

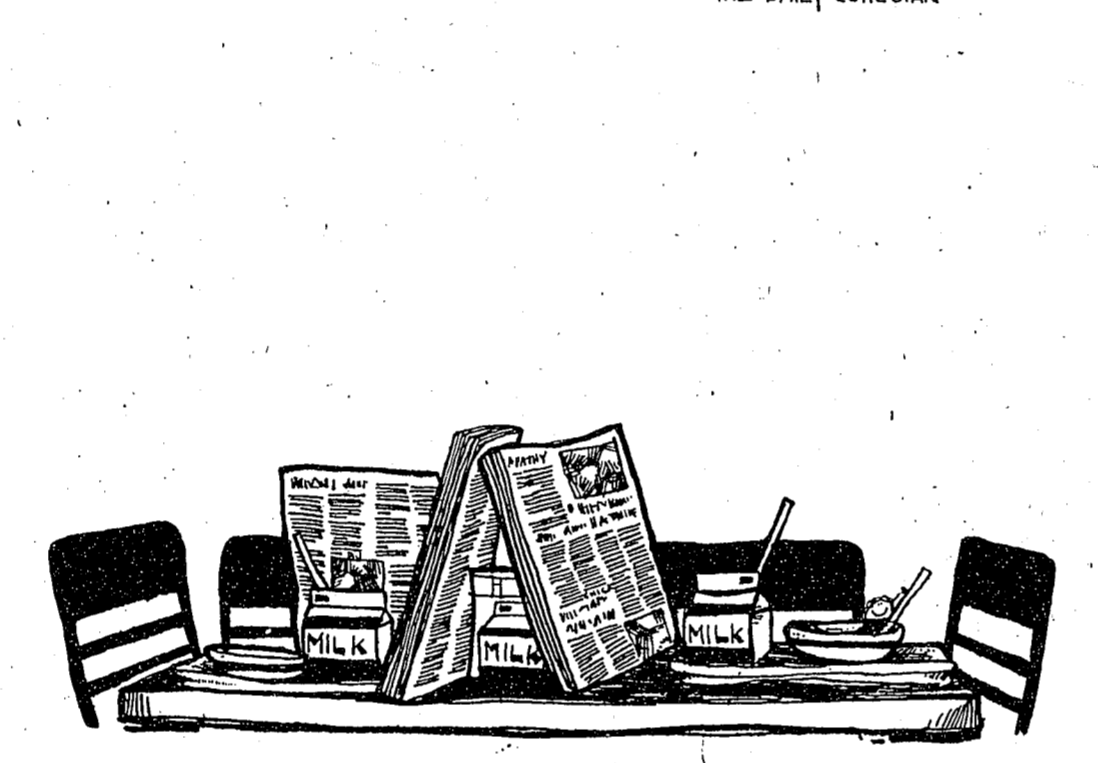
And finally

Just about one more week, everyone.

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



THE DAILY COLLEGIAN



the Collegian

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Correction

Because of an editing error, the number of the Race Relations Board was given incorrectly in Tuesday's edition of The Daily Collegian. The correct number is 883-0285.

Male aggression: Honesty and respect don't belong on 'fishing' expeditions

He knows all the tricks. He has the right licks, the rights to make it all work. He's a man who orders his life's priorities like this: sex, money, food. Jack is the personification of male aggressiveness, yet he's so subtle. And if you don't look too deep, he's so sincere. At least the women think so. Perhaps it's something in his eye or the smoothness of his voice, but once he baits the hook and drops the line, he usually makes his catch. He is not one, however, to have his catch preserved. He takes what he wants, uses what he needs and tosses the rest overboard.

I grew up with Jack. I know his life almost as well as I know my own. And as much as I respect his hedonistic lifestyle, I cannot bring myself to condemn him for it. He tells me there are plenty of fish in the sea and that he is simply an accomplished fisherman. To argue that is futile.

Honesty and respect have their places—but not when he's fishing. He refuses to accept any other point of view.

It was 3 Sunday morning and the last bar open in town had just swept B.D. out the door. The combination of being too tired to sleep and too lazy to walk home pulled him in the general direction of The Wall. The Wall is always awake and, if nothing else, always interesting. Some interesting conversation was all B.D. was really looking for.

When he got there, two guys were railing each other up and down. A loud, heated argument. The argument was familiar to B.D. and listening in, one pointed barb caught his attention: "Just because we have something in common doesn't mean I have to agree with you."

B.D. recognized the person that barb was pointed at as someone he knew to be gay. He quickly made the connection. No problem though, B.D. has no qualms about gay people, although he has no such inclinations of his

Breakdown—reader opinion

Pro-individual

Charles F. Dougherty, R-Philadelphia, (Daily Collegian, Nov. 2) is quoted: "the best abortion poll was in November 1980 when the American people sent a pro-life president to the White House." Mr. Dougherty was (ostensibly) rebutting the idea that different (public opinion) polls say most Americans are in favor of abortion in some form.

I've listed the exact figures, but at that "election" only about 50 percent of registered American voters voted. From that figure, we get the media-manufactured "landslide" of electoral votes. Reagan's popular vote total was just about the same as Mr. Carter's popular vote; each man had almost 50 percent of the total; that boils down to popular vote (public opinion?) of only about 25 percent of registered American voters who voted for Mr. Reagan (as well as the 25 percent who voted for Carter). The electoral system made Reagan's slim margin into the so-called landslide "mandate" we are constantly hearing about.

Mr. Dougherty also claimed that, "It's one thing for a legislator or a pastor to speak out against abortion, but it is much more effective when young people take a stand." If the legislators legislate a morality which makes abortion illegal for young as well as for old people—read "women"—the stand(s) that those women take will be irrelevant. Mr. Dougherty continues: "To have a young college girl (sic) say she is against the taking of an innocent life far outweighs anything we can do."

Can we assume, Mr. Dougherty, that if a college woman chooses abortion, that choice for abortion far outweighs anything the government can do? Can anyone assume that a young college woman's choice of abortion is the same as would be her choice for herself? Abstract choices/concepts are sometimes very different from the same choices/concepts when they become personal.

This is the statement that we read at our press conference on Wednesday, Nov. 4. We felt that it was important for everyone to know what we said and how we said it. We are still committed to working to solve the problems that are present in the communication channels that exist now. We hope that other student leaders and students in general are also committed, so we may have a stronger more effective student voice.

Christopher Calkins, ARHS Vice President
Karen Gravin, ARHS Vice President

Great idea

Bravo Professor Roy! Your letter in the Nov. 3 Collegian was excellent. There is definitely a lack of awareness of faculty accomplishments at Penn State. Your suggestion that the Collegian can afford half a page to hold up Penn State's other heroes should be looked at seriously. After

all, how important is the football team when compared with academic accomplishments? When you get past all of the emotionality that question can raise and consider it objectively, academics should outweigh sports accomplishments by a wide margin. I believe most students at the University do have these priorities in the proper order, perhaps all students do. The majority of varsity athletes put academics before athletics.

So the question is again raised. Where can students read of the accomplishments of the faculty and for that matter, of graduate and undergraduate students who make important contributions in their field? Perhaps the Collegian can cooperate with the colleges and create a regular feature. Others who share Professor Roy's views, please tell the Collegian. This idea needs good input to work.

Jean S. Guertler, graduate-religious studies Nov. 2
C. Green, 6th-civil engineering Nov. 4

Forum

executed because his opinions or religion are unacceptable to his government. There are several million such people in prison—by no means all of them behind the Iron or Bamboo curtains—and their numbers are growing. The newspaper reader feels a sickening sense of impotence. Yet if these feelings of disgust all over the world could be united into common action, something effective could be done.

The network for that common action became the organization now known as Amnesty International. The organization, as the small print at the bottom of AI stationary says, "... works impartially for all political prisoners. Amnesty International is independent of all governments, political factions, ideologies, economic interests and religious creeds ..."

The main thrust of the common action advocated by Mr. Benenson seems surprisingly simple to me: that is, letter-writing. Letters are written

with the hopes of bringing individual cases to the attention of officials who might have the power to grant that person amnesty and to let those officials know that people the world over are aware of and care about an individual's predicament.

Amnesty International is composed of more than 200 local groups in 33 countries. Each group is responsible for following the case of at least one individual and writing letters to that individual's behalf; thus local groups are known as Adoption Groups. In the State College Adoption Group we have been working on the case of Frantisek Lizna, a Czechoslovakian priest who is currently in prison in Olomouc, Czechoslovakia, on charges of illegally publishing and distributing religious literature for profit. In a separate case, we have begun making inquiries into reports of torture in Italy.

Members are expected to write at least one letter a month, and are schooled in the interpersonal skills and customs appropriate to the country to which the letter is being written.

Although I am just becoming acquainted with the State College members, it seems the group here easily incorporates the work of individuals motivated by a diverse range of ideologies and interests. The involvement of individuals varies as well, from those who can afford no more time or energy than it takes to appease the humanitarian instincts from the arm chair, to those who can contribute much at the organizational level.

Amnesty International in State College meets the first Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation, 256 E. College Ave.

reader opinion

Keeping up

"The United States has decided that it must be prepared to fight and win a 'limited' nuclear war in order to be able to deter the Soviet Union from starting one ..."

—Newsweek, Oct. 5, 1981

It is improbable that the United States and Soviet Union were in the mind of the anonymous author who coined the phrase, "keeping up with the Joneses," but this seems to be the attitude that these two countries have developed.

Memories of the best days between the U.S. Skylab and Soviet space lab of less than a decade ago are apparently permanently stricken from the two governments' minds.

They no longer seem to care to venture upon present, let alone future, joint expeditions for the sake of mankind. Instead each country wants to be the top family on the block and make monetary outlays in the allotments for other government programs in order to finance this present mania? We are already witnessing a decrease in the nuclear imbalance between the United States and Soviet Union is redressed."

It seems uncertain as to how far the United States will go in order to be the leader in this nuclear chess game.

Where will this administration acquire the needed funds to finance this stepped-up production of weapons? We already make monetary cutbacks in the allotments for other government programs in order to finance this present mania? We are already witnessing a decrease in the nuclear imbalance between the United States and Soviet Union is redressed."

This, however, should not cause us to look unfavorably upon our president's decisions. We don't really need people in college who can't afford to pay the necessary bills, so what is wrong with a little step backwards? Isn't it more important for us to prepare as well as we can for the obvious nuclear war that is ahead?

Let us be sensible, we can't have everything. Doesn't the man in the White House always know what is best for our country? Remember Vietnam?

Ed Leszcynski Jr., 6th-English Oct. 27

Unfair loss

Last weekend at the Penn State-WVU game an incident occurred in the senior student section that upset quite a few people. I was one of them.

The first 15 rows of seats in the senior section to the right of the Blue Band were "reserved" for

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