

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Friday, Dec. 4

editorial opinion

Topics

Here's something to worry about

According to statistics compiled by people with nothing better to do, Ronald Reagan is destined to die in office. Every president since 1840 who has been elected on years ending with "0" — Harrison, Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, Harding, Franklin Roosevelt and Kennedy — has died in office. Reagan's goose, it seems, is cooked.

Now a new bit of trivia has come on the scene that should give the doomsayers more reason to spread gloom. In the book "Picture Stories from the Bible," out of print for more than 30 years and republished this year, the character of Abel looks almost exactly like Reagan. And all Bible-readers know that Abel met a most untimely death at the hands of his rotten brother Cain.

The book's publisher, Mark Levine, said in Tuesday's New York Times that the resemblance is no coincidence. "I checked with people familiar with comics 30 years ago and found out that artists, in order to get facial expressions, often modeled their characters after movie stars," Levine said. "It's most probable, given the resemblance, that Reagan was the model for Abel."

Well, the Secret Service will probably not step-up security for the president when brother Neil visits. But if Reagan happens to slip on a banana peel and crack his head open, or get iced by a steel executive's distraught son, this bit of trivia will cause the little old lady in tennis shoes — who has the National Enquirer article about the every-20-year presidential death syndrome pasted to her wall — to scream just a little bit louder, "See! ... see! ... I told you so!"

Some people will go to any lengths to get what they want.

Undaunted by the state House Health and Welfare Committee's rejection of his anti-abortion legislation, Rep. Gregg L. Cunningham, R-Centre County, continues to fight to make Pennsylvania the toughest

state in the nation to get an abortion. (No one really expected him to give up.)

First off, the bill has been watered down. Several of the more controversial proposals were cut, including requirements that color photographs of aborted fetuses be shown to women seeking abortions, that the fetuses be issued death certificates and that the fathers of the fetuses be notified. In addition, a mandatory 72-hour cooling-off period has been shortened to 24 hours.

More interesting, however, are the tactics of tacking the proposals onto a bill that already has passed the Senate — as amendments to a bill that would outlaw "tough man" boxing matches — in order to save them from a death in committee. Now, the amendments must be passed by the full Senate but will not go back to committee.

Attaching a defeated bill to another bill isn't unusual in politics. But in this case, the nature of the combined bills takes on weird humor. "Toughman" boxing and abortion control, like politics, make strange bedfellows.

You cad, you beast

Skunks are cute, furry little creatures that stink when rubbed behind the ears. But a few of the local buggers have gone off and gotten rabies, making them more than no fun at parties. The danger to pets, some wild animals, and eventually to humans, is real. Women who live nearby should be particularly aware. Skunks have voracious sexual appetites and spend much of their free time seducing females — as evidenced by Warner Brother's famous skunk, Pepe Le Pew. Women should report to the authorities immediately any creature who comes on with the line, "Ma chérie, come with me to the Casbah." He's carrying a social disease that penicillin won't cure, baby; remember those movies about bad needles being stuck in your stomach?

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

the Collegian

Friday, Dec. 4, 1981 — Page 2
Paula Froke
Editor
BOARD OF EDITORS: Managing Editor, Phil Gutis; Editorial Editor, Becky Jones; Associate Editorial Editors, John Allison, Tom Boyer, News Editors, Cindy Deakins, Dave Medzorian; Sports Editor, Mike Foreman; Assistant Sports Editors, Ron Gardner, Pete Waldron; Arts Editor, Elaine Wetmore; Assistant Arts Editor, Judi Blouch; Photo Editor, Stelios Varlas; Assistant Photo Editors, Janis Burger, Renee Jacobs; Graphics Editor, Lydia Cloud; Wire Editor, Maryann Bakowski; Copy Editors, Cindy Cox, K.E. Fittman, Karen Koski, Jackie Martins, Iris Nasar, Leslie Zuck; Campus Editor, Joyce Venezia; Assistant Campus Editor, Sharon Taylor; Town Editor, Justin Catano; Assistant Town Editor, Mark Featherstone; Features Editor, Scott McClary; Weekly Collegian Editor, Neil Aze; Assistant Weekly Collegian Editor, Laurie Ferro.

©1981 Collegian Inc.
Debbly Vinokur
Business Manager



reader opinion

Use this space

The Daily Collegian prints nearly all letters, provided they are one-page, typed and double-spaced. Please bring letters to 126 Carnegie between 8:30 a.m. and 11 p.m. with proper identification.

Prove me wrong

There is one thing which Michael Brone in his Nov. 11 letter to The Daily Collegian fails to consider. While I am quite sure he was faced with discrimination as a white within a predominantly black high school (yes, we blacks discriminate also), I would maintain that his referring to himself as a "minority" is not completely justified. Mr. Brone, you were a minority at your high school, but you were not a minority within the entire social, legal, and political system. You faced discrimination until the last class bell rang. You did not experience it for a lifetime in every conceivable social setting, nor did your parents or their parents before them. Being a "minority" is not simply based on numbers; discrimination is not a single incident. For blacks, women, Chicanos, and a host of others, they are, sadly, a way of life. Stepping cautiously down from my soapbox, I would now like to point out an area where Mr. Brone and I find agreement (to a degree). It is quite true that some blacks have a "chip on their shoulder" and even that we sometimes allow our attitudes to imprison us.

The problem, however, Mr. Brone, is you seem to assume said "chip" and "attitude" materialized from nowhere. They did not — they are the product of generations of discrimination and racism. If you had been slapped in the face all your life, wouldn't you be somewhat tentative, perhaps even resentful, of those who had done the slapping, despite their promises (perhaps quite truthful) that you would no longer be struck? The implications of all this are that both whites

and blacks have a responsibility to make the system, and more directly, the University, work. Whites must come to understand that black attitudes toward them are not simply unjustified, paranoid reactions, while blacks must realize that all, indeed the vast majority of whites, are not insensitive racists. Both groups need to make deliberate, overt efforts to understand, and, more importantly, interact with the other. To borrow from the wisdom of another minority, the American Indian, "We must each walk a mile in the other man's moccasins."

In closing, perhaps the saddest part is that the vast majority of you, black and white, will ignore the sentiment of this letter; a smaller number will in a moment of temporary inspiration vow to change, but will not; and few if any will make a long term commitment to change. For my sake, for the sake of each other, but most of all for yourselves, please prove me wrong.

Ken Williams Jr., graduate-clinical psychology
Nov. 15

'Tis the season

An open letter to all Christmas tree thieves: THOU SHALT NOT STEAL A CHRISTMAS TREE.

At least you better not unless you are willing to risk a permanent criminal record if you get caught. Because, after having had quality ornamental trees cut down and stolen from my and my neighbors' yards during previous Christmas seasons, I will not hesitate to prosecute under criminal law if you are caught during or after such an act.

One additional point: Isn't it contradictory to celebrate the birth of Christ by stealing a Christmas tree? Think about it. Think seriously about it.

Thomas L. Smith, class of 1984
State College resident
Dec. 3

Wine and football

Some time ago when Penn State was considered the top football team in the country, Gov. Dick Thornburgh took an occasion to call coach Paterno and congratulate him. It was widely reported in the media that the first remark made by Mr. Paterno in response to the governor's statement was, "Why haven't you got rid of those State Stores yet?"

It seems to me, now, several weeks and a number of losses later, that a letter from some State Store employees is in order. Therefore, if you so desire, you are free to print the attached letter, which I have sent to the perhaps slightly humbler coach Paterno, as an "open letter."

Dear Joe,
This is just a short note from some of your friends and supportive State Store employees, who, in your time of adversity, want to let you know that we still support you. We would not want to respond to those people who would wish you any bad luck, Joe; we believe you can take care of that department yourself.

We would not want to respond either to statements in some quarters to the effect that you are a "what do they call it," a choke artist! Not us, Joe; your record is eloquent in that regard and needs no gratuitous comment from us, Joe. We would not want to respond to others who say it isn't a case of "choking"; it is just that the team isn't any better than that, and — mind you, Joe, we would not say this — but they say a team is only as good as its coach. We would not respond either, Joe, to those who say that the old Chinese proverb "an army of

Groovy, man

Why doesn't the University Concert Committee get hip for once in its useless life and get The English Beat, The Specials or someone we can really groove to. Instead of worn out rock and roll stars like Bob Dylan, Grateful Dead, etc. P.S. Obviously, the UCC has a different utility map than some of us.

William F. Popovich, 10th-agricultural business management
Nov. 4

Quotographs

A weekly look at University life

Antoinette Petro, 11th-economics: "I like the semester system better because with 15 weeks you can take off a week, say to go hunting, and you're not one tenth of a term behind."

Bob Fromknecht, 6th-civil engineering: "I started summer term. Under the term system, I would go two terms and be finished. Now I'll have to go a second semester or cram it all into one. I'll probably end up taking off spring, taking an extra long summer break and finishing up the next year."

Heather McKnight, 2nd-petroleum and natural gas engineering: "I would rather see the long break during Christmas, because (that way) over break you don't have the classes you started hanging over you. Right now, under the term system, how much will you learn in (these) two weeks? When you come back you have to recall everything anyhow. It is easier to start fresh after Christmas."

Peter Cutrone, 6th-petroleum and natural gas engineering: "When I come back (after Christmas) I won't remember a damn thing, and I'll have to learn it all over. I'd like the four weeks off (under the semester system) to work and have a lot more time at home. The department better do it (the turnover from terms to semesters) right so that I can graduate on time."

Cindy Popowicz, graduate-counselor education: "I sort of like the way it is. You get everything done before you go home for Christmas. You play catch-up in January but I'm used to it that way. A lot of teachers get their first test out of the way (before Christmas break), then there's nothing to do over break anyway."

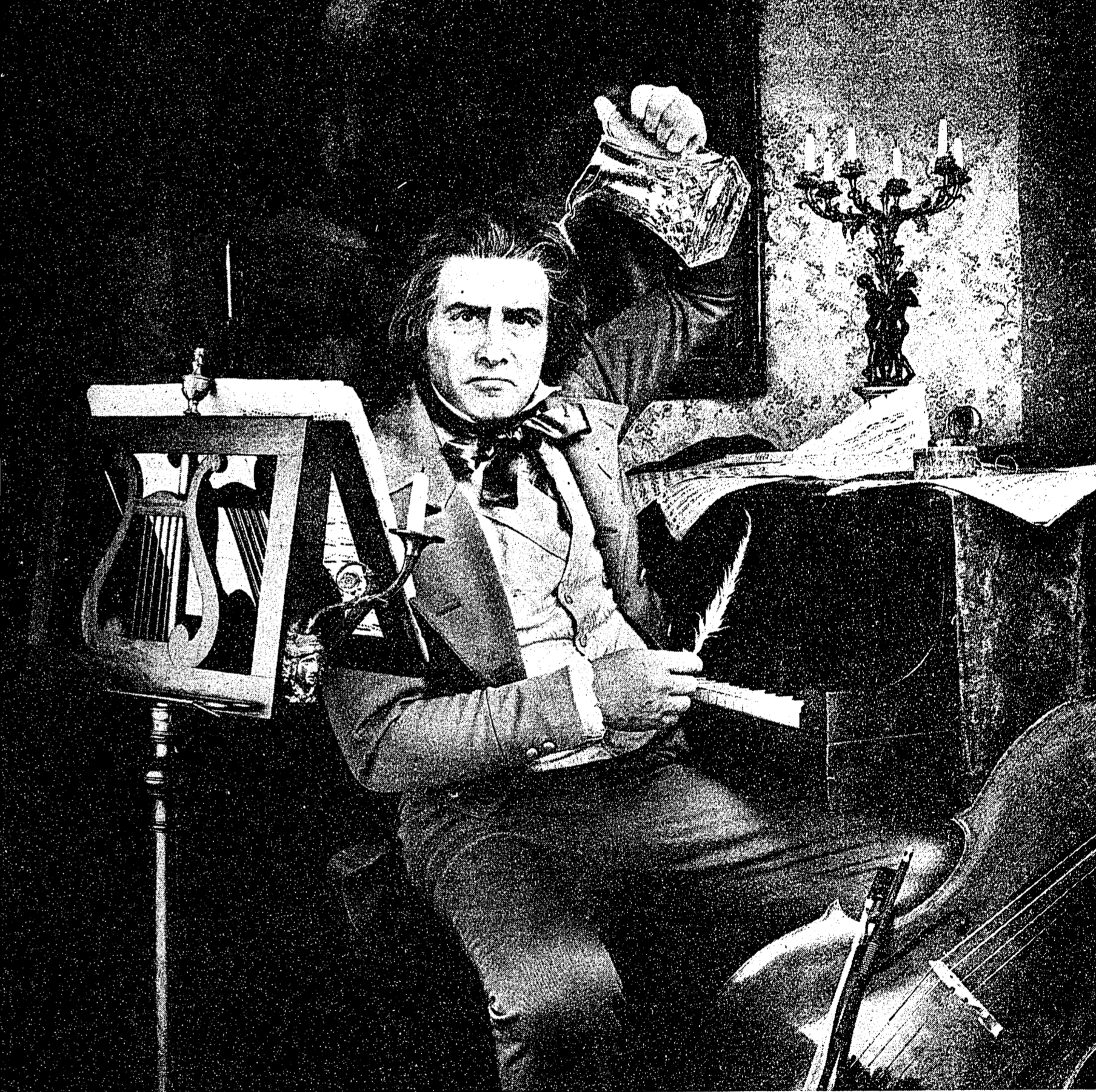
Question: How do you think the new semester system will affect you? For example, the next few weeks are known as "blow-off" weeks now and under the semester system they'll be finals weeks.

Doug Murray, 11th-marketing: "I've heard both good and bad reasons for changing over. I see a lot of bureaucratic problems. I would have trouble switching over because the classes would be spread out, and it would mean concentrating longer on more work."

Linda Thompson, 5th-liberal arts: "I'm pretty used to the term system we have now; but I do like the (idea) of a 15 week system in terms of going to classes and studying a subject longer. I'm an advocate of really understanding the material, as well as getting good grades."

DANCE-EXERCISE for WOMEN
• Hour-long Classes of Strenuous Exercise Daily
• morning - noon - evening classes
• 10-week membership only \$40
• attend as many classes as you wish
• One Free Trial Visit
• begin your membership at any time
• locker room / showers available
• Get a friend to join and get 6 extra weeks FREE
For more information, call or stop in.
238-8995
NITTANY GYMNASIUM

Our 25ft. tree hung with Toy Trains
at The Train Station Restaurant
JUNCTION OF COLLEGE AVE. & GARNER
PLENTY OF PARKING BEHIND THE STATION



Beethoven used ice water to stimulate his brain. At GE, we have better ways.

At GE's Advanced Microelectronics Operations, we don't care if you get your ideas standing on your head, lying in bed or simply working in your lab. What we care about are those ideas. That's why we're building a team of the most creative thinkers in their fields — a team that will help us establish technological leadership. At GE, you'll get stimulation from working at the leading edge of the most exciting new program in microelectronics. You'll work with the very best professionals from a wide variety of disciplines — professionals with more than 50,000 patents to their credit. You'll have an actual say in the design and production of real products for tomorrow's world. Products like aerospace systems, medical programs and all kinds of consumer products. And you'll work in an environment in which creativity flourishes: Our brand new \$60 million state-of-the-art GE Microelectronics Center in North Carolina, as well as our other established facilities. In addition, we'll help you continue your education. In North Carolina, for example, three major universities in the Research Triangle Park area have established the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina. With apologies to Beethoven, we think all this beats pouring ice water on your head. Technical recruiters will be on campus Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 19-20. Contact your campus Placement Office to make an appointment. If you'd just like to discuss your future in microelectronics, call our toll-free career hotline any time: 1-(800) 334-8529. Or, if you prefer, send your resume to: GE Microelectronics Center, P.O. Box 13049, Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709.

Advanced Microelectronics Operations
General Electric Company
Join the technological renaissance.

An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F