'O Christmas Tree'

Thieves of evergreens spoil yuletide spirit

ever-popular Christmas tree.

But at \$14 to \$20 apiece, even expensive for a lot of people.

Christmas means more than a green piece of shrubbery, however. It's a holy, spiritual day for many, a time when everyone should spread the spirit of giving —not taking.

Evidently some haven't gotten the

Some misguided scrooges have Forum.

Christmas at Penn State. You decided to chop down University know the traditions: 'Tis the season, evergreens, whose total value is Here comes Santa Claus — and the more than \$6,000, University Police Services says.

Sure, most people want a tree to decorate. But, you see, these Penn inflation. And granted, that can get State trees are different. They're grown here for research, not Christmas decorating.

> just plain stealing. And that doesn't spread much Joy to the A Merry Christmas and stealing

> don't go together. It's like spending Christmas Day going to class in the

Hot stuff

Keeping warm is tough — saving energy isn't

Arab oil embargo, energy conserva- warm. tion is still not only a good idea, it's a Of course, the old conservation

University's Executive Energy Con- hurt, either. servation Committee. That means the rest of the savings have to result

For example, more sensible alternatives to turning up room heat are sealing drafty doors and windows and keeping thermostats at a com-

Well, folks, it's that time of year difficulties with too much or too little again. Snow and temperatures (and heat, report the problem to your people) are falling, and it's getting Resident Assistant or housing supertough to keep those tootsies warm at visor. If you have that problem in an night (unless you have a big dog, apartment, see your building manager. In addition, cutting down on But turning your rooms into en- hot water use (taking three- to fiveergy-wasting easy-bake ovens is not minute showers instead of therathe answer to battling the cold. Even peutic half-hour saunas) will help though the United States is not faced conserve energy — and that's all the now with any extremes such as an more to go toward keeping rooms

stand-bys of turning off lights, gen-The University can save only 50 to erally reminding others of their con-60 percent of the potential energy servation responsibilities and savings through its own mechanical donning an extra flannel shirt or efforts, said J. Carroll Dean of the Izod sweater to your wardrobe won't

Look at it this way: It's a whole lot easier to turn off a light or turn down from efforts by people on campus — a thermostat than it is to write to faculty, administration and, mainly, your Aunt Phoebe or study for your Psych 2 exam.

> And who can afford to feed a Saint Bernard these days?

determined by its Board of Opinion, with the If you live in the dorms and have editor-in-chief holding final responsibility.

the Colegian

Paula Froke

Debby Vinokur Business Manager BOARD OF EDITORS: Managing Editor, Phil Gutis; Editorial Editor, Becky Jones; Associate Editorial Editors, John Allison, Tom Boyer; News Editors, Cindy Deskins, Dave Medzerian; Sports Editor, Mike Poorman; Assistant Sports Editors, Ron Gardner, Pete Waldron; Arts Editor, Elaine Wetmore; Assistant Arts Editor, Judd Blouch; Photo Editor, Stelios Varias; Assistant Photo Editors, Janis Burger, Renee Jacobs; Graphics Editor, Lynda Cloud; Wire Editor, Maryann Hakowski; Copy Editors, Cindy Cox, K.E. Fishman, Karen Konski, Jackie Martino, Iris Naar, Leslie Zuck; Campus Editor, Joyce Venezia; Assistant Campus Editor, Sharon Taylor; Town Editor, Justin Catanoso; Assistant Town Editor, Mark Featherstone; Features Editor, Scott McCleary; Weekly Collegian Editor, Neil Axe; Assistant Weekly Collegian Editor, Laurie Penco.



SURE WERE FROM THE MID EAST., AND SURE WERE TRAVELING AT NIGHT,... AND YES, WE'RE SEEKING OUT A WORLD LEADER ... BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE A LIBYAN HIT SQUAD ...

=reader opinion=

Devo cooking

I want to tell vou about a situation that happened in the cafeteria yesterday. One of my friends, whom I normally eat with, found pieces of glass in one of his meatballs. He actually found pieces of glass in the damn thing! Thank God he was not eating with his usual vigor; because of this, he was able to feel the glass before swallowing it. But this is not my point. My concern is how many other people at the University possibly consumed glass.

When this student brought the glass to the cafeteria head, he was stunned to hear his reply. The cafeteria head simply said that he didn't put it there! He said he could not understand how glass got in a meatball; glass in lettuce he could understand. What?! Glass in lettuce he could understand? He also said that these things happen; we are only human, you know. Well, my mom was human too, but I didn't eat glass in my

This is an outrage! There is absolutely damn excuse for such a thing The kind of money we spend to go here and eat everything but food. Last month another friend of mine found metal chips in his chocolate cake. know anyone, but of the ones I do know two have

I have heard University food is bad, but I didn't expect building materials. I've heard of a high fiber diet but this is ridiculous. It's time this University took a good, long look at the shit they are feeding us, and correct the problem.

Steve Polignano, 8th-management

Name-calling

in the Reader Opinion section of The Daily labelled Anne Conners and her column of Dec. 3

Did this learned man offer any evidence to back up this accusing label? Did he give one argument to justify his labeling, or to convince us that Anne Conners made improper statements? Did the good professor do anything other than expect us to accept his judgment based on nothing (no evidence, reasoning or explanation) other than his educational title? No! It seems that Professor Nordell is so wrapped up in his own impressive label that he feels he can get away with throwing around some

negative labels at others. Professor Nordell, I would much rather be "liberal masochistic chic" or even an unintentional racist than ignorant, in love with my title, and a blatantly labelling racist. Professor, I do not call you any of these terms. I refuse to label you like you did Ms. Conners. I just told you my

I would even rather be an unintentional racist than an intentional labeler because, once made aware of the unrealized negative outcomes of my actions, I could change. But to practice blunt labelling, whether it's calling someone a rude racial term, or a rude intellectual term (such as 'liberal masochistic chic' which you did not even define), is purposefully choosing to advance attitudes based upon prejudice.

words," offered no evidence, and asked us to accept this on your word. Sir, is this how you teach? I pay thousands of dollars each year for my education. If this is evidence of your abilities, I hope I never waste my money on teaching such

and short-sighted stereotyping that should be

Andy Weintraub, USG Race Relations Board

Puttin' it in Listening but not hearing.
It's a problem at the University, one that But is that the real problem? Do students eally have input into administrative decisions and don't use their power properly? Or student input a farce, an illusion? On Tuesday, Dec. 15, and Tuesday, Jan. 5 The Daily Collegian's Op-ed page will examine the question: Can students really ever have an effective voice in the workings of this niversity? And if not why? Part One will represent the student point of iew. Part Two the adminstrators'. If you feel you have something to contribte, bring your letters (one page, typed and ouble-spaced) and forums (two to three iages, typed and double-spaced) to 126 Carnegie. Part One material must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13. Part Two material must be submitted by 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec.

ABOUT THE COLLEGIAN: The Daily Collegian and The Weekly Collegian are published by Collegian Inc., a non-profit corporation with a board of directors composed of students, faculty and professionals. Students of The Pennsylvania State University write and edit both papers and solicit advertising material for them. The Daily Collegian is published Monday through Friday and distributed at the University Park campus. The Weekly Collegian is mailed to Commonwealth campus

BOARD OF MANAGERS: Sales Manager, Paul Rudoy; Assistant Sales Manager, Monique Rura; Office Manager, Michelle Forner; Assistant Office Manager, Michael Conklin; Marketing Managers, Sue Largman, Mark Pulos; National Ad Manager, Owen Landon; Co-op Managers, Donna Dauterich, Jodi Shubin; Creative Director, Tracy Meyer; Layout Coordinators, Susan Largman, Barry Reichenbaugh, Jodi Shubin. · You have accomplished one positive thing, On Dec. 6, John R. Nordell Jr., Ph.D. in though. You have demonstrated the kind of To be stuck inside a computer, with the progress blues again

computers. They are great — part-machine, part-toy, some say son's specifications. He says that we'll be able to chose a happy in a ghetto does. part-person. I'm even writing this piece on a video display or sad ending to the evening's movie. In this age, kids will learn terminal (a computer of sorts). I can add, delete and switch at home and parents will work at home. Accordingly, our words, paragraphs, and articles with the push of a button. society, government, community, and family life will change. There are, however, some sociological questions about comput-

Computers are already becoming ingrained in our everyday lives. We see them at the store, the bank, at Pattee, and playing football at Beaver Stadium on select Saturdays (only kidding) I guess all this "progress" is positive, although as far as I've seen, prices are still too expensive, I still bounce checks, and I always have to wait to check out a book. There are some intriguing novel uses of the

some data into a computer, and it will list which makeup to use • More proof that computers know better: A computerized was that as the dimensions of the computer age grow, so too talking typewriter is on the retail market that will help your does the need to become literate in this new means of commu-

ouarters becoming addicted, or shell out \$150 or so for a TV widespread written literacy with that of computer literacy. attachment. One advertisement of these games, which is Marvin explained that it took eight centuries, starting from perhaps the ultimate battle of man vs. machine, promises that the Middle Ages, to achieve print literacy in Western society. by buying a certain product you can "Discover how far you can" She did add, however, the problem that today as many as one of

• Home or personal computers — they can help you organize professor said that reaching mass computer literary will come your bills, occupy the kids, create more shopping lists, or keep—about faster, but will be similar to, the process of print literacy. track of any other facts and figures your imagination creates. Both types of communication literacy, Marvin stated, are a Other computers will automatically make the coffee, cook gradual process. It involves education, politics, and personal

thinks the change may be positive, but it seems premature to prophesize so.

forum

presented another view. Carolyn Marvin from the University of nnsylvania spoke about computer literacy. Her basic point

every five people are functionally illiterate. The visiting

they'll probably walk the dog and take out the garbage as well. become computer competent, and she seemed to say that this computers and thus have ultimate control. But in much subtler The computer age — it's here and now, it's everywhere, it's — The possiblities for the future are boggling. Alvin Toffler, in will continue. She pointed out that politically there are some ways, we may become quickly over-reliant on these electrical the future, it's exciting, it's where the jobs are. This is all true, his book, "The Third Wave," predicts that computers will problems to overcome — basically that the college student has devices. By using them, we become more and more reliant on but I still have some nagging doubts. It's not that I don't like eventually custom-manufacture products according to a per-much more opportunity to learn about computers than a person energy sources that are obviously not infinite. The blackout in

> and important. But it was in the next part that I felt somewhat what chaos might follow? alienated. She said that as with the written word. Man will have to overcome his fear of the computer. The first step to virtual creatures of the Dark Ages. Perhaps Marvin is right and I am fearing this technological

innovation like people feared nearly every one of the past. It seems absurd, however, to blindly trust progress and technology, especially with what we've realized about pollution and overgrowth in the last two decades. Dr. Marvin, in her talk, did not mention sociological aspects of the computer. When I asked her why, she said that we aren't even sure about the effects of TV after 40 years, and it might take longer to know what

But what about computers in the home? What happens to a child raised by computer? Does he turn into a vegetable if his terminal is taken away? What about family life that is centered on computers? It might help break down family and social relations, breeding attachment to a box of micro-circuits and wires. Of course, these are worst-case scenarios, but I'm afraid we won't know the repercussions of living intimately with

take over the world. More than 10 years after Stanley Kubrick's time we should look before we leap.

New York a few years back provided an example of what could happen on a given night — but what about 10 years down the Confronting issues like these, Marvin's talk was interesting road if a blackout lasted for even a couple of days? Who knows

Even if the energy question is solved, I have a nagging doubt computer literacy, Marvin reasoned, was to live neither in fear that we are getting too removed from nature. The most nor in awe of the computer. This makes all us nonbelievers important concept I learned from Geological Sciences 020 is that whatever Man creates, nature can more easily destroy. By writing and playing with toys, we are at least one step removed from nature. With computers, we are two long steps from nature and one short step from catastrophe if nature interrupts

> On a grand scale, it seems that computers have so far become part of everyone's daily life in two ways. Our economy is very far along in becoming computer-based. Our bureaucracies, such as government services, the electric companies, and even Penn State are also fast becoming computerized. But this advancement has not greatly altered any of these fields. Our economy is doing worse than I can remember, and dealing with

With this in mind, then, I don't think it would be too difficult to impose a slowdown on the computer industry. It would give us time to consider what we're heading for, to study the effects of computers on people, and. I hope, solve the pressing problems. It would not be too far out to pick a model community and intensely study it for a few years. With computer technology we I don't seriously consider we'll create computers that will have the rare opportunity to know where the future lies. This

=reader opinion

'Scholarship'?

Allen Sack and his CARE organization are to be congratulated for daring to raise the issue of professionalism in college sports, and to draw attention to the shameless exploitation of the college athletes brought to our campuses for the sole purpose of generating money to pay for the athletic program. Similarly, Tom Verducci is to be commended for his column in Tuesday's Collegian, pointing out some major shortcom-

ings of Mr. Sack's proposals.

The problem is that both fail to draw the proper conclusion from their diagnosis of the disease that Mr. Verducci rightly calls the "poisoned world of college sports." It is time we recognized that college athletes are professionals, and should be treated as such, by ridding ourselves of the fiction that their presence here on campus has anything to do with education. Let us simply hire such athletes as paid nonacademic staff, here purely for the amusement of the academic community, and that of the alumni. In that way the hypocrisy of "schol-arships" awarded purely for athletic ability, of athletes being officially enrolled as students while neither receiving an education nor being interested in one, and all the rest of the tailwagging-the-dog character of big-time football would be disposed of once and for all. Why not follow the model of the University of

Wisconsin at Green Bay, which has simply (and of course unofficially) adopted the Packers, who nappened to precede them to Green Bay? This would seem to be the road to reform that CARE should push for. But there is of course another way. This is the approach chosen by the Ivy League (derisively referrred to by our football coach as no longer in the "real world" o college football, because of their "demotion" Class I-AA status by the NCAA). It is the road chosen by many other top-notch colleges and universities, both private and public, that award scholarships for scholarship, rather than for the ability to fake a pass, whether on the gridiron or

off. Surely their vision of reality is a more fitting one for an educational institution. I-A may mean "the big time," but I-AA means class.

The flak

Everyone has a right to express an opinion and receive a certain amount of courtesy from the opposition. Nobody, however, has the right to use specious arguments and vague generalizations without getting flak for them. I refer to Jean Guertler's letter to the Collegian (Dec. 8) titled

In her first paragraph, she expressed concern

for 97 British infants who died from some bone marrow disease, and that the money spent by "self-righteous legislators" who "force women to bear unwanted children" should be spent to help future ex-fetuses get the bone marrow transplants that their 97 British kin did not. Such concern for ex-fetuses from a pro-choicer is truly gratifying to me. Now tell the world

about all the money that pro-choice groups are going to divert from their political war-chests to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. In the meantime, just think of all the bone marrow transplants we can finance once we close down all those "profithungry abortion mills" which "force death on millions of unborn children and force fear on

generalizations she makes about anti-abortionsts, i.e., the pro-lifers, as being callous and hypocritical in their attitudes. Tell me, Jean, were you active in the special olympics fundraiser organized by Penn Staters for Life? If not methinks the log in thine eye doth blind thee to

hawks, feminists and pigs, doctors and laymen, sinners and saints in our ranks. Other than the fact that we are pro-life, we are often mistaken

Jean, if you want to dehumanize the fetus (Latin for "little person"), go ahead; you're prochoice and it's to be expected. But don't think for one moment you can dehumanize pro-lifers by imposing your stereotypes upon us in your leters. Otherwise, I might forget you were once a fetus too. From then on, it would only be a matter

Bah-humbug

When I read Mr. Watrel's review of the Broadvay Marionettes' version of "A Christmas Carol," I was initially shocked that he found it 'lacked adult appeal." I am over 10 years old and I found it very entertaining, taking it for what it was - a puppet show. But everyone is

The part of the review which irked me enough to get out paper and pen was Mr. Watrel's classic story: "Tiny Tim's line, 'God bless every-

I don't know where Mr. Watrel dug that bit of inaccurate reporting up from, but I know I heard the famous line. And several friends who saw the other performance confirmed my recall.

Maura Fallon, 2nd-health planning and adminis-

I can tolerate Scrooge reporters, but not inac



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