

ecological opinion

Avoiding grey areas

Here's one for the list of greatest ironies. On the same day that organizers of the Sy Barash Regatta were raking in \$22,000 for the American Cancer Society, the University Concert Committee was losing more than \$10,000 on its Graham Parker-Romantic-Daddy Licks show.

UCC knew it was in trouble long before Sunday's fateful event. Ticket sales had been practically nonexistent from the start. In desperation, the concert committee started all sorts of promotional gimmicks such as give-aways and raffles. Nothing worked, and when the lights went down in Bag Hall, only 1,200 people were there to cheer.

It would be easy to place the blame for the flop on a conservative student body that only wants to see popular bands with lots of Top 40 hits. But students can't be expected

to spend \$8 for a concert when they don't like the performers or the style of music.

No, the final blame for the failure of Sunday's concert has to rest on the shoulders of UCC Policy Board.

By now the board should know the tastes of University students and should be able to cater to them. Yes, the board should try to expand musical tastes, but within reason. When losses incurred from experimental concerts threaten future concerts, the worth of progressive acts must be questioned.

Penn State students aren't completely closed to progressive music — witness the Pretenders concert. But in the case of the Parker-Romantic-Daddy Licks show, the UCC Policy Board expected a little too much from the University community. By now it should know better.

topics

Different strokes

(Scene: Two average Penn State students are standing on the campus Mall. They are talking about the weather, their majors and hometowns.)

Average Penn State Student #1: Some kind of weather, huh? I think I'm going to be a finance major and I'm from outside of Pittsburgh.

APSS #2: Yeah really, me too.

(Pause)

APSS #1: Y'know, I guess I like Penn State, but it's kind of dull, y'know. There's so many people and they all have the same. That's the trouble with Penn State — too many dull people.

APSS #2: Yeah, I know what you mean. For sure.

(A woman comes crawling up the Mall. She has her head shaved in a Mohawk. She is barking and growling like a dog. She crawls up the steps of Patten and recites French poetry. She is a contender in the contest for North Hall's "Emperor of the North.")

APSS #1: God, look at her. Y'know, that's the trouble is with Penn State — too many weirdos.

APSS #2: Yeah, I know.

(The two average students walk down the mall, on their way to see the female impersonators at Mr. C's.)

Work hard, play hard

It's official. Spring and its frustration — yet glorious — lethargy has set in. The Wall and Old Main lawn beckon; birds and bands sing in celebration after celebration; the Falkland Islands are a million miles away; beer flows, the party grows — but classes remain.

Ouch. Rats. Grrr. Those rotten classes, keeping us wonderful students from having a whale of a time. College would be great without them.

But please don't tell that to your legislator — they think our educations are important to us.

Jim Moore
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN 4/30/82



reader opinion

Tunnel vision

When I was in high school it meant a lot to me that I was considered a member of the "in" crowd. I used the "security" of this label to judge other students rather hastily as well as harshly.

I didn't realize how superficial the high school social scene was until I participated in a Co-Op work program in my senior year of high school. I worked during most of the regular school hours and only attended school a few hours in the afternoon.

After school I worked at night. I didn't have time to play sports nor the "games" the popular were required to play during and after school. When I looked at school for the first time as an "outsider," I was really shocked at how closed-minded the popular cliques really were.

I graduated from high school and proceeded to spend a little over four years in the service. When I arrived at Penn State, I was really surprised to find that there were still numerous groups that seemed to flourish with "high school mentalities."

College, by my definition is a place to learn and through learning (in class and out of class), shrug-off old facades. Obviously, not everyone is growing up.

With casual observation, I have found that formal social groups contribute little to the press of maturation. Camaraderie is great, but there

are limits to its worth.

If a person uses one specific group of friends as the sole reference group for his or her opinions, eventually "tunnel vision" may be the end product. Another hazard of exclusive social groups is that sometimes so much energy is spent on distinguishing one's own group from another that tangible productiveness of the group is minimal.

Don't let yourself feel too high and mighty. The criterion for picking friends should be based on who the person knows or to what organization he or she belongs. If you're guilty of such practices wake up — high school is over.

Kirby Smith
2nd division of undergraduate studies
April 29

the daily Collegian

Friday April 30, 1982
Phil Gullis Editor
Sharon Taylor Managing Editor
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Paul Rudyoy Business Manager
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Tasteless editorial?

We want the readers to be aware that had the editor's research (for an editorial topic in the April 23 issue of The Daily Collegian) been more extensive than the dictionary, it would have been discovered that the cookies called mulattoes are a known and established recipe and name.

Kiss My Cookies did not have any intentions of offending anybody and wishes to establish a contest to rename the cookie in question.

Anyone wishing to enter the contest may send

reader opinion

No quick fix

Like a junkie who needs a quick fix to make his life bearable, the University bureaucracy has come up with the same kind of easy answer to the problem of bicycles on campus. Instead of a needle, they use a ticket for their quick fix.

The Daily Collegian editorial page has been filled with complaints about the ticketing (often without warning) for riding on sidewalks, improperly parking and not registering bicycles. The whole problem is that there are insufficient resources (i.e. bike paths, bike racks and registration points) to handle the current volume of bicycle traffic.

But you see, in a bureaucracy, the fine art of communication is overlooked. The gentleman who writes the tickets answers to a different senior vice president than the gentleman who plans and controls bicycle facilities, and the dean of students answers to a third. So I suggest a meeting of the minds on solving this problem, not a quick fix.

Director of University Safety David Stormer, Assistant Vice President of the Physical Plant Henry Yeagley, Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations Robert A. Patterson, Vice President of Student Affairs Raymond Murphy and Undergraduate Student Government Leni Barach should sit down and solve this problem with a well-thought out plan.

Or do we as students have to put up with the mindless functioning of a quick-fix bureaucracy such as easy problem?

David Dixon, 13th-economics
April 28
234-5889

On nuclear arms

I am writing this letter in response to the allegations of "misinformation" — a work that Rasmus Roy knows a lot about — that Mr. Roy claims I have been fed with.

No, Mr. Roy, I did not use "viciously inappropriate clichés," but quoted one from Nathan Podhoretz-Commentary Magazine editor. If you take the time to re-read my article you will notice that the quote is not to compare the military armaments of the countries England, France and Germany, from history that we cannot ignore the build-up in arms of a country that has proclaimed world domination as a necessary part of its doctrine.

Many of the world's best historians have examined the efforts of mankind to establish peace through disarmament. They have conducted studies going back 1800 years of man's history.

Their conclusions reveal that: arms races are not the cause of war; wars are caused when one nation covets what is in the possession of another nation and then proceeds to take it by force. The trigger mechanism in history is when one nation fails to take steps to deter another nation from aggression.

In every recorded case, where negotiation was tried to reduce arms, it was found that arms races were accelerated.

Now, Mr. Roy, perhaps we can question why the Soviets have accelerated their arms build-up. Is it really because they feel so weak in their defense position or is it because they are planning to realize their doctrine of global domination?

If the Soviet Union is "scarred to the point of paranoia of an attack from the West or China," why have the Soviets never felt the need to place their missiles on red-alert to counter any first strike from the West or China?

If the Soviets had no intentions in gaining superiority in Nuclear Armaments, why have they been trying deliberately to stop the West from verifying the power of their missiles — even

during SALT I negotiations when it was agreed that all missile tests should be verifiable (the Soviets increased the ballast in their missiles to give the illusion of less power so that the missiles could be classified as "tactical")?

Why have the Soviet missile launchers been equipped with reusable facilities if not for at least a first and second strike. Why did the Soviet Union make the SS16 Mobile Missile contrary to the terms of the SALT I treaty?

Open your eyes and ears and try to find the truth, Mr. Roy.

P.A. Dickens
Continuing education-speech communication
April 29

The curb-side crawl

True enough, bicycles on sidewalks tend to be a nuisance and at times, dangerous. I have screamed in terror more than once when facing a runaway bicyclist.

But, I am more than a trifle peeved at police, lawmakers and some average Joe Americans proclaiming in loud voices how a bicycle should be on the road, adhering to the state's motor vehicle code. Please note the word "motor" in the previous line.

My bike doesn't have a motor and it runs neither on batteries nor on a wind-up rubber band. On the other hand, the other creatures of the road (i.e. cars, trucks and monster Winnebago's) do have motors and hence putt-putt around on the road at two to three times faster than my humble little bike.

This means that these motored vehicles usually want to pass, making it necessary for me to ride along the edge of the road where bike-eating sewer grates live.

And how about those potholes, eh? Amazing how a biker can learn to fly when he meets up with one of those little fellows. Go around them, you say? Sure, I'll just pull out in front of Mr. Mack Truck so as to avoid this little pothole.

Yes, bikers are to follow the rules of the road, and in turn, they are to be treated with the same courtesy that a motorist extends to another motorist.

I don't mind, though. One of my biggest single thrills in life is to be run off the road so that I can greet a roadside ditch face to face and to have my brand new bike turned into a finely tuned, metallic blue pretzel. And my body is in ecstasy every time a car passes me and flicks little (and large) pieces of road gravel at my tender, easily bruised body.

It is interesting to note that these days, the police are proclaiming how they will clamp down on wrongdoing bikers, but I have yet to see the motorists who mistreat bikers get so much as a slap on the wrist.

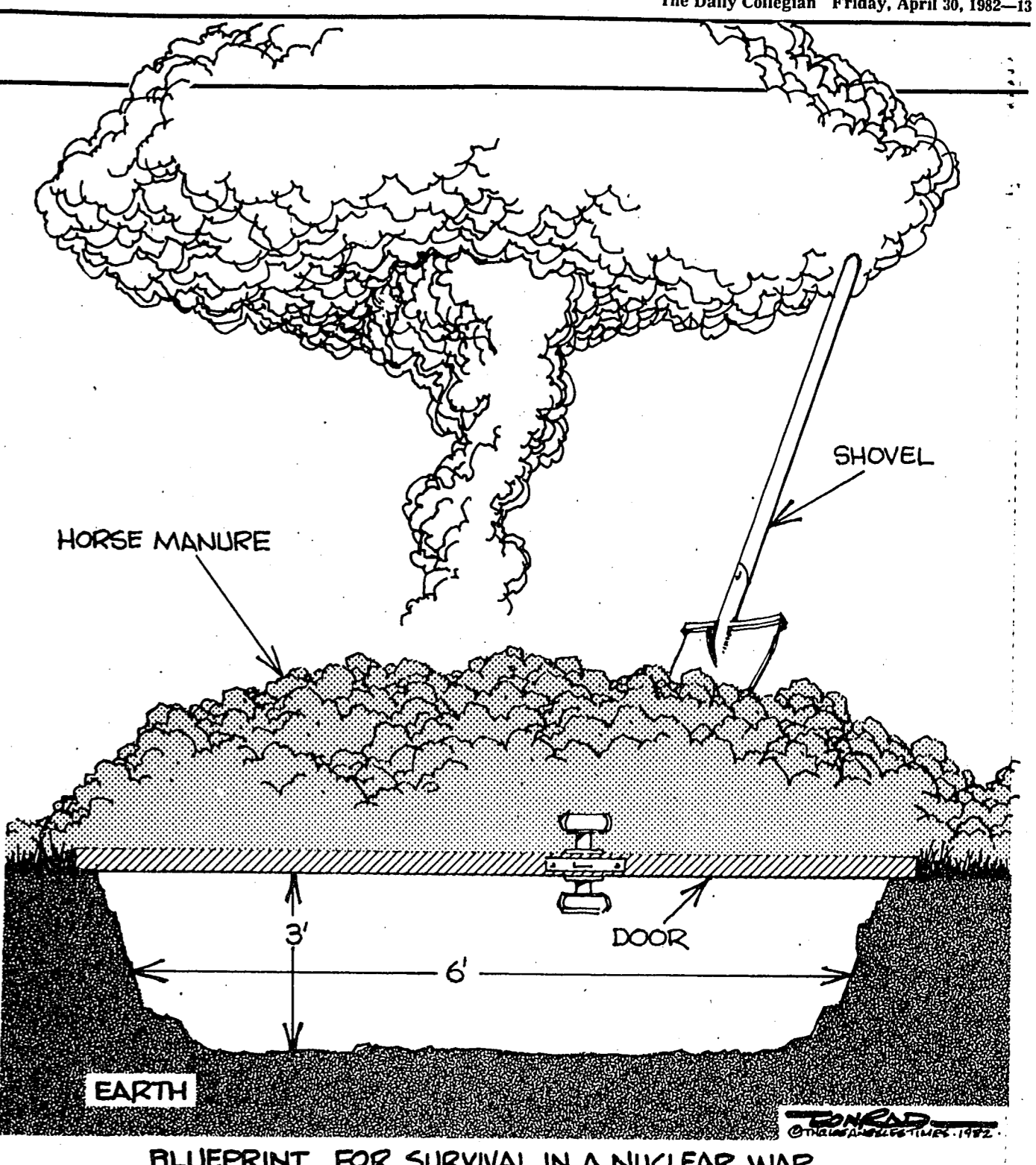
I have become thoroughly convinced of one thing — the police and lawmakers don't quite know what a bicycle is.

Therefore, I am willing to lend my bike to them so that they may see what one looks like, perhaps even take it out for a ride "out on the street." I think it would be interesting to note how the graying-of-the-hairs process would be speeded up on these individuals.

No, I am not saying that bikers should be allowed on sidewalks, but I would like to tell those people who are so haughty and self-righteous and very quick to tell bikers that they belong on the streets that they have their heads inside their shorts.

Actually, bikers don't "belong" anywhere. We have no place where we "should" be. Bikers are stuck in the limbo between the sidewalk and the road, forced to do the curb-side crawl, dodging sewer grates and cars.

Craig Bickerstaff, 9th-computer science
April 29



Off the sidewalks

In response to Diane Bader's letter to the editor that appeared in the April 26 issue of The Daily Collegian, I say "Pennsylvania, it is against the law to ride your bike on the sidewalk."

As a legitimate biker (one who rides on the road) and as a pedestrian, I'm glad to see that the police are doing something about the problem of cyclists on the sidewalks. I do not enjoy taking my life into my hands as I walk to class having to dodge speeding bikers who do not know what sidewalks are for.

Yes, sidewalks really are for walking, and if you do not believe this, try reading your Penn State Student Handbook under "Bicycle Regulations." You will find out that bicycles may be ridden only where automobiles are allowed. Riders must walk their bicycles at all other places "specifically, . . . in paths, walkways, malls, or any other pedestrian-used ways."

By the way, as for driving your car on the sidewalk, Diane, I might expect you to actually do such a thing. And may I assume that you would prefer that pedestrians walk in the street?

Carol McAfeel, 13th-forest science
April 29

The law must protect future of local water supply

By JOHN HOLT
7th-biology

This is the fourth and final part of a series examining the chemical pollution of Spring Creek and Thornton Spring.

Became water is one of our most needed resources, it is important that existing laws that protect the integrity of the water be strictly enforced. The groundwater in the State College area is vital to the area's social and economic development.

However, future development is now threatened by chemical and pesticide pollution caused by the Ruetgers-Nease Chemical Co. Inc.'s apparently irresponsible disposal of these substances on their plant property. But not only has Nease acted irresponsibly, so has the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources. In the final analysis, DER may be as much to blame as Nease.

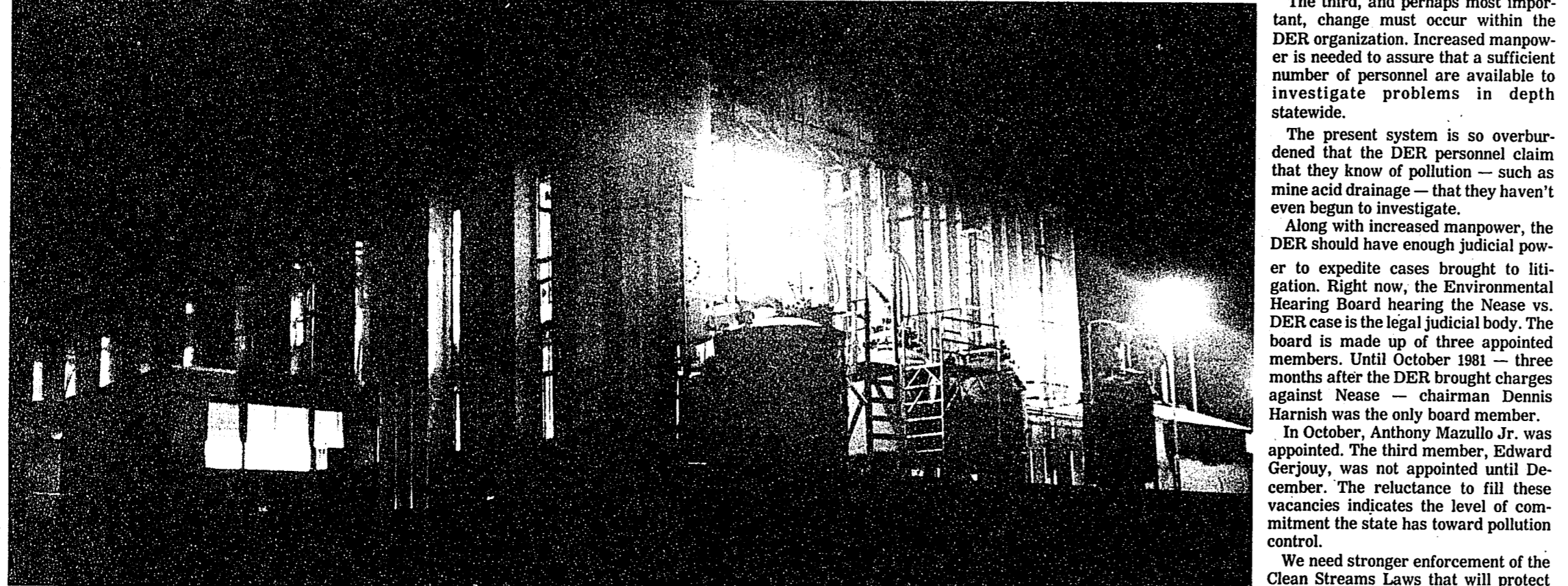
forum

DER interprets both the federal clean streams laws and the state clean streams laws, using all available pertinent data to establish regulations protecting fresh water supplies from pollution. Also, DER is charged with enforcing these regulations quickly and surely.

It took DER nine years, from 1972 until 1981, to bring Nease into litigation about polluting Spring Creek and the groundwater beneath the Nease plant. This seems to indicate that something is wrong with the present procedures used to enforce the clean streams laws in Pennsylvania.

The pollution problem involves two pesticide chemicals produced by Nease.

Kepona was produced in 1958, 1959 and 1963. Mirex was produced in 1974 and 1975. Both of these chemicals are in the Spring Creek water. Along with these carcinogenic materials, many volatile organic chemicals contaminate the water. Recent water tests, done by



Ruetgers-Nease Chemical Co. is involved in a debate with the Department of Environmental Resources about the clean-up of local groundwater pollution.

the DER labs, on Spring Creek water showed contamination by toxic volatile organic chemicals. These tests were done in June 1981, at Thornton Spring. Previous DER testing indicated a direct link between the Nease property and Thornton Spring — water seeping into the ground at the Nease plant comes up in Thornton Spring, which then feeds into Spring Creek. Therefore, disposal of any chemicals on the Nease property may directly pollute the groundwater beneath it, eventually coming out in Spring Creek.

In 1972, the chemicals now leaching into the ground water under the Nease property were subjected to a process —

agreed on by both Nease and the DER — called Chemfix, which "fixed" the chemicals in an insoluble solid. At the time, the process was less than two years old and had not been proved totally effective.

It did not work, so now — nine years later — the chemicals are again polluting the groundwater and Spring Creek. Litigation procedures are now in progress between the DER and Ruetgers-Nease to settle who should be responsible for cleaning up the pollution caused by the Chemfix chemicals. Because of this, changes should be made in the current archaic, clumsy and slow way pollution is handled in Pennsylvania.

First of all, any company creating a pollution problem is ultimately responsible for abating the problem, even if the DER decides on the procedure used to handle the pollutants.

Specifically, this means that, in cases like Nease's, if the chemical wastes cause pollution — at any time — then the company that produced those wastes should be fined and forced to clean up the pollution, restoring the polluted area to its natural state. Such a requirement will not only eliminate the need for litigation, it will also ensure more responsible use and disposal of toxins and pollutants.

A second change, especially in the

thus the process could eventually save a company money. The philosophy now — especially with the solvents — is to throw the solvents out and get new.

The third, and perhaps most important, change must occur within the DER organization. Increased manpower is needed to assure that a sufficient number of personnel are available to investigate problems in depth statewide.

The present system is so overburdened that the DER personnel claim that they know of pollution — such as mine acid drainage — that they haven't even begun to investigate.

Along with increased manpower, the DER should have enough judicial power to expedite cases brought to litigation. Right now, the Environmental Hearing Board hearing the Nease vs. DER case is the legal judicial body. The board is made up of three appointed members. Until October 1981 — three months after the DER brought charges against Nease chairman Dennis Harnish — the board only heard members.

In October, Anthony Mazullo Jr. was appointed. The third member, Edward Gerjony, was not appointed until December. The reluctance to fill these vacancies indicates the level of commitment the state has toward pollution control.

We need stronger enforcement of the Clean Streams Laws that will protect our environment for the future. A regular jury court system should be used to hear the most severe pollution cases.

But the other blatant polluters should be fined outright and immediately made to clean up the pollution they cause.

For these cases, the DER should be given authority as policeman, judge and jury. There is no need to waste tax money to prosecute through the court those polluters who are caught in the act.

These few suggestions are a way to a cleaner, brighter future for us all. The residents of State College and surrounding areas should push for more stringent laws and strict enforcement of those laws. It's a must if we want to develop a future for ourselves and for our children.

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ΦΚΘ
Bittersweet

And to all those Greeks participating making this year's Greek Week so successful.